



Field Study and Internship Program URBAN STUDIES

Ministry of Ecology ■ Spring 2010

Within this sprawling ministry the student – majoring in Environmental Affairs – was assigned to the office of strategic planning for energy/ climate, where he assisted a specific project: assessing the possibilities for developing renewable energy in urban settings. His tasks include researching various aspects, carrying out interviews, and filing reports on the numerous events in which he participated: seminars, presentations, round tables, working meetings, etc. His work contributed to the project's knowledge base on relevant environmental questions as well as on the French institutional and regulatory frameworks for these questions. The student's assignments led him to the Senate, the National Assembly, ADEME (the national agency for environment and energy), the International Energy Agency, the CGEDD (Council on Environment and Sustainable Development), etc.

Independent study research topic: “Renewable Energy in Urban Zones: The French approach”

Ministry of Ecology – General Office for Planning and Housing ■ Spring 2010

Working as a member of a team of urbanologists, the student - a major in Economics -- participated in a program for rehabilitating business zones suffering from both economic and urban crises. Tasks included estimating the effects of economic downturn on business in urban commercial spaces; and researching the links – usually insufficient – between these zones and city centers.

The study being carried out by the intern and his team should result in the construction of a model for use by any urban community looking to rehabilitate its commercial/business zones.

Atelier d'Architecture Autogérée (AAA – studio for self-managed architecture) ■ Spring 2010

The student – majoring in environmental studies – joined the staff and collaborators of this inter-disciplinary collective dedicated to alternative forms of urban development emphasizing social and cultural life and political participation. Participating in the full range of AAA's activities and especially the project management and development of “56 Saint Blaise”, an urban community garden and neighborhood center in Paris' 20th arrondissement, the student was particularly valued for her experience in urban gardening, as well as for her commitment to food justice in an ecological context. Her work included participating in public meetings and activities at the “56” (known as an “eco-interstice”), designing and building vertical gardens, training urban gardeners, assisting in preparation of texts for the AAA newsletter, and other tasks.

Independent study research topic: Can Paris be a Vegetable Garden?: An analysis of the agricultural potential of two Paris lots.

Strasbourg City Hall ■ Spring 2010

Working as assistant to the Strasbourg City Hall official in charge of providing for the Council of Foreign Residents and of the liaison between this Council and the City Council and the Mayor's Office, the student – majoring in Political Science and Public Policy -- was assigned the task of organizing a network of foreign resident councils in France, including finding in each case the local government figure in charge of the council, collecting and synthesizing material about each council. In addition he was asked to answer the phone and assist visitors when his supervisor was away from his desk. He also attended various meetings, helped organize a series of neighborhood visits including debates, and was given the opportunity to attend a one-day seminar on « administrative democracy ». Overall, he had a unique vantage point for observing and participating in one of the crucial questions in France today.

Independent study research topic: The crisis of democracy as seen at the local level and in districts heavily populated by immigrants.



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APUR - City of Paris urban planning agency ■ Fall 2009

As an intern at this agency responsible for expertise and consulting on urban issues, the student – a double major in Economics and Geography – participated in a project to study the thermographic aspects of Parisian housing to provide insight for potential energy-saving policies including overhauling existing housing stock. Her first task was to examine the funding mechanisms already in place for inciting homeowners to undertake insulation projects, in the objective of providing a clear presentation to all actors of the various options (tax credits, grants, etc.) Subsequently, she was given responsibility for developing budgetary cost sheets by type and age of building which would serve as the basis for cost-calculation models. This challenging project called on her double specialty in economics and urban planning, requiring her to work with contractor bids, apartments of diverse type and size, and to correlate these data with existing incentives (including their various stipulations and requirements) in the goal of clearly delineating the direct costs for all actors (owners, tenants, funding sources, local government, etc.). The final goal was to generate concrete recommendations. In the process of carrying out these assignments, the student increase her knowledge of thermography, including through on-site work sessions. She met with various funding sources as part of the project. She also participated in the trade show Batimat.

Independent research study topic: What is the Net Cost of Energy Performance Improving Projects Aimed at Paris Habitat?

National Agency for Urban Renewal (ANRU), local bureau at the Public Housing Estate (OPHLM) of Romainville (outskirts of Paris) ■ Spring 2008

Although an undergraduate (majoring in architecture and urban studies), the student was hosted by the ANRU on the same basis as a French Master's level student in urban policy and was assigned a critical task for the local ANRU office, namely, a series of local studies on which to base the framework planning document for the renewal of the commercial center of the Romainville housing estates. This responsibility included collecting and analyzing survey data, recording usage patterns, synthesizing local economic data, attending regular staff meetings, preparing a presentation to be made to the Director of the OPHLM on her findings, and the like.

