

This summer I interned for an interior design firm called Solis Betancourt in Washington, D.C. I am so grateful for the opportunity to be exposed to such well-known and talented designers. They were extremely welcoming and the interactions I had with them were nothing but encouraging and uplifting. I was exposed to all aspects of the firm since I was the only intern, and I feel that my work there was productive and well worth my time.

My internship started with basic training such as getting to know the office library and learning how to use the Studio Designer software, which was useful for most of my tasks. My continuous duty throughout the summer was to maintain the library and keep track of purchase orders created in Studio Designer and to file them in the correct places. Because I was constantly filing things in the library, I took on various reorganization tasks. These included organizing and sorting the office book collection, stone samples, metal hardware samples, inspiration images, client information binders, and the shared contact list. As tedious as some of these tasks were, I know that I gained a vast amount of knowledge from doing them.

On top of keeping the whole office as organized as I could, I was also asked to do research for the designers. These projects included getting price and availability quotes, obtaining information on new products, ordering samples and catalogs, and choosing options for clients. I had the privilege of selecting furniture, wall-coverings, and paint options for two clients in the D.C. area.

The most exciting days for me this summer were when I helped prepare presentations. I would usually have about ten things to do at one time and it was often hectic. However, they were so appreciative of my help each time because we always had everything prepared on time.

Another area of the firm that I was exposed to this summer was marketing. I had no previous experience in this field, but I feel that it is one of the most useful things I learned this summer. My major marketing project was to send the designers' book of interiors to architects,

builders, and realtors in areas including D.C., Northern Virginia, Maryland, New York, South Florida, and California.

Organization, research, and marketing were my main endeavors this summer, but I also obtained countless other skills just from being exposed to such amazing talent. I made myself available not just to the designers, but also to the assistant interior designer, interior architect, and office manager. I now know that pursuing a career in the interior design field is of great interest to me, and I have so much more confidence in myself to do so after this internship. I am so grateful to the Business and Economics Fund for the generous grant that truly helped me to have an amazing and enriching experience in Washington, D.C.