

Yestermorrow Design/Build School Design/Build Intern 2011

Mission & Objectives

Yestermorrow's Internship Program is dedicated to provide a unique educational experience working and living as part of the Yestermorrow community. Interns learn a variety of skills by means of hands-on experience, and at the same time are able to take a variety of courses offered by talented faculty from all over the country. The Interns provide Yestermorrow with critical support in the day-to-day operations of the School while participating in hands-on learning opportunities both in and out of formal classes.

Overview

Learn design, construction, alternative building and woodworking skills in a 6 month internship position. Interns help with campus construction and maintenance projects, assist with coordination of classes and support staff and instructors in the ongoing operations of the school. Interns take 1 full week of classes taught by top architects, builders, and craftspeople from across the country in each month of their internship. Experience with design and/or construction helpful but not required. Housing, meals and 6 weeks of classes provided.

Responsibilities

- Supporting the day-to-day operations and maintenance of the School.
- Providing administrative and project support to staff and instructors as needed.
- Helping with campus construction and maintenance projects.
- Assisting with planning and coordination of classes, lectures, and special events.

The duties of Design/Build interns vary according to the season, what classes are in session, and sometimes the work is project-based. Seasonal work includes things like mowing the grass pathways and setting up for lecture series nights (summer) and shoveling snow (winter). Building renovations tend to be ongoing and depend on the current capital improvement priorities of the Board. When classes are in session (about 90% of the time), the majority of the tasks revolve around class preparation—making sure the materials are ready, classrooms and woodshop are clean, tools are sharp, and the overall campus is clean and welcoming. There are also many daily and weekly chores that are part of the routine, such as cleaning the bathrooms, taking out the recycling, compiling student course evaluations, or watering the plants.

Occasionally, there are large long-term projects happening during a session that require lots of help from the Interns and may take weeks or months to complete (examples include the construction of Cabin 5, sheetrocking the Main Studio, renovating the Chalet basement into living quarters, and building our new library space). The responsibilities of the interns change on a daily basis; there is always something new and unexpected that comes up- in one day an intern may be asked to do some daily chores, give a tour to a potential student, and install some trim on a new window. On the same day, another intern might end up going to town to take the recycling and put out catalogs at local businesses, then design a poster for an upcoming class, and make a run to the hardware store for plumbing supplies.

We rely on interns to identify projects that need attention, and take the initiative to solve problems without being directed to do so. Often, interns work together in pairs or individually without a lot of direct supervision, depending on the project at hand. At the morning meeting, the tasks for the day are divided amongst the interns. "Projects" can range from short-term things like building a custom door handle to finishing up a class project that the class didn't quite complete. The internship is structured to allow interns to pursue their personal interests during the time that they're at Yestermorrow through their choice of classes as well as the projects they work on.

Qualifications

- A passion for design and construction.
- An interest or background in architecture, carpentry, woodworking, planning, design, engineering, or environmental studies is helpful.
- Ability to have fun and remain flexible while maintaining organization and attention to detail.
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills.

Learning Objectives

Upon completion of a six month internship session, interns will be able to:

- Solve problems using the design/build process
- Apply design and building skills learned in classes to Yestermorrow campus projects
- Demonstrate safe use of standard hand and power tools
- Demonstrate design competency through at least one individual design project
- Implement sustainable living practices (composting, recycling, energy conservation)
- Identify networking opportunities with individuals in the local and Yestermorrow community
- Describe the mission and values of Yestermorrow to the public through tours and representing the school at public events
- Demonstrate knowledge of sustainable building and design practices implemented on the Yestermorrow campus
- Communicate effectively with staff and interns to work efficiently in a team setting and live in group housing
- Manage communications with instructors and preparations for classes
- Demonstrate experience in repair and maintenance of buildings and equipment
- Support instructors before and during classes, troubleshooting and preparing materials and tools
- Source and purchase materials and supplies as needed
- Demonstrate facilities maintenance and janitorial skills

Schedule

The Internship Program is based on a 40-45 hour work-week, often with longer hours when interns are participating in classes. Interns' days start with chores at 8:00am, and a meeting with the staff at 8:30AM to discuss daily work projects and divide up daily tasks. Work ends at 5PM, sometimes later depending on workload and class schedules. Interns have an hour for lunch at noon. Interns have free time in the evenings and weekends (if they are not taking workshops or

on weekend office duty). Design/Build interns are expected to rotate weekend office duty, a total of 4-5 weekends over the course of their internship session.

Supervision

The Design/Build Interns work under the daily supervision of the Facilities Manager.

Compensation

The Design/Build Intern is a volunteer internship position. Interns contribute approximately 40-45 hours per week in exchange for room and board on campus and training in the form of classes during the 6 months of their internship. The intern can choose six weeks of classes during their session, and weekend workshops on a space available basis. The staff will make a strong effort to accommodate each intern's top class picks, but we cannot guarantee that space will be available.