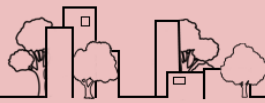




university of  
 groningen

d'ici là



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## Internship Report

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## **Why this particular internship?**

I first wanted to find an internship that would help me put some of the knowledge I acquired during my first 2 years at the RUG in practice within the confines of a professional environment. Despite very much enjoying a more academic environment, I thought that acquiring different experiences in a more professional field could help me get a better idea as to where I could orient myself at the end of my bachelor's. I also did it in order to develop new skills I would only be able to work on in a specific work environment. As well as improve on those I have already acquired by studying at UCG, such as project management, communication skills and team work.

Additionally, I wanted to see whether or not the field of urban planning and design in its more practical and professional aspect would suit me as a career choice as opposed to the more theoretical and academic approach I am already used to. I think getting to see how these two ways of approaching planning differ is not only important for career choice but also a great way to learn how to take a more thoughtful and critical approach considering the plurality of ways urban planning can be thought through. Moreover, I thought that an internship could be a good opportunity to learn more about what is not explicitly taught when preparing for working in this field, as I believe there are hidden aspects of all professions that academic studying cannot prepare for and can only be attained through professional practice.

When it comes to why I chose to apply to the agency D'Ici-Là more specifically, I was mostly impressed by the importance of their core values and their work around sustainability. Much like UCG, the agency seemed very much in touch with today's complex societal challenges that pertain to the urban. The projects shown on their website as well as the rationale behind each of them were also really appealing and heavily contributed to my decision.

## Preparing for the internship

“*D’ici-là*” was one of the private landscape architecture and planning agencies I sent a speculative application to by email. I thought this agency in particular seemed to have an important and genuine focus on social issues and sustainability, so I was really glad to hear back from them two weeks later. My application contained my CV with information relevant to the agency and a cover letter which connected my personal experiences and motivations with what the agency seemed passionate about, as well as with some of their concluded projects. I also tried to express my interest in their values and projects as much as I could, although writing a good cover letter in French proved to be quite a challenge.

Using the tips given by the internship coordinator, I made sure to prepare my interview as much as I could, relating what I mentioned on my resume with more specific skills and adding more details I thought were relevant on which I could expand if necessary. I also tried to include certain specific aspects of urban planning and urban sociology I am particularly interested in but unfortunately did not find the opportunity to mention during the interview.

Preparing for the position however felt a bit tricky as I did not respond to a specific offer but made a speculative application, there were also no explicit requirements or potential tasks I could prepare for mentioned during the interview. I still tried to refresh some of the project management skills I learned during my training at UCG as I figured they would be useful. On top of that I also made sure to get some additional practice with an architecture 3D modelling software I used for my Year 2 project, but only had time to refresh the basics.

## Expectations prior to starting the Internship

One of my main expectations prior to starting the internship was to be able to work on at least one urban design project where I could bring an input on how to improve the social welfare output of a given public space considering its particular context or to attempt to solve a specific social issue. In doing that I expected to also have to do the necessary research and present my results and rationale in some shape or form. I also thought I would be able to witness and potentially take part in decisional meetings about projects with different stakeholders, in order to see how decisions are taken in the planning field at each phase of urban projects, including the initial presentations of projects and how the agency responds to them, negotiations with clients. I was also interested in how landscape architects collaborate with other experts, such as architects, sociologists, planners and engineers.

Additionally, I was hoping to get to work on various computer softwares that come with spatial planning and design in general such as AutoCad, SketchUp or Photoshop, as well as advice and guidance from my coworkers on how to get more efficient at using them.

On the more personal side, I was worried about how I would be welcomed into the agency, both in terms of being given relevant tasks and assistance and in terms of being included in the work environment and culture. I was hoping to be able to freely express myself about any potential issue I might encounter.

## What is *D'Ici-Là*?

“D’ici-là” is a private landscape architecture and urbanism company which is split into 3 different agencies scattered across France. Their goal is to design and build well thought-out landscapes and public spaces that reflect their core values of sustainability and social wellbeing. They mostly carry out projects in larger urban contexts in the aim of making cities more liveable in connection to modern urban planning practices while still considering each project’s particular cultural and historical context. A lot of their work is thus made sure to stay in touch with the inhabitants’ experiences, feelings and personal desires for the space they occupy.

They often work at the demand of French municipalities wanting to improve their own public spaces both in terms of liveability and sustainability.

## Living situation

As I am doing this internship in my home city and also decided to stay at my relatives’ housing, I luckily did not have to go through the struggle of finding an accommodation. For the rest of the costs of living, they are mostly equal to, if not sometimes lower than staying in Groningen, so doing this internship does not represent any financial strain for me. When it comes to my social surroundings, I am lucky to be close to my family and a few of my friends who have helped me a lot with preparing for the internship and dealing with some of its hardships.

## Tips for future interns

If future students want to follow an internship in an architecture or landscape architecture agency, I would suggest getting at least familiar with softwares that are often used when designing architecture projects, such as AutoCAD or SketchUP. I personally had never used AutoCAD and it did give me a few hardships at the start of my internship. However, my short experience with SketchUP helped me to quickly get used to using AutoCAD which I often had to do.

I also got to make use of other visual design softwares such as Adobe Indesign and Illustrator used to present projects, in which having some experience can also come quite handy.

For landscape architecture more specifically, I had to get used to hearing about certain methods or practices that are unique to the discipline and understand them in order to follow some of the work that took place in the agency. As such, having prior knowledge of common vocabulary, techniques and practices of landscape architecture would help with fully understanding some of the tasks that could be given to an intern.

