

LEAH KIRSSIN

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EDUCATION

University of Virginia, School of Architecture, Charlottesville, VA

B.S. May 2021 with High Honors

Major: Pre-Professional Architecture / Minor: Architectural History

GPA: 3.762

Relevant Coursework: Studio, CAAD, Parametric Structural Design, Principles of Tectonics, Urban & Environmental Planning

LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE

Director, Growing for Change, Charlottesville, VA

May 2020-June 2021

Volunteer Coordinator, Growing for Change, Charlottesville, VA

September 2019-May 2020

- Student led club that designs, builds, and plants gardens for local public housing
- Lead meetings, communicate with members and residents, oversee garden design

Volunteer, Hot Shots Soccer Coach, Charlottesville, VA

October 2017-May 2021

- Soccer coach for 4-6 year-old players on Saturday mornings

Volunteer, Lunch Buddies, Baker-Butler Elementary, Albemarle, VA

October 2019-March 2020

- Mentor two students once a week during their lunch period

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant, Rapid Shelter Design, University of Virginia

Fall 2020-present

- Researching construction strategies, structural design, and tent details for a shelter for displaced Syrians

Research Assistant, Cognitive Design + Fabrication, University of Virginia

January 2021-present

- Research robotic additive manufacturing, design toolpaths in Grasshopper, and operate KUKA robot

WORK EXPERIENCE

Playground Designer, BCI Burke Company, Fond du Lac, WI

July 2021-present

- Design playground layouts and arrange equipment based on safety requirements and client specifications

Externship, Page & Turnbull, offices in San Francisco, Los Angeles, and Sacramento, CA

January 2021

- Collaborated virtually on historical preservation projects, studied maps, attended meetings

Assistant Manager, Farmington Country Club Pool, Charlottesville, VA

Summer 2019-2020

- Direct lifeguards during emergencies, oversee and maintain the pool, work 40 hours per week

HONORS AND AWARDS

Faculty of Architecture Award for Design Excellence, School of Architecture, University of Virginia

May 2021

Bruce Abbey Technology Award, School of Architecture, University of Virginia

May 2021

- Recognized for the original, creative, and valuable application of computer-aided design in architectural coursework

Dean's List, School of Architecture, University of Virginia

Fall 2017, Fall 2018, Spring 2019

- Achieve a GPA of 3.7 or greater for the semester

Intermediate Honors, University of Virginia

October 2019

- Top 20 percent in the class of 2021 after first two years at the University of Virginia

Studio Project Selected for Dean's Archive, School of Architecture, University of Virginia

Spring 2018, Fall 2018, Fall 2020

Art Exhibits, Kilaurwen Winery and The Palette Art Gallery, Stanardsville, VA

Spring 2019, 2018

RELEVANT SKILLS

Proficient with Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator, Adobe InDesign, V-Ray, Rhinoceros, Grasshopper, Karamba, Autocad, Revit, Maya, and Processing. Experience using the woodshop, CNC router, laser cutter, and KUKA robot.