ARCHITECTURE & SUSTAINABILITY
Mariam Mshvidobadze ’22
Field Site: Voith and Mactavish Architects
Field Supervisor: Daniela Holt Voith
Faculty Advisor: Min Kyung Lee

FOCUS OF THE COURSE
- Introducing the architectural design process, including project planning, file and material organization, and the analysis of sites and renderings.
- Through practical activities and training, gaining familiarity with sustainable design and its associated professions in building and landscape.
- Throughout the course, attention was given to why sustainability is significant to architecture, how architecture impacts the environment and climate change, as well as how sustainability is measured in architecture and the methods used to achieve sustainability goals.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS
- Learned what LEED certification is and how its rating system works.
- Improved Photoshop skills and learned the basics of AutoCAD.
- Wrote an article that got included in VMA’s Sustainability Newsletter.
- Organized the interior design studio’s materials library.
- Drafted renderings of floor plans for 3 VMA projects.
- Made friends at VMA!
- Was offered a fulltime position at VMA.

PERSONAL GROWTH
- Improved my design knowledge and skills.
- Learned how to work in teams in a professional setting.
- Became enthusiastic about how architecture can address sustainability questions.
- Became sensitive to the details of architectural practice, including issues about materials, energy, and regulation.
- Understood the complexity of managing a design office.
- Found role models and mentorship in the design profession.

SUGGESTED READINGS & MOVIES
From Bauhaus to Ecobouse: A History of Ecological Design by Peder Anker
Ecological Urbanism by Mohsen Mostafavi, ed.
“No Impact Man (2009) - Documentary on YouTube