## Task overview

During the first two weeks of my internship most of the tasks that I undertook did not have to do with directly participating in design or deliverables. I mostly had to look at various landscaping practices, how urban projects were organized and how deliverables were designed and thought through, which was crucial for me to learn in order to better understand how the agency functioned. A lot of the time, I also had to look for various landscape references for visual designs to assist in the production of deliverables. On top of that, I also did some research about various planning methods such as gender-mainstreaming, planning laws or school-streets, so that they could be better understood and applied by the agency on various urban projects they were working on.

As the receptionist of the agency was absent over the first half of the internship I also had to pick up incoming phone calls to answer any kind of question and redirect the caller to the right person in the office.

Scattered throughout my internship, I also got to participate and spectate a few online meetings discussing various urban projects with different stakeholders, from teams of architects working along with d'Ici Là to presentations done by large french municipalities showing their specifications and expectations for projects they tasked d'Ici Là to work on.

As part of a park revitalization, I also got to prepare and moderate a consulting session with locals to learn more about their opinions on said park and the equipment they wanted to see in it

During the second half of my internship I got to work on more “hands on” tasks that involved design and digital drawing with softwares such as AutoCAD, Adobe Illustrator and Photoshop. I spent most of my time using AutoCAD to either help out drawing maps and blueprints or to conduct landscape studies like the foliage coverage of an area, a neighborhood's share of green spaces and non-green spaces or its different types of soil.

On photoshop and Illustrator I worked on 2 different types of visuals for a final deliverable. I used illustrator to try and create a diagram following the directions of my coworker, its goal was to help better represent each zone of the area the agency was working on and their respective functions. However, this idea had to be scrapped for other visuals for the same deliverable that were more urgent. Still under the direction of my coworker in charge of the project, I had to add landscapes to the architects' initial sketches by using Photoshop. The aim was to show an accurate representation of what the landscape could look like following the agency's methods and ideas, as well as what atmosphere it would create.

Finally, I also got to do some fieldwork on my own to make a census of each individual tree over an area the agency was working on. I had to take pictures of each species and their health condition, as well as a few pictures that could be used to show how the landscape could blend with the rest of the city.

# Personal learning process

My learning process over this entire internship was rather progressive and went through various steps. During the first few weeks, I mostly learned about general landscape architecture methods and the usual processes of how urban projects were organized and negotiated. I had to adapt to my lack of specific French vocabulary, as my general knowledge of planning terms and practices came from a more Anglo-Saxon and Dutch perspective because of my education at the RUG and UCG but also from my personal media consumption. I also slowly started to learn how to use AutoCAD which was the primary software used at the agency.

Additionally, I took some time to understand the organization of the agency and to feel integrated in the working environment. As such my learning process started off rather slow.

However, after having gotten more comfortable with the work environment and its inner workings and having gotten a better grasp of the specific methods and processes that belong to landscape architecture, I got to work on more demanding tasks of which I could see direct results and their usefulness. I could also participate more actively in discussions and find where I could bring an interesting perspective or where I could assist my coworkers.

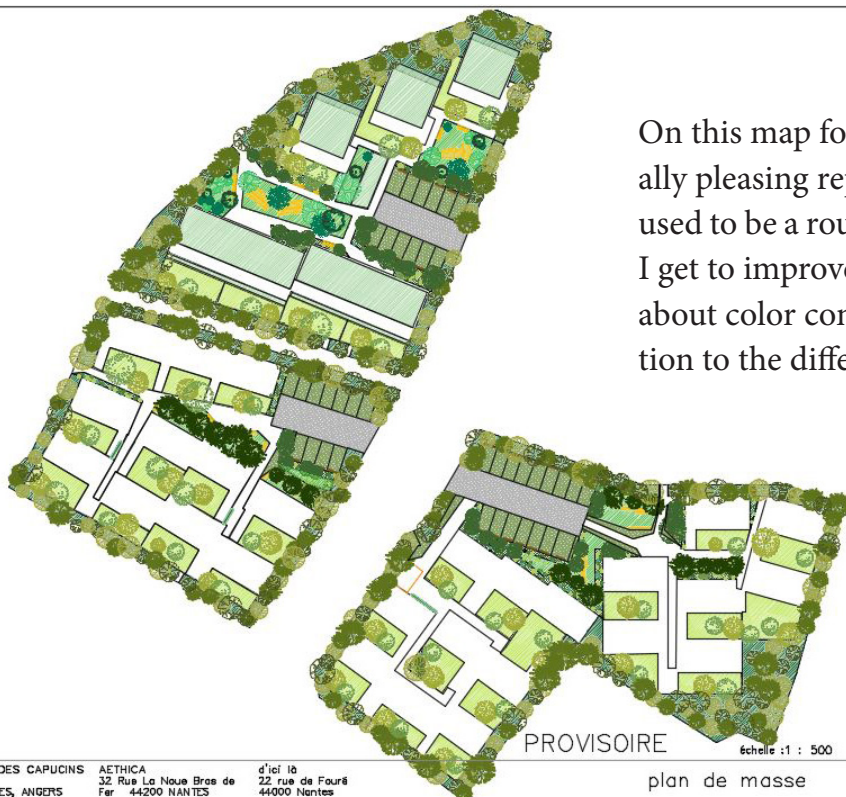
## Completion of the learning plan

### PROFESSIONAL LEARNING GOALS:

#### 1. Improving skills at architecture/planning and

As this learning goal was one of my primary objectives for my internship, I am really glad to have had many opportunities to get practice on some of these softwares.

