

P1 Firm
Presentation
Pamphlet

May 3,

2013

Architecture/design firms and fabrication facilities focused on making through both traditional and more technologically current means of production.

Part 1:

EN-MOTION Design

EN-MOTION Design works in both design and fabrication. It is a relevant firm to our project in that the firm has a passion to truly understand the materials it works with. Along with unique designs, it encompasses different ways to combine and put together various materials. All of EN-MOTION's projects are fully functional while being visually interesting. The firm's focus on an equal mesh of unique design and fabrication perfection, encompassing historical highlights and modern creations, provides us with a wide scope of architecture in which to gain inspiration.

METALAB

This design fabrication firm is a well-rounded organization. They create architectural installations as well as design full buildings, civic art pieces, and various other products. This is relevant to our research, because having knowledge in all types of design fields is a beneficial part of good, solid design aesthetics. We can learn from interdisciplinary work environments such as METALAB to form ideas that culminate from one area of design that can then be incorporated into other areas. METALAB has a strong sense of how parts and pieces work to both hold its products/designs together, provide sustainability, and to improve the lives of those who use the products or spaces.

Tektonics

Not only does Tektonics stay involved in the fabrication process of its buildings, this firm provides much more. Having Industrial designers and craftsmen on staff, it encompasses a broad range of skillful abilities. Instead of using basic building principles, Tektonics employs new ways of fabrication to suit each individual project. This provides innovation in fabrication that is unique to every design.

Mesh

Mesh Architecture and Fabrication is not just a fabrication firm; it is an Archliberal firm as well. Mesh designs projects from neighborhoods to buildings and even furniture with use of different materials and methods. This group goes well with our research, in that it is designing buildings as well as the smaller objects that people encounter in daily life. They attempt to include as many materials in their designs as possible (i.e. glass, metal, concrete) and they also try to use different/new methods of construction.

Populous

Populous is a group of designers who collaborate to design and manufacture spaces for millions to attend such as stadiums. Populous fits into this research, because they collaborate with fans (of the sport the building is intended for) as well as owners and clients. They try to get the best outcome for the people that it is intended for. They avidly test the materials that they wish to use at specific sites. Materials range from wood to metal to glass, the type of material they use all depends on what the program asks for and what the area around the structure is. They may not have their own manufacturing, but they do test materials to be used and try to advance the types materials they employ and how those materials will be used.

Part 2:

mesh

ARCHITECTURE
FABRICATION



MESH Architecture and Fabrication

Architecture

Jovica Milic- Founder and Principal

Fabrication

Aaron Walter- Special Projects Manager

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Location

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About :

MESH is an architectural/fabrication firm that consists of architects, designers and craftsman that collaborate to provide services and products. MESH continues the traditional practice of participating from start to finish. But, they are also redefining this practice. This firm is designing sustainable buildings as well as fabricating their own materials in their own workplace. They use a wide variety of materials that range from wood to metal to concrete. MESH does not only fabricate their own products but they install the products themselves by having their people on site. They collaborate with other firms as well as the clients to extract the best designs as possible. MESH does not only use computers to design the work, but has architects/designers that go into the field of work to check on progress and to experience the environment of the job site.

Services :

Architecture Specialization

Residential

Commercial

Institutional

Historic Preservation

Entertainment

Neighborhood Planning

Urban Planning

Fabrication Specialization

Ceilings

Walls

Cabinets

Furniture

Special features

MESH architecture :

- Large Scale Urban Projects
- Neighborhood/City Planning
- New Structures
- Modern and Sustainable Structures
- Renovations
- Historic and Modern Structures
- Custom Installations
- Self-Fabricated Objects
- Interior Design Services
- Residential and Commercial



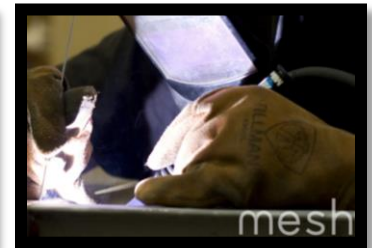
Before



After

MESH fabrication :