Independent study research topic: An Urban Planning Approach to the Rehabilitation of the Commercial Center of the Romainville Housing Estates

Not-for-profit urban tourism organization, “Ca se visite” ■ Spring 2008

As an intern in this socio-cultural organization devoted to organizing tourist visits to peripheral, non-touristic neighborhoods of Paris (Belleville, Saint-Ouen, etc.), the student at first observed the work of the organization in arranging and conducting its visits, and generated reports on each visit. After that, the intern began to participate in the research and arrangements for new visits to new sites. He also worked on adapting certain tours to an English-speaking audience. He contributed to organizing educational workshops for the children of Belleville. Lastly, he was able to be of help in translating the organization's documentation (Internet site, press packets, and the like).

Independent study research topic: Is Paris a Victim of its Celebrity?: The perverse effects of the tourist system in Paris.

Christian de Portzamparc Agency ■ Fall 2007

As a student of architecture and urban planning, the intern was able to participate in a number of facets of a major project being carried out by this international firm: the construction of a new city at Monaco based on polderization, and on Portzamparc's previous experience designing



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and building artificial islands for cities on the Persian Gulf. Working under the supervision of an architect, the student focused particularly on housing aspects including building models for presentations, carrying out facade studies (color tests, e.g.), and other tasks.

Independent study research topic: Artificial Islands: How? Why?

Pavillon de l'Arsenal, (The City of Paris Center for Urbanism and Architecture) **Department of Documentation ■ Spring 2007**

As a student in Geography and Sociology, the intern joined the staff of the Arsenal and was assigned to the project of developing its Documentation Center, including assisting users in documentary research. The intern also prepared a daily press review for the Center's Director.

Independent study research topic: Public Housing in the French Presidential elections of 2007.

Marc Mimram Architectural Agency (architecture and engineering) ■ Spring 2007

As a student in Architectural Engineering, the intern was made a member of a young staff of architects and engineers working on a bridge project for the city of Nantes, at the mouth of the Loire River. She proved particularly valuable as she mastered a computer-aided design tool, AutoCAD, and contributed to the production of drawings.

Independent study research topic: A Comparative Study of Two Bridges Designed by the Marc Mimram Agency

THREE RECENT EXAMPLES IN SOCIOLOGY

ACSE (French Agency for Social Cohesion and Equal Opportunity), Strasbourg ■ Spring 2009

The students' responsibilities consisted at first in observing and familiarizing himself with the work of this agency. Subsequently his supervisors gave him a research assignment, which also served as his research project for the program: identifying and evaluating cultural actions funded by the ACSE between 2006 and 2008, including their effectiveness in the fight against racial discrimination. In order to carry out this assignment, the student – majoring in Religion – consulted a large bibliography (furnished by the documentary services of ORIV – the Regional Observatory of Integration and Urban Life) and conducted interviews with a range of non-for-profit groups and actors on this question.

The intern also participated in all the meetings of the Alsatian bureau of the ACSE as well as in numerous external visits and events (exhibitions, social audits, meetings with the regional branch of the French ministry for social services, etc.).

Lastly, he was asked to compile a press review on the visit by President Obama to Strasbourg, especially concerning the effect of his visit on certain local populations (immigrants, protesters, hooligans, etc.).

Independent study research topic: Cultural Action in the Fight against Racism in France, as Carried out by the ACSE.



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Guy Moquet Middle School, located in a Priority Education Zone (ZEP – disadvantaged school district) ■ Fall 2007

Working in a middle school in a disadvantaged school district (“priority education zones”), the student fulfilled the role of teaching assistant, not only to the mathematics professor who was his internship mentor (he was a math major), but also in English classes in the school. His various duties included holding extra-help sessions, leading cultural exchange classes, and teaching English in small groups. The thorough, inside understanding of how ZEPs meet needs and goals which the student was able to acquire provided an excellent basis for his research work evaluating the effectiveness of this particular educational policy.

Independent study research topic: An Analysis of ZEP Policy Effectiveness: Case study of Guy Moquet Middle School on the outskirts of Paris

Social Psychology Laboratory at EHESS (Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales) ■ Fall 2009

Joining the staff of this important research center, the student – majoring in Psychology – was asked to take lead responsibility for a new study of eating habits. After first establishing a bibliography of books and articles that examined internal and external factors of eating behavior, including establishing a summary of each work in French, the student gave an oral presentation of her findings to the research team concerned with this study. She also cataloged factors of eating behavior and designed a survey instrument as well as carried out theoretical research. She also conducted survey interviews.

Concurrently, she participated in the life of the laboratory by assisting in the organization of a seminar to be held in English.

Independent study research topic: Obesity Prevention in France: Normative vs cognitive influences on food behavior