



**FUKSAS**

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Internship at STUDIO FUKSAS  
September – December 2023

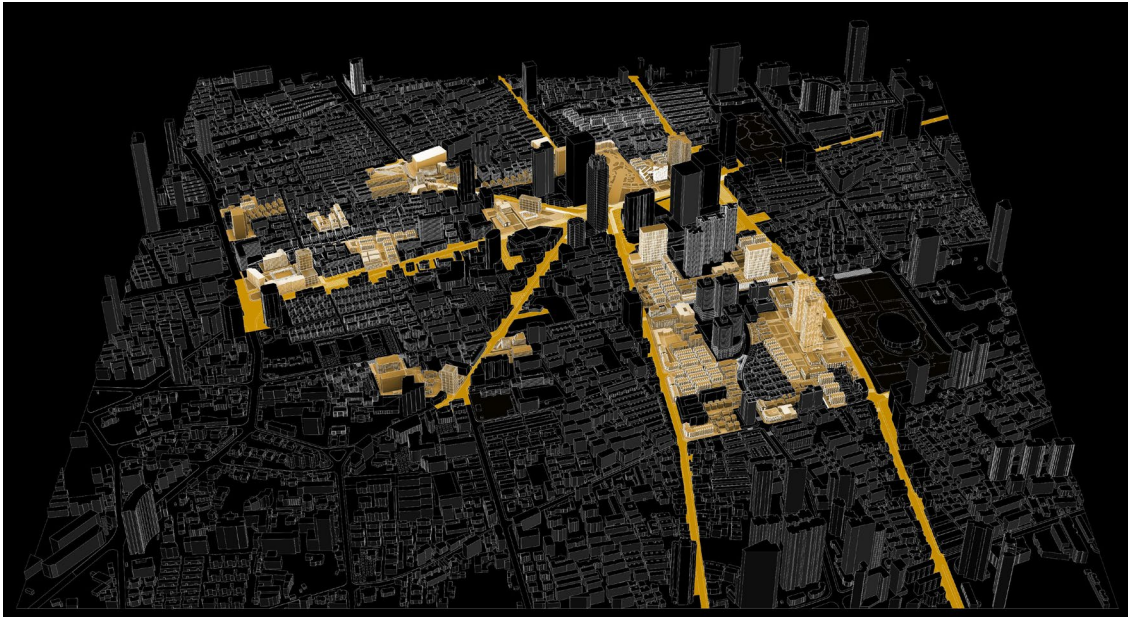
I have completed 4 months long-term internship at Studio Fuksas, an international architectural firm in Rome. During my internship, I had the opportunity to work on various projects ranging from large urban-scale development to luxury mansion design. I gained hands-on experience in different stages of the design process, including site analysis, conceptualization, 3D modelling, and visualization. Working together with different teams I could grasp the studio's organization and general work culture. Although I did not have a lot of overtime work I have seen how my coworkers stayed late frequently because of deadlines. One of the benefits of my internship was a chance to work on large scale projects with unique design, especially new to me was the use of parametric design and grasshopper tools.

*The office is located in the center of Rome, near Piazza Navona. Entering the building there is a courtyard separating a different departments of the studio which include Sala International, Sala Italia, Sala 3D, Sala China, Sala Design and Workshop rooms.*



*Figure 1 The office courtyard*

At the beginning of the internship, I joined a team that carried out international projects, especially in China. Working in a collaboration with Chinese studio and clients allowed me to gain valuable insights into intercultural communication and collaboration in architecture. Furthermore, I was able to collaborate with architects and designers from different backgrounds, which enhanced my understanding of the importance of teamwork in achieving successful architectural outcomes. The first project I have joined was the Hengfu Urban Development proposal, which was a competition about urban development and revitalization of the Old French Concession area in Shanghai. The project was ongoing during my internship, and I had the opportunity to contribute to the design process by generating various conceptual drawings, diagrams, and perspectives for the client presentations. Since it was an ongoing project I have mostly helped with the visualization and development of the details of the masterplan. Moreover, the project was a part of the exhibition at the venue in Shanghai and was presented to the local community and city administration.