When it comes to architecture and planning, I did not get to use SketchUp as I would have liked but instead focused on using AutoCAD. I learned how to use the software from scratch and quickly got to draw a few maps and to use it to conduct landscape studies.



On this map for example, I was tasked to give a more visually pleasing representation of the green landscape to what used to be a rough outline. Thanks to this task, not only did I get to improve my AutoCAD skills, but I also got to learn about color composition techniques and how to pay attention to the different ambiances a landscape aims to convey.

Figure 1



Figure 2

In this example, I was asked to draw out the total area covered by tree foliage within the black outline, and to calculate it by each sector within the neighborhood. With this task I learned how to keep an organized map and a few commands that are useful to quickly round up data on a map.



Figure 3

Using Adobe Photoshop I also got to create a few visuals for a final deliverable. I spent quite a lot of time working on this example in particular, in which I had to add a digital landscape to the sketches of the building sent by a team of architects. Thanks to this task I learned new techniques from my coworkers on photoshop to optimize my time as much as possible. It was also the first time I worked on a visual design task while having to follow specific directions and aesthetic vision for the final result, which made it a particularly exciting exercise.



Figure 4



## **2. Learn how to consider the cultural and historical context of a space when thinking about its design.**

Thanks to the internship I got to learn quite a lot on the various methods planners and architects use to include each space's context in its future design.

At the start of my internship I was tasked with doing research on the ways nature can be represented in landscape architecture. As such, I went over a lot of different landscape architecture projects all over the world, which helped me get a better grasp of how landscapes are designed, and by the same occasion got to see the many ways in which design was to convey a particular context. I saw how these professionals dive deep into the roots of a space and its history as well as its cultural significance.

I got to see this in actual practice in the agency, during some of the project meetings I assisted as well as while looking at some project deliverables. For example, I had to look at the architectural and social history of a neighborhood in Nanterre, France, in order to better understand its current shape and context and to make the future landscape reflect that history. The information I gathered was then used by the team working on the project later as part of the guidelines of the project.

## **3. Learn about techniques to create more sustainable urban spaces.**

As sustainability is one of the core values of D'Ici Là and because their team is knowledgeable on the topic, I got a real opportunity to learn about the ways landscape architecture can be used to create sustainable urban spaces. I saw how sustainability also blended in with other challenges that urban environments will have to deal with in the future, such as the increase in temperature. Therefore, I got to learn about techniques such as using humid soil and greenery to create "cool areas" within urban public space, I also learnt about the importance of biodiversity and the inclusion of wildlife and pollinating species for perennial and efficient green public space.

On the flipside, I also got to see how sustainability and green spaces were often used as a form of tokenism by other parties in the field of urban design, making me even more grateful for how D'Ici Là values ecology.

#### **4. Get better at thinking about space in a more physical and practical way rather than the academic and theoretical approach I am used to.**

I managed to greatly improve at this skill thanks to the overwhelming amount of times where I had to work with maps and diagrams as well as when I got to see the decisional processes of my coworkers. I got to see and hear about how a space can be improved in a practical manner given its respective challenges. Furthermore, I also got to explore and attempt to give a hand at how certain spatial improvements could be made given the challenges imposed by it. Using softwares for architecture also helped me get a better impression of how design can be implemented and solve given issues.

Additionally, I found myself in a lot of situations where the knowledge I had acquired from classes and literature in planning could be physically applied to solve a given issue, thus helping me bridge the gap between the academic and the practical approaches I thought I had.

#### **5. Learn about the inner workings of how urban projects are set up, how negotiations are dealt and how stakeholders cooperate and interact.**

Having taken part in a few online meetings regarding urban projects and their organization at various levels, I also got to witness this through the typical interactions colleagues would have over the phone. Whether it be between teams of architects to discuss how a project should evolve and how deliverables can be improved, or with municipalities to present progress on a particular project or to learn about the expectations or specifications of a new project. This helped me get a better sense of the various ways stakeholders interact with one another and what the power dynamics were in most cases.

Moreover, during the consulting session I took part in for a park revitalization, I got to personally interact with local politicians and see more of what role they play in decision making as well as the power they hold over it.

## Generic learning goals

### **1. Learn how to be more punctual and to keep to a regular schedule**

Thanks to having to stick to a strict 9 to 6 schedule, I got significantly better at managing my time inside and outside my internship. I also always got on time and never arrived late at work which was personal first.

Additionally, I had to pay attention to the urgency of several different tasks to finish them in time and to stay organized, since I was often giving assignments with varying degrees of importance and urgency I got a lot of opportunities to practice this skill and improve significantly.

### **2. Getting better at focusing only on the important information when I am given a task**

Before and during my internship I often have found myself struggling with understanding assignment information when they are not explicitly written down, this added to a personal struggle I have with ambiguity makes it a challenge for me when I am assigned a task in a timely manner. On a few occasions during the internship, and especially in the beginning, I did not manage to fully understand the actual implications of a task and expectations of my supervisor. Which ultimately led to a lot of time wasted on my end to start some tasks over.

However, I do think I made progress as time went by, mostly thanks to having gained more knowledge and context of the profession. However, I do not fully know if I managed to improve on this issue outside of this particular work situation.

