



Your Name: Kristen Kuk

Job Title: Graduate Architect

Employer: Axis Architecture + Interiors

Degrees Awarded: Ball State University - Master of Architecture (2013), Ferris State University – Bachelor of Science degree in Facility Management (2010), Ferris State University – Associate in Applied Science degree in Architectural Technology (2008)

How would you describe your current position? The firm I work for has a variety of project types and scales. I am currently working in the schematic design phase of an office renovation, construction administration for a downtown façade renovation and design develop of an apartment building. My tasks vary on the day from graphical representations, developing construction documents to reviewing project submittals.

How has your education supported you in your job thus far? Getting introduced to so many aspects of the profession in the classroom has given me a solid foundation that I rely on in the office. Design concepts, the technical aspects of a building, construction detailing and software that I was exposed to at Ferris State and Ball State I use on a daily basis

How was the job search process? The job search process was competitive. It was important to develop a resume and portfolio that highlighted your best qualities and what you could bring to a firm. Attending job fairs and being involved in campus organizations helped create a network that was critical in finding a job.

What do you see as your biggest challenge? The biggest challenge is working through multiple concepts until you find the successful solution. The design process takes time, research and the development until you develop a final solution that meets the needs of the project.

What do you do in your spare time? In my spare time I enjoy being active whether it is biking, running or traveling. The joy of exploring new cities and their architecture started with field trips at Ferris State and Ball State that I continue to enjoy to this day.

What advice would you give to current students? School is going to be what you make it. Study what interests you and keep learning about the topic even outside the classroom.