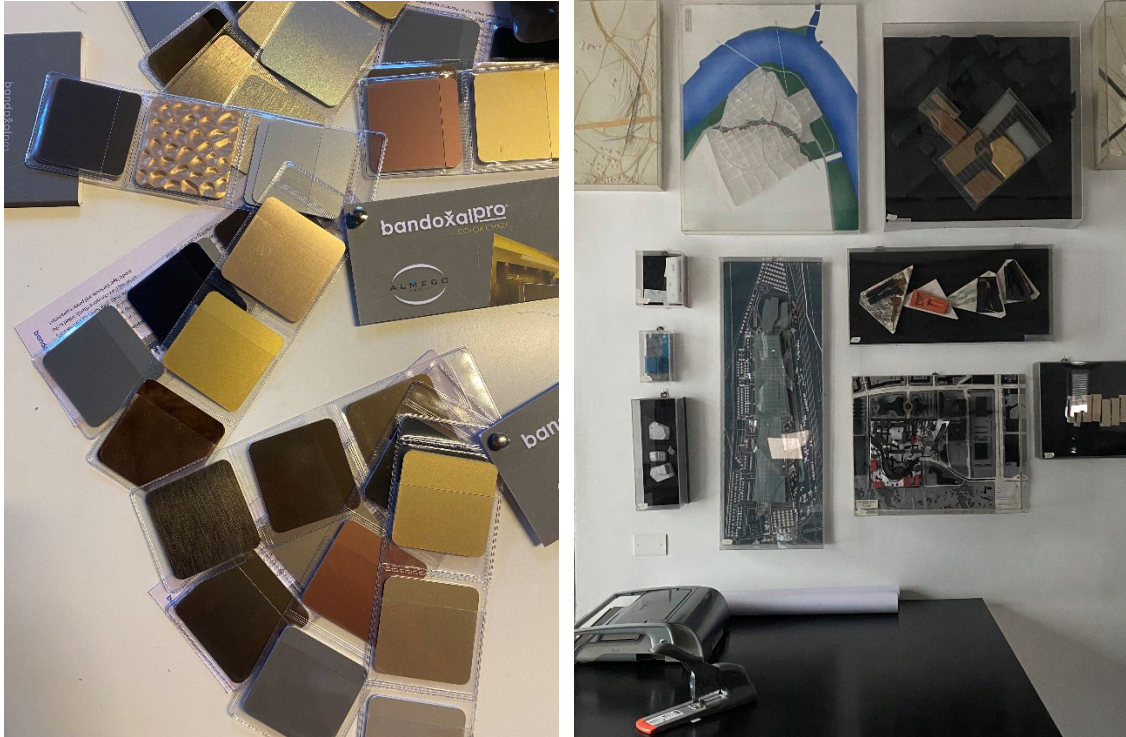


*Figure 2 Hengfu Urban Development masterplan concept drawing*

The next project that I was participating in at the same time as the Hengfu proposal was the Lujiazui Office Building, commissioned by Chinese clients. The project included a plot in the new development area, the plot included 3 buildings of mixed use of offices and public facilities. I have participated in the conceptual phase of the project where I worked on generating design ideas and creating 3d models and images to visualize the proposed architectural concepts. During my internship, I was responsible for assisting the architectural team in developing design drawings such as masterplan, plans, and sections for presentations with the clients, and researching building materials and local architectural styles. Moreover, while working on this project I have learned and applied the skills for environmental analysis with Ladybug Tools Grasshopper, which was useful for evaluating the environmental performance of the proposed design. I appreciated the chance to learn a new skill and to have a help from experienced 3d architects who were giving me tips and advices during this time. The Grasshopper scripts I have written was also used for other following projects which was a good contribution from my side and was highly appreciated by my managers.

The next project I worked on was the Aqaba Mansion “Monolith” project, located in Aqaba, Jordan. The project was a part of the competition for designing luxury mansions commissioned by NEOM. Within the context of mountains and seaside, the role of the architect was to create a design that seamlessly integrated with the surrounding natural environment while providing a luxurious and comfortable living space. The project won the first stage of the competition and further continued to develop the detailed design and structure of the mansion. My role in this project was to assist in developing the architectural drawings, including floor plans, elevations, sections, and other images for a better representation of the project. I have conducted the environmental analysis with Grasshopper and Ladybug tools, which included Ladybug sun exposure analysis and shadow analysis, Slope Steepness analysis, and Butterfly wind flow analysis to ensure that the design of the mansion maximized natural lighting, minimized heat gain, and utilized passive ventilation strategies. The diagrams and schemes were prepared by me to support the analysis. During this project, I gained valuable experience in designing for the integration of natural environments and sustainable design principles, while also improving my skills in architectural visualization with Adobe suite software. This project presentation and process

went especially well and as a result the firm received another contract for the similar Luxury Mansion in another area. I liked very much the result of the interesting parametric design and engineering solutions which were applied in the “Monolith”. In this case I also could see more detailed development of the project, including detailed façade design, structural design and material selection process.