- Work with Traditional Materials:
 - Concrete/Stone
 - Wood
 - Earth (Mud)
 - Metal
 - Resin (adhesive)
 - Acrylic Fiber
- Redefine Traditional Materials:
 - Reinforced Concrete
 - Stronger Wood
 - Stabilized Earth Blocks
 - Less Water, More Cement
 - Metal
 - Stronger and More Flexible Metals
 - Resin
 - Plant Matter
 - Acrylic Fiber
- MESH has its own custom fabrication studio/workplace.
They fabricate objects on their own, instead of bringing in other fabrication firms.
They create architectural elements that stand out amongst the many mass produced structures of today. And, they push the limits of the material used into the design as far as it can go.



Wood



Metal



Reinforced Concrete

Collaboration:

- Perkins+Will:
Signature Place Residence
- BIG (Bjarke Ingels Group):
St Petersburg FL, Pier Competition
- Graham Booth Landscape Architecture:
Signature Place Residence and 475 Condos



St. Petersburg Pier Competition

Goncharov Lakehouse Project:

MESH Architecture and Fabrication incorporates making, building and fabricating into their working process. The Goncharov Lakehouse Project is a prime example of the work done by Mesh. The photos show the process starting with the design to the fabrication/installation to the finished product.

Goncharov Lakehouse
Mill Spring, NC
Lake Adger



They go onsite to help with the construction, as well as to install their own fabricated materials/objects



Together Mesh designers and fabricators created a masterpiece

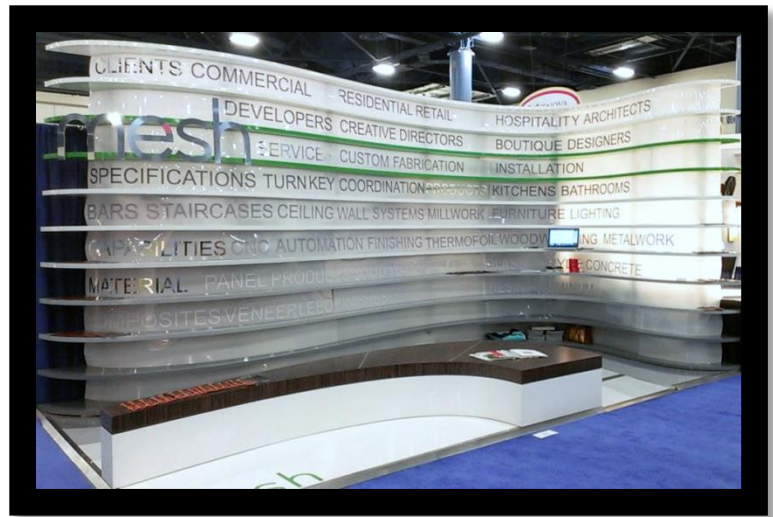


Part 3:

Interview

Q: *What do you look for in an intern?*

A: We look for people who have experience of the built world. They do not have to know how everything is built but understanding the basics behind how things work is crucial. I believe that too many students are leaving school without the proper training in how the built environment is constructed, this, in turn, stifles their creativity. If you do not have the knowledge of how something goes together then how can you design something that pushes the boundaries of what is out in the world today?



Q: *Do the architects help with the actual installation process in your firm's projects?*

A: No, but I wish they would. Being part of the building process is fulfilling to an architect. Designing something and being part of every process until completion gives a sense of pride. Also, sometimes there are misinterpretations on how a piece is to be installed and therefore problems exist. Eliminating multiple transmissions of ideas, thoughts, and instructions eliminates chance of communication error.

