

BTX FALL INTERNSHIP

2022

Reine khamis

BITARCHITECTS

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Reine Khamis

Ms. R. Khamis has a Bachelor degree in Architecture and is currently pursuing her Master Degree in architecture at the Lebanese University. Ms. Khamis believes in the ability of architecture and design in strengthening our societies and building a better future for the next generations.

Key Responsibilities:

3D modelling
3D rendering

BTX Internship Portfolio Fall – 2022



00. Table of contents

BTX Internship Portfolio Fall – 2022

01- Architecture Projects

A- Bitarchitects' Office design

B- Chavez Garage Addition

C- Coleman Transient Lodge

D- Ser Aesthetics

02- Tasks

03- Guests Meetings

04- Conclusion

01. Architectural Projects

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A- Bitarchitects' Office design

Bitarchitects wants to design their office at a We work space building. I aimed to design the office inspired by the BTX's style and color palette.

First trials were more of a formal office vibe.



01. Architectural Projects

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A- Bitarchitects' Office design

Then, more exhibition trials were created to highlight the modernity of BTX and also the Gen Z environment.



01. Architectural Projects

B- Chavez Garage Addition | King Georges, VA

Project Date: September 2022

Project Type: Residential: 1-family house

Project Owner: G. Chavez

Project Valuation: 364,900.00 USD

Project Brief: Mr. Chavez is a car enthusiast and as an extension to his existing house, he is hoping to have a big garage to further his car play. Bitarchitects is helping Mr. Chavez with his Garage addition from structural analysis to permit documents requirements.

Responsibilities: Interior design in addition to exterior additions and landscape.

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01. Architectural Projects

B- Chavez Garage Addition | King Georges, VA

The concept for the house: While designing the interior we were aiming for a minimalistic cozy effect.

The combination of neutral colors with the wooden texture was essential to create the wanted vibe.



01. Architectural Projects

B- Chavez Garage Addition | King Georges, VA

The concept for the basement: The basement has a more fun and youthful vibe. Sectioning the basement into different parts while using different types of furniture in order to create different activities.



01. Architectural Projects

B- Chavez Garage Addition | King Georges, VA

The concept for the outside: The design of the outside and the creation of the pool complements the interiors.
From the concrete pool to the wood fire pit and barbecue area.



01. Architectural Projects

C- Coleman Transient Lodge I Washington, DC

Project Date: November 2022

Project Type: Residential: 1-family house

Project Owner: T. Coleman

Project Brief: Mr. Coleman is expanding his investment portfolio while having a DC-based townhouse. Deep in the investment world, he aspires to divide the townhouse into a restaurant and a residential space both of which are used separately and leased to separate entities. Bitarchitects is helping with the separation of the townhouse elements to create two units for different usages.

Responsibilities: Interior design for the Burger shop and the apartment.

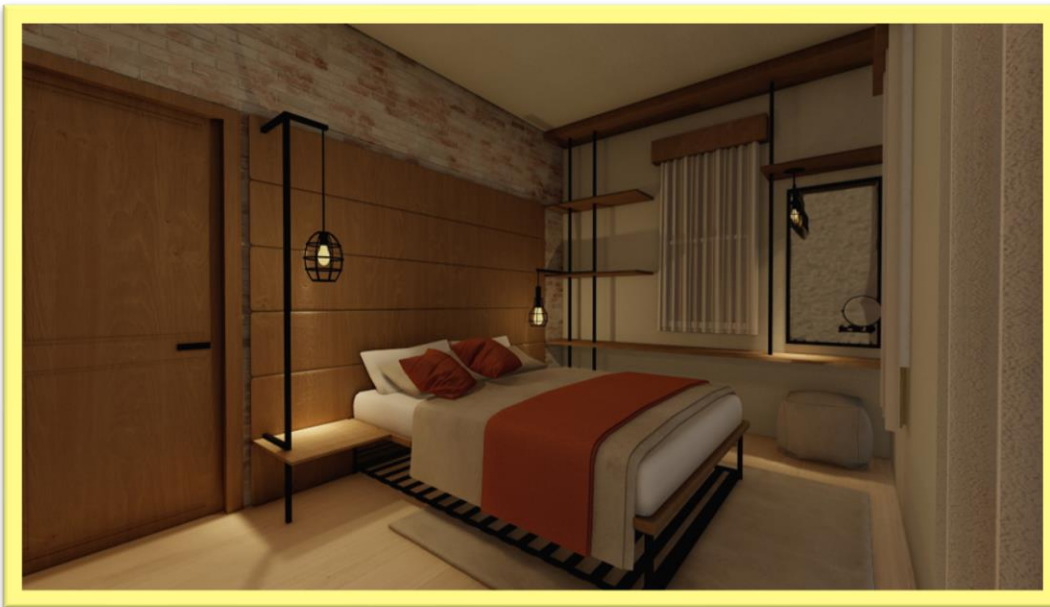
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01. Architectural Projects