### **3. Learn better ways to present information, whether it is visually, writing or speaking**

Thanks to having had to use softwares such as Adobe Photoshop or InDesign, I did get to learn about more tools and techniques to improve the visual clarity of the documents I was producing.

However, I did not get to practice these skills as much as I would have liked. I did get to observe my co-workers using them, as well as ask them a few questions on their goals and methods but unfortunately did not get to actively participate in producing any large deliverable or in any type of presentation. As such, I do believe I have acquired a few tools and methods but that I will have to practice in the future outside of my internship.

## Expectations reflection

Looking back, I believe most of my expectations were fulfilled, or at least partly fulfilled.

I got to work on various projects on different levels and at different phases of their respective process, which allowed me to discover how urban planning is handled and. I also did get to manifest personal input and do research on certain social issues like I initially wanted to, however not to the degree that I hoped to achieve or as many times as I would have liked. Which is probably due to the fact that most of the tasks that needed to be done and that could be done by an intern, lied more on the practical side of planning. I also seemed to have misunderstood the importance of how space should be physically represented, being more used to thinking about space and its social dynamics, I had little idea of the role careful physical planning played as well. Likewise for all the practical consequences of designing a space, never in my studies have I been asked to think about what type of soil or coating was the most optimal for a given objective or how should temperature and humidity be regulated by vegetation.

On the more positive side, I realized that this is probably better for me personally, as it was an occasion to diversify and improve my skill set, as well as a chance to learn more about different ways to think about planning and the urban. I believe that this aspect especially, will help me to think more critically about urban planning moving forward in my studies.

Additionally, as I was initially hoping for, I had the occasion to take part in various professional meetings and discussions on planning and learned a lot from these interactions. I got to witness some of the inner workings of urban projects from various perspectives and stages which was enlightening. Most notably, this helped me get a better picture of how certain aspects of project management can be specific to urban planning and which factors are looked into when it comes to decision making and their order of priority, but also to see what role each stakeholder takes in planning.

## Feedback summary

I received very little direct feedback, formal or informal, from my supervisor, only at the end of the internship did we get to sit and talk about my progress. During this feedback session, she told me about the progress I made within the agency, and how I managed to adapt myself to the work environment despite the fact that I was not formally trained in landscape architecture and that the agency found itself in a very busy period. She did not have anything to say about my professional behavior and found the content that I produced and the help I gave to my coworkers fitting. I did find this feedback rather short however, and I would have liked a few remarks pertaining more to my professional behavior, agreeableness, or things that I should pay attention to. I did not receive any actual negative feedback which I was quite surprised about considering the rocky start I had, especially with communicating with my supervisor. I believe that this feedback from her was short for the simple reason that she is a rather busy and concise person, she quickly gets to the point and wishes to stay efficient. I do find it unfortunate that this was the only time we got to discuss my internship and my performance, but she was very unavailable throughout the entire period. I did find her feedback very touching and reassuring as I was not entirely sure of where I stood in terms of quality and efficiency even towards the end of my internship.

When it comes to my other coworkers, I did get to receive some feedback from them from time to time, as I was working alongside them. Working in the same space as them allowed me to ask for advice and direction whenever I needed to and they also made themselves available to help. When handing them back the tasks they gave, they would often tell me in detail what was well done in the work I produced, but also what was missing and what I could improve. Overall, their feedback was very useful for a lot of my learning objectives, most especially for improving my proficiency at design and planning softwares. They would also often come and check on the work I was doing and give me a few pointers on what I should focus on or correct.

## Career prospects & networking reflection

Thanks to the work I accomplished and what I could observe during the internship, I feel much safer in my current choice of future master's, that is to say Urban Studies and/or Urban Sociology. Looking into how these disciplines can help improve the liveability of cities in a more practical manner, and in turn the daily life of so many people, and being able to make a professional experience in the field really helped me feel more certain about continuing on this path.

Additionally, doing this internship provided me with more insights when it comes to what type of work environment and structure I would like to potentially work in. Indeed, despite having a really positive experience during my internship, I realized I have a stronger affinity towards a more academic career such as carrying out research or teaching than working within a private company for the moment.

Because of this, I am not sure I gathered "useful" contacts from this internship. These contacts I made lying more on the architecture aspect of the discipline, they probably will not prove to be useful if I orient myself towards an academic career. Although, I do believe the internship did give me a lot more tools regarding how I should present myself and my work in the general field of planning, thanks to the specific vocabulary and the skills it brought me.

