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Architectural league

Location Cornel

2nd year that is being presented at cornel

When we entered the building, we were checked in the lobby for our reservation name. once we were upstairs we were received in a galley area. Where breakfast was being served and students work was being shown. Once everyone arrived and everyone got reacquainted we was requested to go into an auditorium room where they had seats waiting for us with a folder on each of those seats. In those folders were information of what we were going to do the whole day for the tour.

Once we were asked to turn our cellphones off, the presentation was passed on to Catherina Flaskman. She is the program associate at the architectural league. She gave us a quick overview of the schedule for the day. She told us we had the opportunity to sign up for 2 tours at different times after the panel discussion. She told us that each tour can accommodate 15 students each and that the folder that were located on the seats when we came in the auditorium is numbered by rows and that number is what they are going to use to call us to sign up for the tours. That way its more organized. After signing your names for the tour, we are going to get a ticket for the offices. She gave us her contact information just in case we got lost in the tours.

Catherina introduced a lady that told us a little bit more about the architectural league program. That students from all over the city came together for this. And that it’s the 2nd year that its being held at Cornel. She thanked Bob Bolder and Pg, that directs the program at cornel university. She thanked Catherina for the hard work she has done to help put together the program. She gave us an insight on the league. That the program not only included digital events but also live events that included publications. That they do them to help people experience, make, and engage.

When the league was founded by some draftsman offices in NYC who came together because they wanted to learn from each other. The spirit of mutual education and mutual support and encouragement is very much being what is still built around us today. she showed us on the slideshows a picture of what they league program looks like today. she spoke briefly about the emerging voices for upcoming firms. That they move offices to SoHo, because it was better for lectures. She spoke about “first Friday”, which gives opportunities of the first Friday of each month to go all over the city to visit firms and to get a picture of the culture and the way of working of different firms.

Before she introduced the next speaker, she showed us a few projects that are being devolved. There were three speakers from completely different companies, different backgrounds and different stories of how they found their love for architecture. Three fascinated people who have taken different paths in architecture. Jason, Julia and Darious was the order the lady said they would talk in.

Jason was one of my favorite speaker that day because he was very comfortable speaking. He took a completely different path. His company does designs all over the world. He is the director and he oversee managing and quality insurance of private sectors architects’ engineers. So, they don’t design anything in house. He is influential in architecture even though he is not the designer. They are in Washington DC; all their work is overseas. Their admission statement is very simple as he said it it’s to provide safe secure and functional facilities oversees and to represent the us government. The program has been around for more than 60 years.

The aspiration goal of that program is to get some of the American values. he doesn’t touch design work, but his staff does. they are located all over the world, in about 775 countries. They actively work over 99million dollars a year. We spend 2.6 billion dollars a year. The program goals for the bureau is not typical for what you find in the private sectors. He didn’t show a lot of his work because he wasn’t allowed. That some of the architects may show some of the rendering in their webpage but not more than that. He mentioned once again that they don’t do work in house, but they do small designs. If the client wants to renovate a small space, they would do but most of the work they do is done by a certain group of firms. He has 5 top architects who work on their top-secret projects for projects located in Russia or china.

Once he was done speaking about some project that he could show here in NYC. He showed us how he got to architecture. First, he did RTC while he was in college and back then he says he didn’t think had be in the place he is today. the plan was to be a real unified top architect, he said that’s where his skills were and that’s what he was good for. But in high school they gave him a scholarship to for RTC, so he just went for it, but he didn’t think had would have to be in the actual navy. He did everything he could to fight the navy. To not be stuck there. He would take a 5 week leave and so on. Then he took a job as a teaching assistant in a school of architecture, where they had a summer internship for architecture program. Then in September of 1997 he started his navy carrier.

He went to Hawaii, he wasn’t an architect, but he was still moving around all over the world in the navy he was about 30 years old. He says he struggle everyday doing the opposite of what he wanted to do. He didn’t have a penny or degree, but he needed to do this time of service. When his commitment was done of four years, he is pulled back in to Iraq. After he had a choice to get out of the navy and go be an architect or use the navy for his own good. He chose to stay in, because of fear he wasn’t ready. So, he went to civil engineer in the navy, he figured it’ll be a good way to get into architecture. He went to bring the facility manager for 2 years. Taking care of small buildings and destroyed companies. He then moved to Minneapolis and became a construction manager for a couple of years, he learned how to run construction projects, replacing brick on the patios and piping systems. After 2 years he put in his papers to get out of the navy. Time went by and he moved to DC where he got an offer to work on some projects with two firms. He had some connections and he made it through. He was my favorite because he was sort of an entrepreneur. He tried different things until he got where he wanted to be. He kept his mind open and he took all his challenges.

Jason introduced Julia, and Julia introduced herself as a trained architect who graduated from graduate school. He never fully presumed that as her identity she was never into waterproofing details and she always was interested in how things where shape and the political and natural environment. She was interested how communities formed. And thru her carrier she thinks she has touch different aspects of it. Community engagement and interactions. She started with a brief background. She got out of architecture school and she was very eager to start working with folks and her hands. She works for two years as a construction supervisor. She works with a crew of men like 80 years old and older. She got very close with families and home owners who she has built these few years.

Afterwards, she was ready to get back to the design world. So, in Texas she spent some time working for a nonprofit architectural firm. She was flying back and forth to Texas and Dallas. she spends a lot of work in repair disasters housing. Sher was working with home owners but also with policy makers. She also did a lot of regional transportation. She works with those communities who didn’t have lighting or electricity. A lot of policy came out of these works. The state adapted a new reconstructive policy that works with home owners to do a new whole system of intake that we take to realize in communication with the community. This is a big challenge that some folks face.

She explained that currently that’s what her company is working on with the community and some disasters. She knew that she needed to get her architectural license. After 3 years she realized that her job is great, but she needed that license to feel the complexity and the messy aspects of the work. So, she joined an organization just like her old job. She presented some of the projects her company was working on. So, her firm focuses more on small firms and they do take in consideration the neighborhood. She likes helping the shelters and a lot of community-based buildings.

When Darious spoke, he was very shy and very scared, so his presentation took longer than expected so he kept being reminded that we were out of time for the tours. That’s probably one of the reasons why he was speaking so low. He introduced himself as a project architect. He received his BArch from Pratt institute and he spent 5 years in between working at “wooly seagull”. Just a year later the recession occurred so he was laid off and he explains it was his best break he could have at that time. In his 20 to just enjoy his age. He volunteers for an organization at Pratt. This set him in his trajectory to work in the field because from there he became close with some people that went on his favor.

He showed the project he is currently working on now located in Massachusetts. He didn’t speak about the projects shown just their names and location. The “mcsd” is one of the regions institution that exhibits and collects art. I think he started to get more nervous as time passed because he started reading from his notes sheet. Then we were dismissed to our first tour.

We went on to two completely different firms. One was based on big projects, for example the boardwalk that sandy destroyed in far rockaway and big master plans. Unlike the last one where it involved like 7 people working in the firm and it involved small residential renewals. When we arrived at these firms we even got a tour of their work space. What I got from this experience that you don’t have to get your license. Architecture has a lot of different sides. You can still be involved in architecture without following through. I think that’s why the architectural league made these three speakers talk so that we can see some of the different paths. It really opened my eyes to so many different options.