C- Coleman Transient Lodge I Washington, DC

The concept for the apartment: In this project, we used a combination of an industrial and a rustic style. Black metal pipes, bricks, Leather, fur, and a pop of orange were used to create this vibe.



01. Architectural Projects

C- Coleman Transient Lodge | Washington, DC

The concept for the Burger Shop: The same style is applied in the Burger Shop for continuity in the building.

Zones are created: Bar Area – Dining area – Café trottoir like on the front of the house.



01. Architectural Projects

D- Ser Aesthetics I Folsom, California

Project concept: A refined style is used while designing this project. Gold, pastel green and cream were used for a luxury minimalistic feel.

Responsibilities: Interior design

Team members: Perihan Raad, Reine Khamis



01. Architectural Projects

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D- Ser Aesthetics I Folsom, California



02. Tasks

During this internship many educational videos were sent to us. And many tasks were prepared by us on different topic related to architecture or not.

Name one interior architect's work that inspires you
(Specify briefly 5 points why)

Answer:

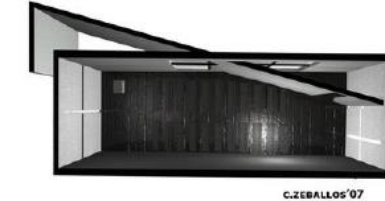
Casa Baragan for Luis Baragan, is the project that inspires me for different reasons.

1. Importance of light:
The use of flat planes and light, both natural and artificial. The skylights and windows allow for visual tracking of light throughout the day.
2. Fluidity between interior and exterior:
Creating a visible and physical relationship between the lower level and the backyard. The architect placed as much emphasis on the exterior and surroundings of a building as he did on the interior.
3. The play of privacy and visibility:
High windows are used to let light in but maintain privacy in the front, whereas large windows open up the back to the garden.
4. The integrated modern and traditional artistic and vernacular currents and elements into a new synthesis.
Which gives the project his uniqueness and attractiveness.
5. The use of vibrant colors that are based on traditional Mexico.
He used strong non-harmonic color schemes, and different textures while designing the interior space.

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Architectural project:

Church of Light embraces Tadao Ando's Philosophical framework and architectural style: **Simplicity and Minimalist.**



C.ZEBALLOS'07



1. Tadao Ando often uses Zen philosophies when conceptualizing his structures. Embraces the link between nature and architecture through the way in which light can define and create new spatial perceptions.
2. The Church of Light is an architecture of duality: the dual nature of existence, solid/void, light/dark, stark/serene.
3. The coexistence leaves the church void of all ornaments, creating pure space. Only the intersection of light and solid raises the occupant's awareness of the spiritual and secular within themselves.
4. Idolization of the reinforced concrete wall. Minimal use of materials. The church is composed of a concrete shell, creating a humbler and more meditative place of worship. It removes any distinction of traditional churches besides an extruded cross from the east facing façade.
5. One of the main objectives that Tadao Ando pursued with the Church of the Light project was to challenge the constructive tendencies that he was going to use and at the same time demonstrate that it was possible to create a rich space with a minimum budget in the materialistic era that he lived at that time.



02. Tasks

A small innovative office project.

A Solace Extent by Interior Muse.