# Appendix



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4





Figure 5

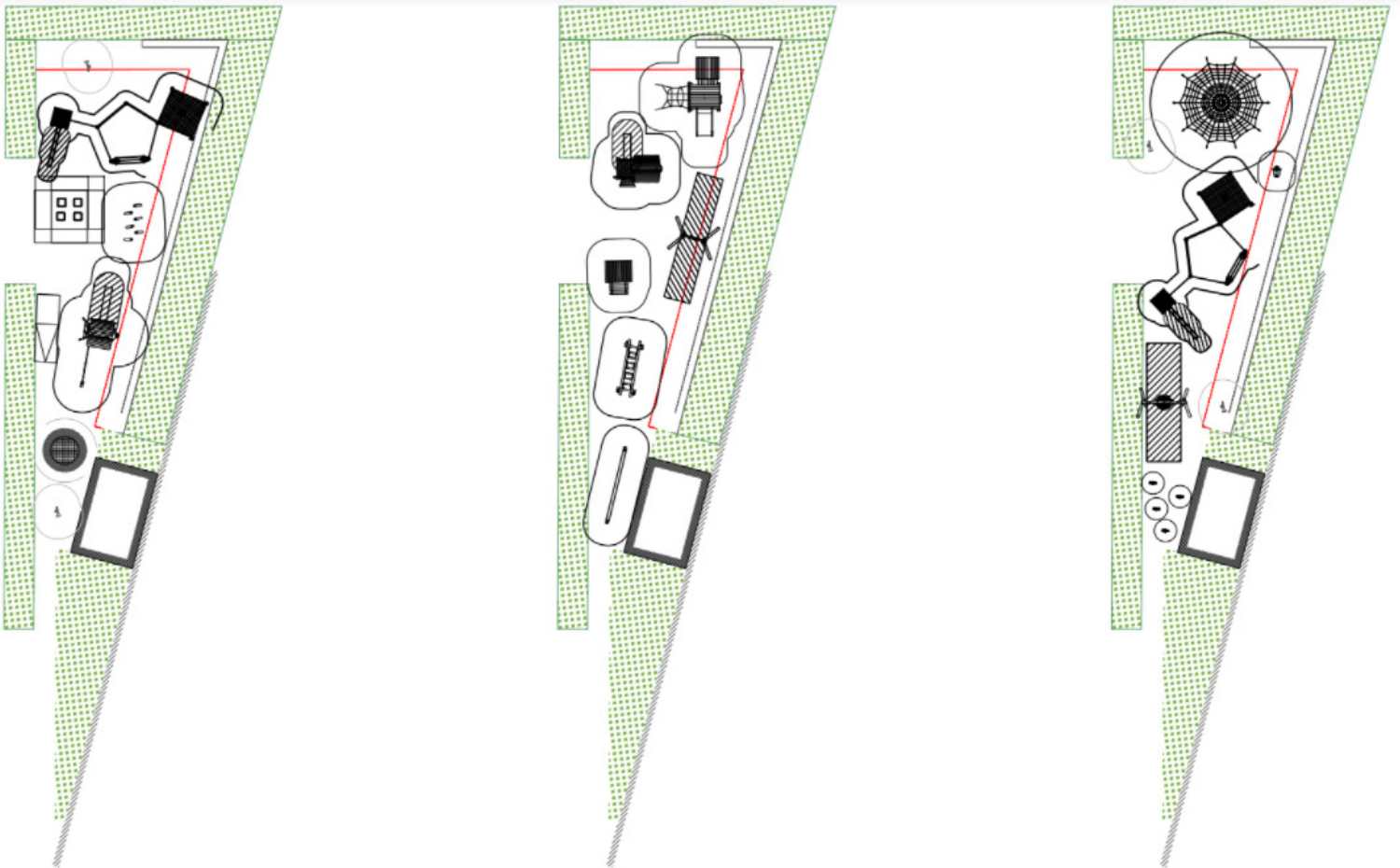


Figure 6

# Weekly Logbook

## Week 1 - 06/09 to 10/09

Upon the first few days I first got to learn about some of the projects of urban revitalization the agency has been working on. I got to see how projects were first arranged and organized, how different agencies competed for the same project and how some of them grouped together to better respond to all the objectives of a project that were given by the contractor.

I realized how much landscape architecture was involved in current social issues and that connected to what I learned prior in some of the courses I followed in UCG, but also in the rest of RUG. This made me see how certain ideas and theoretical practices were put in action on a given process, these varied quite a lot: renovating rather than rebuilding, consider local historical context, consulting inhabitants and collecting their different experiences, green energy production, creating spaces for people to interact, urban agriculture, making way for cultural and artistic opportunities, encouraging diversity, making public space more inclusive of marginalized populations and so on.

Next to my own task, I also got to see a lot of the technical practices and methods of landscape architecture, such as various design softwares, drawing plans, negotiating with contractors and other stakeholders.

On top of that, I also took part in a few meetings between workers at the agency to report on their individual progress and in meetings with other agencies that involved reporting and discussing how certain projects should move forward. These meetings helped me realize how much cooperation and exchanging each other's expertise and points of view was crucial for the success of a project.

Another responsibility that is shared between everyone in the agency and which includes me as well is to respond to incoming phone calls. I had quite some difficulty with it at first, especially in making sure I took note of the important information while also redirecting them to the right person. It surely felt like an oddly daunting task in the beginning, but I like to think I quickly got used to it.

At the end of the week I was given 2 more tasks that involved looking into different methods of representing nature in landscape architecture used by other architects and to research ways to create public spaces that are more inclusive of the situation of women in the context of a project that the agency was working on. I was really looking forward to working on this task in particular, as I plan to make this topic part of my Year 3 project during the 2nd semester.

## Week 2 - 13/09 to 17/09

I divided this second week working on these tasks starting with the first one.

Unfortunately, having widely misinterpreted this first task of nature representation, I gathered the wrong type of information which was not relevant to the aim of the research. Instead of looking at specific landscape architecture methods of planning nature within a space, I looked at how projects around the world included nature or made their users think about nature in different ways.

I only realized my mistake at the end of the week, when it was time to show my work to my supervisor who explained what she was actually expecting. I kept her advice and started over to continue working on it the following week.

For the second task, I first started to look at resources and articles I had heard of and used in the past during my studies, I then also found different and more practical resources that were aimed to help policy makers and planners find ideas for measures they can take which I compiled the information relevant to the particular context of the project the agency has been working into one document.

In order to also get more context on the neighborhood and see what had already been done, I also read the different studies and projects that were led in the same area in the past.