*Figure 3 Material selection and Physical models*

While being a part of the teams working on the projects mentioned above, I was occasionally involved in other ongoing projects in the office to provide help for the architectural teams as needed. Some of my responsibilities included assisting with the development of design drawings, and visualization, such as the Masterplan for the Cap D'Ail hotel project in France, and the concept drawings for the Agadir Airport competition project in Morocco. In cases like that I also could work with teams from other Salas which was a good chance to get to know more people and learn different ways of working.

I was also shortly involved in the famous LINE project for NEOM in Saudi Arabia which started just before the end of my internship period. I took part in the initial concept development and form finding using Grasshopper. It was interesting to see the documentation and the previous presentations about this project and how this seemingly impossible idea could be realized in actual architecture.

During the work on competitions it was useful to see the organization and teamwork efforts required for the project. Competitions involved fast ideas, brainstorming, upcoming deadlines and overtime, which could be stressful but creative and stimulating experience.

*It was not common for the Architect (Massimiliano Fuksas) to see the regular employees, since he usually communicated with managers, but we could see him sometimes visiting the salas.*

*During the design development he would have meetings with manager and 3D architect (the employee who managed the 3D modelling) where he would sketch the initial ideas or manipulate the model to create the desired space.*

*Some of the ideas could look very conceptual and abstract, and afterwards with the effort of designers would be translated into architecture.*



*Figure 4 Sketches and Project development drawings*

In addition to my professional experience, I also had valuable experience working in an international environment and participating in the office activities such as team meetings, design reviews, and occasional Friday gatherings. During my internship, I have managed to develop close relationships with my coworkers who became good friends and mentors, and we continue to stay in touch even after the completion of my internship. My day would start with arriving at the office early in the morning and updating my task list for the day, around 11 am me and some of my coworkers would have a coffee break in the nearby cafe and discuss our current projects and share the daily news. At lunchtime, we would gather again to have lunch together and take afternoon coffee. Overall, I can describe the environment in the office as friendly and inspiring, with a strong emphasis on collaboration and learning from each other's expertise.



*Figure 5 Meeting for project discussions*

During my internship I gained valuable experience in teamwork, architectural design, and visualization, developed Grasshopper skills, and expanded my knowledge of large-scale architecture projects. This internship provided me with the opportunity to collaborate with international design teams and apply my skills in architectural design, visualization, and sustainable design principles. The internship experience provided me with a well-rounded understanding of the architecture studio work environment, the pros and cons of working in a big international firm, and the importance of effective communication and teamwork in delivering successful architectural projects. Furthermore, I have been offered to continue my work at the firm as a Junior Architect after the completion of my internship, which is a testament to the positive impact I had during my time there. Overall, my internship experience was incredibly valuable as it allowed me to work on high-profile projects, develop my skills in architectural design and visualization, and gain insight into the dynamics of an international architecture firm.



*Figure 6 Office Christmas party*

Although my experience was positive and I felt stable and friendly environment, it was quite unsettling for me to see how many people resign or get fired frequently. Every month of my work there 2-3 people would leave and new people would arrived, which made me question the overall stability of the job. In the end of the internship, I still consider coming back and start a position as a junior architect after my graduation, however, there are more aspects to consider in the future.

To add my impression about the city, Rome is a beautiful place to live in and even shortly to experience. The office location in the center of the city allowed us to go outside during lunch to enjoy the weather and go for drinks or dinner after working day, also including my favourite coffee break and gelato break in summer. Some weekend activities included architecture trips or museum visits with my colleagues. And in warm weather I usually enjoyed a long walk along the river from work to my home.



20.12.2023 AT 18.00

FOREVER YOUNG FOREVER ON THE ROAD

ADRESS: MONTICELLI

FUKSAS

CHRISTMAS

DRESS-CODE: FUKSAS RED (RGB 239,65,52)