1. Bold metal grid in modular design:

Created for easy transportation and reassembling of the furniture elements and easy installation according to any shifted new space.

2. Introduction of free flow curves:

To ultimately smoothen the user's vision and depict the continuity and grace of the space.

3. Plenty of storage:

By using the metal grid and the wooden cabinets, a sufficient number of storage number is created.

4. Integration of greenery:

Creation of a serene mood. Also, air purifying and low maintenance Sansevieria plants placed within a proportionate metal grid box at the center of the space acts as a semi-private partition between the director's cabin and the working staff area.

5. Color palette:

Warm colors, green furniture and metal grid, gives the office a soothing effect. The web developers computing in this space sought to retain their concentration but soften its formality.

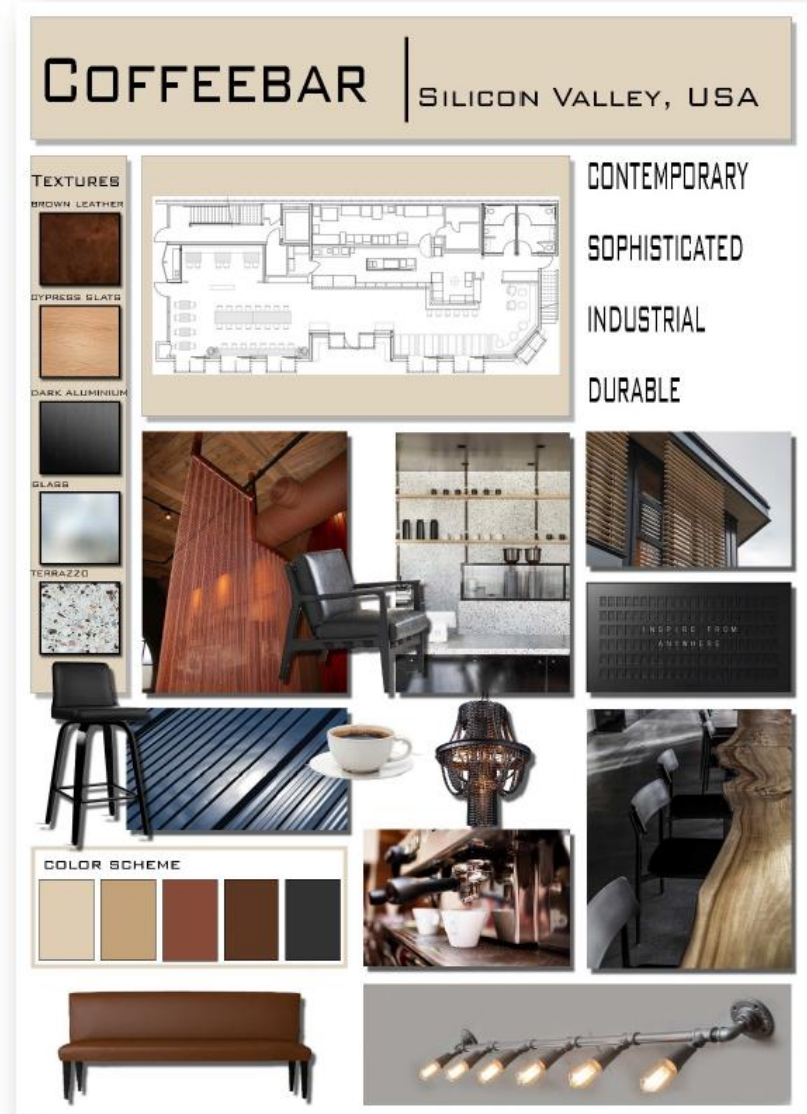
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One project by your chosen Architect /Designer to create an interesting mood board.



02. Tasks






The do and don't lists tasks were very interesting and beneficial. This type of tasks shows the mistakes and how can we fix them.

The don't do list:

1		Creating a grid that will rearrange the openings. More homogenous openings.
2		Differentiate the spaces by using different materials, and especially the stairs.
3		Reducing the use of shapes and colors and creating a more harmonious vibe.
4		Minimize the use of the flowery pattern and stick to minimalistic patterns.
5		More attention to details and calculation while drafting and designing the building.