Towards the end of the week I reported the information I had gathered to the architect in charge of the project (my supervisor being away on that day). She seemed to be quite positive about it and said that she will definitely make use of it.

After that I also got to shortly work on another project, which involved preparing a consulting session with the inhabitants of a neighborhood that were going to benefit from a new park area (took place in week 7). The aim was to prepare a set of furniture for a young children's playground which would fit the aesthetics of the project. Additionally, I had to use a planning software (which I only had a little bit of experience using) to put the furniture to scale on a plan of the future playground so that the people participating in the consultation session would be able to place them and design their own park.

### Week 3 - 20/09 to 24/09

During my 3rd week I started over the first task I was given last week and just followed my supervisor's advice of collecting as many examples as I could to later review it with her and filter only the most relevant and useful examples. During this research, I also learned a lot about how projects are conducted and how methods can differ from one planning agency to another. I also use this as an opportunity to look at projects that tried different methods of gender inclusive planning.

On top of that I also was tasked to gather information on the historical context of a neighborhood that is the target of an urban revitalization. I spent a day looking at archives and some historical events to see the visual evolution of the neighborhood and how the past can be relevant for the shape the space will take during the design phase. I also looked at how certain landmarks and historical buildings were implemented and the methods that were used to design and build them.

The next day I took part in an online meeting led by the municipality behind one of the projects I studied. The aim of this meeting was to help contestants of the projects understand the objectives of the project better, as well as report on the insights and desires of the inhabitants gained during multiple consulting sessions. The architect in charge of the project was busy so they asked me to take notes of the meeting and report on them later. I found this meeting to be quite interesting, it helped me see how the contest phase of a project takes place but also showed different factors that are taken into account when designing a public space, such as how the space should insert itself in terms of functionality compared to the rest of the city. The public space in question was suggested to provide a more cultural and/or artistic offer in comparison to what a lot of the other innovative spaces around the city were offering, which is closer to spaces dedicated to entrepreneurship and professional and technological innovation.

### Week 4 - 27/09 to 01/10

At the beginning of the week I started working on further preparing the same consultation session as I did in week 2. After having received feedback from my supervisor, I added further details to make the blueprint of the furniture more readable and accessible while also adding a reference picture for each piece of furniture. I also had to add more information relating to their respective target audiences as well as their compatibility with other items. The overall aim was to make the consultation session more accessible and adaptable.

This part of the work took much more time than I first anticipated as it took me quite a while to reach the most visually accessible models I could make and I had to start over some parts of the deliverable a few times.

The main reason why was that after having drawn some of the furniture on a map making software, as they were missing a visual representation from above that was also up to scale, I ended up finding more accurate drawings on the manufacturer's website. As such, I had to start the models again using these drawings as a more solid basis. My supervisor also made some additional furniture suggestions that she thought were missing in order to provide a more varied range of models for the future participants.

We also discussed the logistics of the session, which was the best way to incentivize sharing and exchanging between participants and how to gather data out of the session. During this discussion I also took the opportunity to ask if I could also participate in moderating along with the employee assigned on the project.

Another reason for the time it took was that I encountered a lot of technical difficulties, given the lack of content for creating some of the models, it was impossible to reach a result that met my supervisor and coworker's expectations.

## Week 5 - 04/10 to 08/10

This week I helped another employee work on an analysis of soil and greenery of a neighborhood the agency plans to revitalize in the city of Nanterre. The aim was to show how much of the neighborhood was covered by tree foliage and green public space, as well as the overall share of the surface area they occupy in the entire neighborhood. For that I had to use an architecture software to draw out every spot covered by trees and to add up the total surface area covered by foliage. Following the initial method my coworker advised me to follow made it a rather laborious task, so I tried to branch out and look for other methods online to make it less time consuming as the deadline was rather close. I ended up finding a way to directly compile all the surface areas I drew into a single table which made it easier and quicker to sum it all up.

I also took this gain of time as an opportunity to add more detail into the final result and decided to not only add the total green space surface area but also the share of each different type of green space which proved to be valuable information in the end. My coworker seemed pretty satisfied with the final result.

She then asked me to help her quickly arrange a powerpoint presentation and make it more readable, as well as gather information on the local planning and zoning laws that were relevant to the project but also the different policies and methods the city has concerning their public spaces. For the latter, I did not find anything I thought relevant but after reporting that to my coworker, she told me that what was interesting was what type of information the local public space “thoughts” and plans were focusing on in order to figure out what was missing from them. I found that method/way of thinking very interesting and thus summed up the guidelines in relation to what was not mentioned but also relevant to the project.

On the last day of the week, I took part in an online meeting with my supervisor concerning a new project commissioned by the city of Rochefort, for which 4 agencies are competing. The meeting was meant for the agency to better understand the aims and philosophy of the project in order to provide a better response to their demands and have a better chance at winning their competition. I found it really interesting to witness the initial stages of a project and see the perspective of planners working on the side of the commissioning city. I also thought that the project itself was rather appealing, the presenters really emphasized on the importance of greenery and public spaces and their social impact, as well as how the historical context of each space should be included in their design.

Lastly, I helped another coworker find image references for the design of a recycling center. The goal was to help the visual designer tasked on the project by giving them a better vision as to how they should adapt the more practical design into a more visually appealing version.

