

## **Internships related to the built environment**

There are opportunities for undergraduates to do research on the built environment within or outside the university or to intern in work positions outside the university that address the built environment. In research associate positions, a student performs mentored research and writing – for example, on a project at the Department of Architecture and Design at the Art Institute of Chicago. This document does not describe research opportunities. Information about those is available from the College Center for Research and Fellowships, <http://ccrf.uchicago.edu/>.

This list offers advice about finding internship opportunities at institutions beyond the university. It describes some specific places – and some general types of places – where students have found and/or could seek internship opportunities, either during the summer or during the academic year. They include: community organizations with socially-oriented architecture projects, art museums with architecture departments or architectural exhibitions and events, historic building museums that care for landmark buildings and give public tours, nonprofit organizations that fund architectural projects, nonprofits that work to identify and protect significant buildings from demolition or severe alteration, and architectural firms. It's not a comprehensive list and it focuses on Chicago organizations, but it should spur ideas about the kinds of places to look to find internships in other places.

Examples of good web-search keywords: “internship” + the city name + the name of an organization or type of organization.

The College has funding available to fund student internships during the summer or during the academic year. Many organizations do not offer paid internships. For advice about identifying and applying for paid and unpaid internships, or about applying for university funding for an internship you've located, contact Ben Waltzer at UCIJAM in the Career Advisement Office: [waltzer@uchicago.edu](mailto:waltzer@uchicago.edu)

You are also welcome to contact the Architectural Studies program faculty advisor, Katherine Taylor, to discuss internship ideas: [k-taylor@uchicago.edu](mailto:k-taylor@uchicago.edu)

### **Architectural firms**

Shadowing opportunities and internships are difficult to arrange because most architecture firms have competitive internship programs for architecture school students who already have strong design skills. For our students, most of

whom have limited or no design experience, the best approach is to identify an individual architect who would allow you to shadow him or her informally for a day or who would be willing to take an unpaid intern for a short period to help with research, writing, and the like. You are welcome to apply for a stipend from the College for such an internship. Such an architect might be a university alum or parent whom the university knows or an acquaintance of your family. Contact Ben Waltzer about options.

- Terreform Center for Advanced Urban Research, NYC (Michael Sorkin)  
*A nonprofit architecture and urban design studio that investigates forms, policies, technologies and practices that will yield a more equitable, sustainable, and beautiful future for the urbanizing planet. Founded and directed by Michael Sorkin, a well-known architect and urban designer, teacher, and architectural critic, who is also an alumnus of the college. Terreform has taken summer interns who have received Metcalf internship funding from the College.*
- Parra Design Group, Houston  
*The architecture firm of a college student parent. Contact Ben Waltzer for details.*
- Vero Design/Build, Chicago  
*A general contracting, custom millwork and design firm, launched in 2014. Contact Jacob Shapiro, [jacob@verollc.com](mailto:jacob@verollc.com); 312-374-1344.*
- Erik Peterson and Bryan Saner (builders), Chicago  
*They do custom-designed, hand-made projects, mostly wood, often for community purposes such as playgrounds or social spaces. Best for students with some capacity for physical labor and an interest in wood construction. Contact Erik Peterson, [eriklpeterson@yahoo.com](mailto:eriklpeterson@yahoo.com).*

## Museums

- Art Institute of Chicago, Architecture and Design Department  
*Search online for "AIC" plus "internships" for application information.*
- National Public Housing Museum, Chicago

*The only cultural institution devoted to telling the story of public housing in the United States. Its mission is to preserve, promote, and propel the right of all people to a place to call home. No internships available as of summer 2019, but that may change in the future.*

- Museum of Modern Art, Architecture and Design Department, NYC  
*Search online for “MoMA” and “internships”.*

- Glessner House Museum, Chicago

*This restored house of 1887 is a well-known Chicago landmark, designed by Henry Hobson Richardson and admired by Louis Sullivan, Frank Lloyd Wright, and Mies van der Rohe. Its internship program is currently being reorganized, but will revive in the future.*