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The do list:

1		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Harmonious mood created by the use of colors. -Minimalistic Textures in order to not overwhelm the ambiance. -Focal point created by the Black table and the Chandelier hanging over it.
2		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Continuity and fluidity in the space. -Balance between materials: organic bamboo element with rough concrete walls and flooring. -The bamboo element is the focal point.
3		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Repetition of the elements. -Harmonious design between ceiling and columns. -Fluidity of the space.
4		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Minimalistic design and clean lines. -Continuity of the wooden element. -soothing color palette.
5		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Minimalistic color palette. -Fluid shapes that creates different elements. -Repetition of the elements and continuity.






02. Tasks

Looking at the Emphasis, Hierarchy and Variety video:

- Screenshot 5 pictures that caught your attention that you think are weak and state how you can fix them in 5 steps.






- Screenshot 5 pictures that caught your attention in the "do list" and give 5 reasons why.

Weak designs:

1		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Using exact same dimensions for the openings will give more harmony to the house. Using a grid is essential in designing a project. The window above the door should have a smaller scale compared to the door. A more minimalistic details on the door cover. Removing the huge columns from the façade since its only decorative.
2		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> The concrete passage is not continuous with the entrance door. The Window above the door should be aligned with the door. The 2 opposite walls should be the same material for a more homogeneous view. The passage for the door is too narrow in comparison with its length. The door is too much in focus.
3		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Excessive use of textures, from the carpet to the walls and cushions. The frames are not proportionate with the sofa. Absence of balance in the room. So maybe changing the furniture for a more minimalistic ones including the carpet. Changing the pattern on the wall for a one colored pattern.
4		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Too much details and ornaments shifting the focus from the entrance door. Symmetry in the design. Huge columns. The design of the roof is too much compared to the actual house. Same material all over the house gives a boring effect even though the presence of details.
5		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Addition separation wall between the toilet and the dining room. The frame beside the dining table is unnecessary. The design in general is so pale. The walls are too white. Not enough natural lighting will come through those windows.

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Do list:

1		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> The emphasis for the stairs by using different material with different color from the shades of grey used in the whole room. Monochromatic use of colors with a pop of green in the plans. Big windows, letting the natural light in the room. Contemporary design with minimal use of decorative elements. High ceiling with a mezzanine area giving the room a more spacious effect.
2		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Balance in the view between the sculpture and the Lamp. High and big windows, for a big amount of natural lighting. The soothing effect given by the furniture. Wooden flooring with neutral shades in the furniture giving the room a natural vibe. Absence of symmetry even though the balance exists which gives the design a more unique effect.
3		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> The harmonious mixing of materials and textures. Also, big windows, glazed wall for a connection with the outside. The chandelier with different length for a dynamic effect to the room. Even though there is the blue and the red in a neutral room, but its balanced with the whole mood, giving it a more unique style.
4		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Mixing big chairs with smaller one while maintaining the balance. Golden touch in the legs of tables and chairs for a more elevated design. A well-lighted interior from the big windows. The navy blue and the yellow will give the space a contemporary and vibrant effect. Greenery will add the freshness to the design.
5		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Warm and cozy effect by using a sufficient amount of yellow lighting. The light will emphasize the details in the ceiling. The stairs are the main focus in the room, with the curviness and the difference in texture. Fireplace adds more coziness to the room. the minimal and wooden with leather lounge chairs creates a soothing effect in the place.

02. Tasks

5 pictures identifying the different textures in each picture.

There are two different textures in interior design:

Tactile: It is produced through the physical surface of the space like smooth, hard or rough to touch. It is basically the 3D characteristics that you can feel. Tactile texture is three-dimensional because it has height, width and depth.

Visual: It is an illusionary or simulated form of texture that is made to appear totally different from the way it feels to the touch. Visual texture is two-dimensional because it lacks actual depth.

1. Bright minimalism: clean – Pure.

Smooth Soft walls.
Soft wool Furniture.
Smooth wooden furniture.
Wooden slatted window shutters.