## Week 6 - 11/10 to 16/10

At the beginning of this week, I had to quickly help a coworker calculate and compile surface areas of greenery from an AutoCad plan, which was similar to what I did at the start of the previous week except it was for a smaller project. The goal was to figure out how much of the project area was covered by bushes and meadows. As I had done a similar task the previous week, it took less time than I expected to finish everything. The only difficulty I really encountered was understanding what areas of the plan she was specifically interested in, as I found the blueprint I used for reference hard to read and to make out what each area represented exactly. Because of that, at the start of the task, I often had to ask for more clarification from my coworker.

After that I shortly continued what I started at the end of last week and helped find more references for the recycling center. This time however I was given a more specific vision to follow up on what was already done. Although I made a lot of progress, I quickly started to run out of potential references, as the request was rather specific.

Then I spent the next 2 days working on Adobe Illustrator to help another coworker create a more original and more accessible visual representation of the project she was working on. She asked me to try things out and find different ways to better organize the visual to see what would fit best. The concept was to mark out the different areas of a plan with letters in addition to colors. I simply had to write text, vectorize it and distort it to make it fit each area while keeping everything readable and accessible.

I quite enjoyed this task as it was my first step into producing more visually interesting work and it was something I had been wanting to work on since the start of my internship. Because the concept of the design was rather straightforward, I did not ask for a lot of guidance apart from occasionally asking her for her opinion and feedback on what I had already achieved.

This task was cut short the next day however, when another task for the same project was made more urgent. As the deadline of the competition was getting close, the architects tasked on the project sent their last version of the drawing for the built part of the project. My agency thus had to use these drawings to add their respective landscapes. I was tasked to start working on creating the final visuals for the landscape by using Photoshop. I had to answer several criteria given by the architects in terms of their aesthetics as well as follow the landscape architect's vision for the landscape: what type of trees and soil would be on each drawing and which important aspects the final designs should emphasize on.

I really enjoyed working on this task for the rest of the week, I had been meaning to improve my photoshop skills and this was a great opportunity to do so as I could ask for tips and advice on my progress. Thanks to my coworkers I learned a lot of useful new techniques I could use on the software. Although I was a bit intimidated at first because of the urgency of the task I ended up having a lot of fun, I found using Photoshop quite enjoyable, especially given the aesthetic freedom I had within the restrictions I was given.

## Week 7 - 18/10 to 22/10

The deadline having been delayed, I was given more time to finish working on the landscapes at the start of the week. The coworker who was working on the project helped me finish the last few ones and the work was sent to the architects so they could finish up their submission for the competition. I spent the rest of the day working making progress on Illustrator for a simplified and illustrated map of the same area.

The next day I worked with another landscape architect to help him adapt the axonometric perspectives of a landscape he made to a rigid colour scheme he was given last minute. There was a bit of a challenge to make all the important elements on the design stand out while making the final result appealing using a rather restrictive colour scheme.

Next I was tasked to change the plans for another project using AutoCAD. The initial plans were depicting vegetation in a simple way and it turned out these plans were going to be part of the final deliverable, so the idea was to make the vegetation look nicer and also to make it possible to discern different types of trees as certain trees were placed in specific locations. I also had to make sure each zone had vegetation corresponding to their respective intended atmospheres.

Then I helped find information and writing for the final deliverable of another project. I was working on the part that was explaining the benefits of the future landscape on biodiversity and the overall biological continuity of the city. I also needed to find references to go along with the main arguments. I found the exercise rather interesting although maybe a bit tedious, as I had been only working on the social benefits of landscape prior to this, I got to learn more about the overall biological influence of landscapes within greater urban contexts as well as how they can create more biodiversity. I also got to read more about the city's urban policy which was great insight and practice.

Before leaving for the day I took some time to prepare for the consulting session of the next day with a few inhabitants of Orleans.

After having travelled to Orleans the next day, I helped my coworker organize and manage the session and answered questions from participants. Our goal was first to present the project for the park we were working on and to make participants choose the children playground's equipment they preferred. We also worked alongside a few local elected officials which added an important political aspect to the session. Many of the questions I had to answer revolved around helping participants understand the plans of the park better, as well as explaining the specific dynamics of the park's vegetation. It reminded me a lot of some of the qualitative research methods I had learned in R&M courses in UCG.

When it came to choosing the equipment for the playground, we had framed the session into a kind of board game where participants, adults and children alike, could place their favorite equipment and furniture on the plans of the park just like pieces on a board. That way they could arrange the park as they thought best and also realize how limited the space actually is for placing equipment. We also let them vote for their favorite equipments at the end of the session to see which were the most popular. On the side, we also took note of their remarks for the rest of the project.

Overall I found this consultation event to be quite interesting and enjoyable. We received a lot of interesting feedback from the participants, both positive and negative, and a lot of parents and children were quite happy to be able to take part in the design of the playground. It was also interesting to help them cooperate and allow them to optimize the park in their own way.

On the last day of the week, I had to look for a few references for temporary pop-up gardens in the aim of embellishing future construction works. I could not find anything that exactly fitted the description however I did manage to find different examples of pop-gardens and temporary urban agriculture used to make the space around construction works more used and more welcoming.

## Week 8 - 25/10 to 29/10

I spent the very first day of this week looking for potential references of public spaces or squares surrounded by forest-type greenery. It was aimed for a brand new housing and commercial zone in the suburban area of Saint-Nazaire for which D'ici là was to design the landscape. The space in question is meant to become a unifying resting area that would connect all the different activities that would be part of the entire zone. Therefore the demand was quite specific and it took some time to find relevant examples of similar projects.

