

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

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You have recently returned from Bonn, Germany for a committee meeting for “Tomorrow Leaders”. Could you tell us about “Tomorrow Leaders”?

The Alexander von Humboldt German Chancellor Fellowship for Prospective Leaders is a program under the auspices of the Federal Republic of Germany targeted at individuals from the United States, Russia, China, India and Brazil who have an international perspective and initial leadership background. With this program, Germany aims at bringing together prospective decision-makers, multipliers and thought leaders from a broad range of professional fields.

How do they select the fellows for this program?

Potential candidates are asked to write and send their research-based, self-developed project proposals to the Humboldt Foundation. The best 15 project proposals from each country are then selected to attend a 2-day selection meeting where candidates are asked to present their research proposals to a selection committee and the rest of the candidates. After the selection meeting is over up to 10 candidates are chosen from each country to pursue their projects.

Which German institute did you pick to study at and why?

My host institution will be the University of Stuttgart, Institution for Computational Design (ICD). Under the direction of Professor Achim Menges, who will be my host supervisor, the institution has positioned itself as one of the world’s leaders for advanced architectural research and production. Their work is world-renowned and each year their students produce a full scale pavilion applying over 6 years of research. Without a doubt this is an incredibly enriching environment for what I envision to be the future in Architecture and construction.

How did your education at the Gerald D. Hines College of Architecture and Design help you stand out from other students competing in this process?

My experiences from the diverse international programs offered by our college definitely played a key role in having a profile that could compete with students from major universities in the US. In particular, I had the pleasure of participating in the Hines Internship, where I worked for Enric Miralles Benedetta Tagliabue – EMBT in Barcelona, Spain. I believe the access and exposure during this internship has been key in bringing more important opportunities to my career, especially in Europe where EMBT work is very much appreciated and even admired.

What are you hoping to achieve during this fellowship?

I am looking to create an initiative that establishes a point of departure for one of the biggest and most complete databases for automated construction processes in Europe. This is a very good opportunity for me to learn about the potential and unsolved problems of building components through automated processes that will be transforming our profession within the next years.