2. Bright minimalism: clean – Pure – Warmth

Stone textured wall.
Wooden slatted window shutters.
Crinkled paper lamps.
Woven rug.
Smooth wooden coffee tables.



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3. Industrial rustic design: Rough – unfinished – warm.

Leather couches sofas.
Brick walls.
Exposed raw concrete.
metallic pipes and grids.
Rough wooden texture.
Dark wooden table.



4. Children playground interior: fun – smooth – Colorful – Minimal.

Shiny soft paint.
Light wood.
Woven sitting furniture.
Smooth surface countertops.



5. Church of light: Tadao Ando. Minimal. Unfinished concrete. Wood Benches.



02. Tasks

Digitization and metaverse had also a place in our research during this internship.

How can architects have a role in forming and expanding the global metaverse? (Specify briefly in 5 points)

Metaverse is an online virtual world that incorporates augmented reality, virtual reality, 3D holographic avatars, video, and other forms of communication. Users in the metaverse “live” in a digital realm, engaging with one another using avatars and virtual reality technologies. This technology enables people to live parallel lives by adopting unique digitalized avatars.

1. Architects can operate as a bridge between the actual and virtual worlds. The metaverse is a new playground in which architects and other interested parties can participate.
2. Architects will expand the metaverse, by building the helping build the virtual world through 3ds and technology.
3. Architects could use simulations to construct virtual versions of real-world scenarios in order to “test drive” unassembled structures. A digital twin is a model of a structure that uses data from connected sensors to tell its storey throughout its life cycle.
4. The architect creates the program that creates the digital model, using a combination of geometric, symbolic, and mathematical representations of the objects.
5. Architecture intends to enhance the quality of human experiences while turning spaces into places of living.

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- <https://www.re-thinkingthefuture.com/rtf-fresh-perspectives/a6506-metaverse-as-a-new-territory-for-architects/>
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How does digitization impact architecture?

Technology is such an indispensable part of our world and has integrated itself in all aspects of our life. Embracing digitalization has helped us come up with more efficient ways of dealing with the challenges posed by the current state of the world.

It has helped architects transform buildings, communities, and even cities to mitigate the problems created by rapid urbanization and move towards a sustainable future.

After the digital revolution, technology has aided architects in particular to visualize and create a variety of spaces that one couldn't have dreamt of achieving before.

1. Innovation:

Due to digitalization, there is an increase in access to customer data which has improved the customization and helped architects in presenting a variety of choices in designs for the customer to choose from.

Due to the excessive amount of digitally enabled people in the community now, there is an increase in competition, and architects have to come up with more and more innovative and efficient solutions.

Adopting digital practices has enabled architects to create buildings that would have seemed impossible in the past, and venture into reducing the energy consumption of the building as well.

2. Productivity:

Architectural education in recent years has included digital tools to their arsenal to arm the newer generation for creating better societies than that of the past.

People all over the world have felt its advantage with the increase in the quality of work and productivity.

With an increase in creativity, an increase in the amount of work done has also been noticed.

Using new technology means that skilled individuals:

- spend less time.
- are able to process more information.
- can visualize the end result more efficiently.
- can set algorithms for similar projects.
- recycle information from previous work for a better standard of work to the client.

3. Better management of projects:

Project management tools started getting popular in many large-scale firms around the world.

This innovation helps architects, civil engineers, project managers, and other skilled individuals to plan and execute a project through all its stages and manage resources more effectively.

With a large amount of virtual storage space available, managers have turned to computerized systems to keep track of the work assigned to each person rather than keeping a physical record when multiple parties are involved in the finishing of a project.

4. Collaboration:

Architecture requires a skillful collaboration between the architects, the clients, the construction teams, engineers, and other people involved in the project.

Failure to do so would adversely affect the work and result in subpar quality and disputes in the future.

Lately, collaborative efforts have been enhanced by the digital transformation in the construction industry.

Standardized information can now be shared in a second with multiple people to discuss and any queries can be answered at the development stage due to new technological advancements.