Q: *What do you look for in other firms who you consider partnering with?*

A: A passion for ingenuity is what we look for. Creativity is key in the design world. If you design something that looks like every other building on the block, clients are not going to have the same respect for your work. You give them something innovative and they start listening. Partnering with resourceful and out-of-the-box thinkers is a benefit to yourself, you gain valuable insights and collaborate to form groundbreaking designs.

Q: *From where do you draw your inspirations?*

A: The question might be where do we not draw inspiration? The truth is that we find inspiration all over! From nature and music to art and people, inspiration comes in many forms. As architects we often find the most rewarding projects are those where we have those certain unpredictable discoveries of overlapping ideas and thoughts that you wouldn't think to blend.

Q: *How are you changing the field of work/ becoming more innovative in design, architecture etc.?*

A: The company was named after our philosophy of meshing different disciplines and thoughts together. This blending of workspace and ideas is a new way of looking at the design process. Why separate what works well under the same roof?

Q: *What has your firm gained from partnering with other firms?*

A: I have found that I, as well as others, respect projects more when we partner. Not only is there the satisfaction of completing a project there is learning involved. When you partner, more heads are coming together. The ideas that come from a large group are greater than those of a single person. Sometimes other firms have completely different ways of going after a problem, and through those differences we find what works best. Often times this is the greatest feeling. Collaborating, communicating, learning, are all present when another firm is thrown into the mix.

Q: *What sustainable methods do you employ?*

A: We practice all kinds of sustainable methods. We choose from an array of sustainable materials and finishes, and as well as recycling materials we recycle ideas. This may sound odd, but often it lends itself to new, more innovative solutions that find their basis in old ideas. Plus, everything requires some form of energy output. When we learn to be efficient we are gaining time for more creativity.

Q: *How do you effectively communicate with your clients?*

A: You have to get them excited about the project you are doing for them. Once they are on board, they become better listeners. Lighting the fire is where it all begins. You can move forward and suggest ideas that may possibly push boundaries. But, in the end these are the ideas that turn into the greatest parts of the finished project. A risk and a challenge that turn into a love.

Q: *What methods do you use to successfully collaborate among the various sections of your firm?*

A: The internet is our single biggest tool. Emailing is simple and quick. We can get the word out to as many people as we need with a few clicks of a button. However, the hands on approach works as well and can prove to be an extremely reliable way to transmit information. Computers, phones, and technology in general, have made mass communication, as well as, small scale communication a much easier task. Our firm runs smoothly because of it.

Q: *Once you know what the client requires of a project, what is the next step, what problems do you often face, and how are all the pieces put together to create the final product?*

A: The moment you know what a client wants is when most people relax and go into auto pilot. Instead, in architecture, that is when the hard work begins. You have to challenge the expectations of the client and try to bring something you didn't think of to the table. The client is hiring you to come up with the solution. If you can bring something new and unique you will gain the client's respect. They may not always follow with your ideas but to put them out there will get your client excited about what you are capable of.

Q: *If you could advise a student to focus on any particular areas of his/her architectural education, what would they be?*

A: I say a good balance between theory and practice is the best place to start. But, ultimately, choose who you want to be; left, right or both. You need to accept what you are not good at and why and then embrace the things you are great at and enjoy. These are the things you should pursue! Be decisive! Nothing is more valuable than the ability to decide, choose, and move forward.

Q: *Do you have any other advice for those pursuing a career in the design field?*

A: It is simple, if you enjoy it, it is never work. If you are a designer, design to make yourself happy. When you are happy others feed off of this.

B i b l i o g r a p h y

Interview:

J. Milic, personal communication, April 29, 2013.

Photos:

"Mesh Architecture and Fabrication | Facebook." Facebook. N.p., n.d. Web. 31 Jan. 2013.
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Mesh-Architecture-andFabrication/230746210340511#!/mesh.arc.fab>

Firm Information:

"Mesh Architecture." Projects. N.p., n.d. Web. 31 Jan. 2013.
<http://archinect.com/firms/projects/38068518/mesh-architecture>