

2009/10 Worldstudio AIGA Scholarships

Two Twelve Associates Award

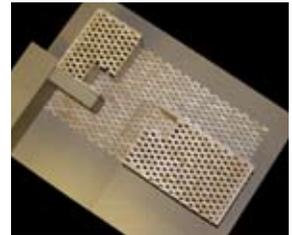
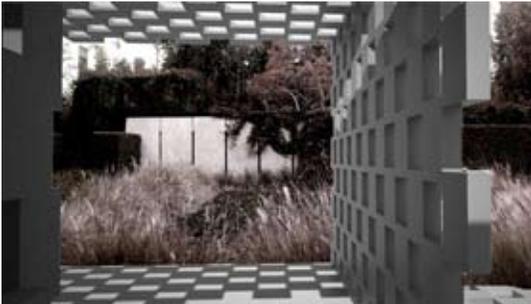


PRECIOUS ALYELOJA

Architecture
Junior
University of Southern California

Art has always been a part of me. As a child, I spent my afternoons at the family art gallery. There, I thrived in my own little world, even selling my own artwork in the back-office called Precious Art Gallery, a pun on my name. At that time, my understanding of art was born in beautiful images which captured but a moment in time with a delicate, underlying emotion that only a paintbrush could achieve; I would watch my mother paint her own pieces, and I would aspire to be just like her.

At the age of 10, my artistic sphere broadened when I had my first experience with my future career, architecture. The place was Beaumont, California. My uncle was shopping for a new house, and my mom and I had gone with him to see the home he

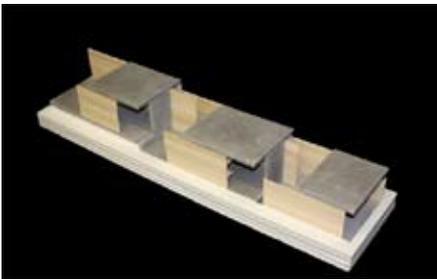


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Architecture

had chosen. On the wall there were drawings of the projects being built, and it was here that I fell in love with floor plans. I realized that even something so simple as a floor plan could be a form of art, not merely the placement of rooms on a piece of paper. I was then bitten by the architecture bug. Although I did not know then that my passion was known as architecture, I knew my calling was somehow connected to the arrangement of space. And ever since, architecture has been my passion.

When I first entered the field nearly two years ago, I saw architecture as the opportunity to design engaging spaces for an individual. About to enter my third year at the University of Southern California's Bachelor of Architecture program, my concept of what architecture can do and become has changed. I have started to immerse myself in the practicality of architecture and am beginning to understand the amount of power an architect can wield. Each person who enters a building comes with their own experiences, and I want my work—my art—to add to those experiences, and to enhance them. I believe that architecture needs to reconnect with the user. Architecture's greatest asset is its ability to evoke feeling within the user, and this is what I strive for in all my projects.



Furthermore, I have always loved drawing little doll houses, then cutting out little people to play out stories. I have since grown out of cutting out those little people, but I never stopped creating stories and drawing my little houses. My stories are now broadening to those of the world around me. Architecture is the perfect fit for my creative side and my love for impacting others. When I finish my undergraduate degree I will become a leader in my field and help with the advancement of underdeveloped cities, not just in the United States, but also abroad in Latin America, Asia, Africa and Europe. I believe the best way to create significant architecture is to create a building that has meaning to the community by considering its needs and desires. That is when architecture has reached its full potential.