Virtual simulations can now be observed and modified by multiple people at a time and employees can now weigh in the discussions regarding a project at all stages, thus increasing productivity. Information stored in clouds can be accessed now by anyone around the world with passwords provided by the creator.

5. Improved presentation:

The imagination and creativity of the architect could be wasted if their ideas do not reach the client.

The use of digital technologies has helped architects and designers to improve the quality of the presentation of their work and expressing their ideas more clearly.

People have moved from two-dimensional drawings and time-consuming physical models to virtual simulations.

Software like Sketch-up, Revit, and 3D-Max are taught to students in architectural courses to showcase their designs and create walkthroughs to envision the project more accurately. Photoshop and Indesign are some of the software included by many architects in their establishments to improve their graphic representation.

References:

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- <https://redshift.autodesk.com/articles/what-is-digitalization>
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02. Tasks

Tasks were also given to help us in our future. How to act in the work environment and what to expect.

What makes a good employee/ intern in a company?

1. Taking constructive criticism well:
Constructive criticism is a helpful way of giving feedback that provides specific, actionable suggestions. Rather than providing general advice, constructive criticism gives specific recommendations on how to make positive improvements.
Therefore an intern or an employee should take the criticism in a positive way of thinking in order to get the job done and to progress in his field.
2. Adaptability:
Adaptability involves handling different challenges in a fast-paced or continually changing environment. Since internships can include a wide variety of duties, it's helpful to be flexible and adaptable.
It is essential for an employee to have an interest and a willingness to become familiar with other areas of the business.
3. Positivity:
Being positive shows that an employee is willing to work hard and learn as much as possible. The positive attitude is an indicator that he can be a collaborative team member and someone who can contribute to a harmonious work environment.
Even when dealing with clients, positivity is very important to make the client feel at ease, especially when confronted with an issue.
4. Critical thinking:
Thinking critically can help the employee complete assignments and meet challenges. Critical-thinking skills can also improve problem-solving abilities, which is another strength that many employers value.
5. Integrity:
Honesty, loyalty, dependability and trustworthiness are all a part of integrity, which can help excel as an intern or as an employee. It can help build stronger connections between employees, making the workplace more positive and collaborative.

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What new strengths have you discovered about you during this internship?
(A list of 5 things with their respective description)

1. Teamwork and Collaboration:
During this internship I had the chance to work in teams and groups where each person's contribution matters equally.
2. Time management and multitasking:
Effective time management to balance between daily tasks and projects and personal life and education. I was able to achieve my desired goals with less effort within the given time.
3. Communication strength:
An essential skill to succeed in this profession. Write and respond to emails, develop and debate our ideas in a positive way, work on the critics given...
4. On architectural level, I was able to discover an interest in interior designing and how I can create spaces that are actually functional and not just aesthetically pleasing.
5. Moreover, I developed during these 3 months my skills from 3ds to rendering while working on different projects.

Moreover, this internship played a huge role in developing and discovering strengths that I didn't know I had.

03. Guests Meetings

Minister Avedis Guidanian

Meeting Description:

The meeting was very interesting with Minister Guidanian.

I personally learned a lot from this meeting:

- Experience and working hard are more important than typical education.

since the minister's education was not really linked to the ministry of tourism.

- Everyone can achieve his dreams if he works hard.

The minister, coming from a poor family was able to become a minister.

- Humbleness is very important no matter the position of the person.

- It's not important to work in your major. Reaching and achieving goals and dreams is not related to education.

- Smiling and spreading positive vibes is the key to success. Having a good personality will help open many doors for you in life.



04. Conclusion

Conclusion about the internship:

The internship at Bitarchitects in the fall was a fantastic opportunity and I am very happy to have been part of it.

It played an essential role in developing my skills, not just architectural skills, but also it developed my teamwork skills, self-confidence, time management, etc...

Moreover, I learned a lot from the guidance of both Ms. Bitar and Dr. Daghfal during our daily meetings. The tips and tricks of the work environment Ms. Bitar gave us will undoubtedly help us in our careers. The corrections with Dr. Daghfal widened my knowledge of interior design.

Finally, I am grateful for this opportunity, and I am sure it will positively influence my future.