For the remainder of the day I was asked to prepare fieldwork for another project that I would have to conduct on my own on the following day. The project itself revolves around rethinking the landscape around a famous bridge in the city of Nantes where I am doing my internship. Its goal is to create a green continuity thanks to the landscape of the bridge. What I had to do then was to establish an accurate picture of all the trees around the area of the project and take pictures of them in order to identify each species and each tree's wellbeing. Additionally, I also had to get a few shots of the important urban axes and monuments in the area to see how they can be connected to the landscape of the bridge.

In order to prepare for this task I studied the city's expectations for the project accordingly to see which spots were most important and what aspects should be explored, as well as what the agency could add to the list with their expertise. I also printed a plan of the area to bring with me as some of the trees were of more specific importance.

The following day, I spent all morning taking each picture, however I had misunderstood the initial criteria for the pictures. Since I thought that the most important part was to identify each species of trees and their health I only took close-ups of the bark and leaves since these are the most defining factors. On top of that I also had to take them in full so my coworker could better assess their height and alignment with the rest of the landscape. I also realized that the plan that I brought along with me was fairly inaccurate regarding how many trees it represented and their respective positions. I did not know what to do with this issue and did not take the initiative to record the current positions of each tree and correct the map I had printed.

As such when I came back to report on my work I was quickly told that I would have to start over and take more pictures. It was a rather humiliating experience but my coworker was really nice about it, she gave me clearer instructions and I went back the next day to start over.

I spent the next day finishing this task, after having been done with taking all the pictures in the morning I re-organized them and labeled each tree in order to identify on the map I corrected which took the entire remainder of the day.

I spent the rest of the week working on a soil study for another project in Nanterre. I had to determine how much of the surface of a neighborhood was made of permeable, semi-permeable and non-permeable soil. For that I had to use AutoCad and draw out each surface which was quite tedious and took quite some time as the overall area was rather large.



## Week 9 - 01/11 to 05/11

After finishing up the previous soil study, I started working on assisting a coworker in drawing a plan of the landscape of last week's bridge project in Nantes. Using AutoCad, I had to label different types of coating used for the soil within the area, as well as the general function of some of the specific areas such as playgrounds and add trees corresponding to their current position using google maps and the pictures I took . I also had to keep aesthetics in mind as the map would be part of the final deliverable of the project so good visuals were also crucial. I was glad to get more practice using this software, especially since I could benefit from the guidance and tips my coworker gave me. The task took quite a while partly due to the fact that I am not yet completely familiar with AutoCad and because I had some technical difficulties with the software and the map proved to cover quite a large area. I also had to pay a lot of attention to detail, especially when it came to the structure of the drawing which I had to keep organized: each element of the drawing having to be classified into strict categories for further use such as hiding certain elements, counting them or editing them together. However, I did sometimes forget to do that very thing which my coworker noticed once I was done, so my final map ended up a tad disorganised in some spots.

At the end of the week, I once again assisted my other coworker on her project on Nanterre, this time she wanted to find specific references for a new street the agency wants to implement within the neighborhood which would give a larger and safer access to a local primary school. As such, I had to find examples of slim decorated sidewalks that were preferably facing a school, as well as to do some research on the implementation of "school-streets" that some countries like Belgium and France have experimented with in recent years. Considering the specificity of the examples I had to find, it took me quite a while to find a decent amount of relevant pictures and landscape architecture projects. I then compiled this information so that it could be used and discussed for an online meeting on the topic of the project the next day.

The following day, I took part in the meeting as a spectator. The meeting was between my coworker working on the project in Nanterre and the architects in charge of the project who hired D'ici là. They reported the progress each of them made on one of the final deliverables which was in the form of a presentation. It was really interesting to hear what type of feedback each of the team members had to give to each other, it gave me great insight for how presentations should be structured and how much it should cater to the expectations of the client while still presenting something different that can go beyond the client's initial prescriptions. I also was admiring towards the attention to detail for their visuals and the structure and clarity of their argument. I also learned a lot about a few planning methods from this interaction, such as considering the grander urban continuity in which an individual urban project places itself.

## Week 10 - 08/11 to 12/11

The last week of my internship was shorter than usual as the agency was closed for one day because of a national public holiday. I spent the other days working on measuring surface area one final time to figure out the share of open soil and non-open soil over the entire neighborhood. My coworker also asked me to make a few corrections to my digital drawing so that she could use it as a resource later on; it seemed I did not pay attention to details when drawing on the map and thus lacked the necessary precision to use it as a proper document.

Next, as a follow up to the consulting session I took part in a few weeks prior, I worked on creating a couple scenarios for the set-up of the children's playground which locals had provided during the session. The aim was to digitally recreate the designs they came up with using AutoCAD, as well as a few other scenarios that were using the playground equipment that received the most votes.

I also got to meet with my supervisor for a final feedback session to talk about my time at the agency. The feedback was rather short although really positive and reassuring. My supervisor was brutally honest and direct with how I initially was making little progress at first and could not be assigned any serious tasks but that I managed to overcome the challenges working in such an intense environment came with and adapt myself to the agency. She also mentioned that she felt like I was well integrated into the team which was also a very positive personal note for me.

On my last day, there was no work that needed my assistance so I took time to look at some of the past projects that were successfully achieved by the agency. One of my coworkers also spent some of his free time giving me a crash course on vegetation planning and creating plantation plans for a given project. I got to learn about the rationale behind choosing certain species over others, how to adapt vegetation to its climate and to create biodiversity as well as creating atmospheres and sceneries.