### **Architectural organizations in Chicago**

- Chicago Architecture Biennial

*The biennial exhibition and related programming mounted by this non-profit organization provides an international forum on contemporary architecture and urbanism. The inaugural exhibition took place in fall 2015. A different curatorial team provides the theme and guidance for each exhibition, which is headquartered at the Chicago Cultural Center in the Loop.*

- Graham Foundation

*Fosters the development and exchange of diverse and challenging ideas about architecture and its role in the arts, culture, and society. Makes project-based grants to individuals and organizations and organizes exhibitions, events, and publications. It has taken Metcalf-funded interns in the past.*

- American Institute of Architects, Chicago Chapter

*An internship assisting with its professional activities— a magazine and newsletter and varied events, from lectures to continuing education courses, architectural awards and architectural design competitions—would provide a good vantage point on the workings of the profession. Contact Zurich Esposito, [zesposito@aiachicago.org](mailto:zesposito@aiachicago.org). Note: although the AIA Chicago website includes a job posting board that lists architectural internships available at member firms, those*

are intended for architecture school students or graduates with substantial design experience.

- Frank Lloyd Wright Trust

*Maintains and gives public tours of several buildings designed by Frank Lloyd Wright, including the Robie House on our campus as well as Wright's family house and office and his church, Unity Temple, all in the Chicago suburb of Oak Park. Internships are available to college students, and may be based in a variety of department or involve giving tours. They are coordinated by the Trust's human resources manager, who places interns based on their interests. Search online for "Frank Lloyd Wright Trust" and "internships."*

- Driehaus Foundation

*Contact: Anne Lazar, interim executive director, [annelazar@driehausfoundation.org](mailto:annelazar@driehausfoundation.org); Amy Domagalski executive assistant, [amydomagalski@driehausfoundation.org](mailto:amydomagalski@driehausfoundation.org).*

*Description of its Built Environment Program: The Driehaus Foundation works to ensure that viable, healthy urban environments are designed to meet the needs of the humans who inhabit them. We are committed to the idea that successful historic preservation, urban planning, and new architecture must be understood and undertaken as part of a decades-long continuum that endows a given city, town, or village with a singular sense of place. We support organizations and projects that advocate for effective policies, undertake urban planning aimed at the preservation of Chicago's historic built fabric, protect its parks and open spaces, and otherwise celebrate and preserve the unique character of its neighborhoods.*

- Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat

*A global organization headquartered in Chicago. It is interested in taking interns who study architecture, urban studies, environmental studies, etc.*

## **Architectural preservation organizations**

- Preservation Chicago

*A nonprofit organization.*

- Landmarks Illinois

*A nonprofit organization whose main office is in Chicago.*

- Mies van der Rohe Society at the Illinois Institute of Technology  
*Works to preserve Mies's legacy and maintain the architectural integrity of the buildings Mies built for the IIT campus that he planned and designed.*
- City of Chicago, Department of Planning and Development, Historic Preservation Division  
*Search online for "city of Chicago" + "internships". Look for a list of available internship positions in the Department of Planning and Development, Historic Preservation Division.*

## **Government**

- City of Chicago government  
*Search online for "city of Chicago" + "internships". Look for a list of available internship positions, including in the following departments: Buildings (which issues building permits); Cultural Affairs and Special Events; Planning and Development, which includes a Historic Preservation Division.*
- Chicago Park District  
*The Chicago Park District is the largest municipal park manager in the nation. It maintains 600+ parks, in which it sponsors sports and physical activities and cultural and environmental programs. It is also responsible for numerous swimming pools and 26 miles of lakefront including many beaches. Volunteers are welcome to assist with park gardening, maintenance and stewardship, as well as programming. See the application form on the website. As for other unpaid internships, consult Career Advancement about university funding.*
- National Park Service  
*Offers a variety of internships involving environmental conservation, historic preservation (including documentation of buildings), community planning, archaeology, cultural resources, etc.*

## **Nonprofit community organizations with socially-oriented architectural programs**

Most don't have formal internship programs. Instead, students are encouraged to research the organizations' missions online, identify organizations that match their own interests, and write to them to express interest in doing an internship, enclosing a resume.

- Rebuild Foundation, Chicago

*Established by Theaster Gates, artist/architect and UChicago faculty member. Based at the Stony Island Arts Bank in Chicago's Greater Grand Crossing neighborhood. Goals are to reactivate underutilized properties and collections of cultural artifacts; support and promote local networks of artists, creative entrepreneurs and scholars; help neighborhood residents to lead positive transformation of their communities.*

- Sweet Water Foundation, Chicago

*Established and directed by architect Emmanuel Pratt, who has exhibited at the Smart Museum and taught at the university. Uses a blend of urban agriculture, art and education to transform vacant spaces and abandoned buildings into economically and ecologically productive and sustainable community assets that produce engaged youth, skilled workers, art, locally-grown food, and affordable housing.*

- Habitat for Humanity Chicago

*Local office of an international nonprofit that provides affordable housing owned by its occupants. Works at a community level with residents and partner organizations to bring strength, stability and self-reliance to entire areas of the city. Promotes home ownership in a framework of neighborhood planning. Volunteers help residents build their own homes and acquire an affordable mortgage. A Christian organization, it does not proselytize.*

- Open Architecture Collaborative, Chicago

*The Chicago chapter of an American nonprofit with a global chapter network. It is a collaborative group of volunteer design professionals and students who pursue advocacy and social change through the built environment. Its mission is to work with communities to create sustainable, innovative, and socially responsive design.*

- Elevated Chicago

*Presents collaborative, community-led solutions to neighborhood displacement and inequities using an underutilized asset: our public transit system. Equitable Transit-Oriented Development, or eTOD, is the tool that we are using to build a global, inclusive city where all residents thrive in neighborhoods whose health and resiliency indicators no longer depend on race. With 145 train stations and 129 bus routes serving virtually every neighborhood, the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) provides an opportunity to build a different city by leveraging its stops and hubs as assets that can connect communities. We are working around seven CTA train stations, in partnership with community-based, city- and region-wide organizations.*

- ReBuilding Exchange, Chicago

*A nonprofit social enterprise that repurposes building materials that would otherwise devalue a community and provides job training for people with barriers to employment, making a commitment to education and economic development in Chicago's underserved communities. Four distinct social enterprise areas: Our retail warehouse provides affordable reclaimed building materials to the general public. Our public workshops educate Chicago-area residents on how to use reclaimed materials and live more sustainably. RX Made, our in-house custom fabrication workshop, demonstrates the potential reuse of our materials through the creation of beautiful, repurposed furniture. And our employment training program provides opportunities for Chicagoans with barriers to employment to earn transferable skills and certifications through on-the-job training and pathways to permanent employment.*

- Illinois Green Alliance

*A member-based non-profit involving a network of real estate professionals, architects, engineers, designers, contractors, product manufacturers, policy makers, utility experts, home builders, and others committed to promoting green buildings and sustainable communities. It hosts many educational programs that showcase new technology and design, advocates new policies such as energy benchmarking, and runs community projects with volunteers. Affiliated with the US Green Building Council.*

- City Bureau, Chicago

*A nonprofit civic journalism lab based on the South Side of Chicago. Brings journalists and communities together in a collaborative spirit to produce media*

*that is impactful, equitable and responsive to the public. Could provide a good vantage point on the processes that shape the built environment.*

- Center for Urban Pedagogy, NYC

*CUP uses the power of design and art to increase meaningful civic engagement, especially in underrepresented communities. CUP projects CUP staff collaborate with art and design professionals and community-based advocates and policymakers to take on processes like the juvenile justice system, zoning law, and food access—and break them down into simple, accessible, visual explanations. Its projects aim to demystify the urban policy and planning issues and processes that affect communities, so that more individuals understand how these systems work and can take a role in shaping them. Summer internships are usually posted on its website in February or March and can also be found in its News & Events section.*