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Mr. Speice

ISM

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Interview of Jennifer Kolstad

Assessment 8 - Interview

Name of Professional: Jennifer Kolstad

Title: Director of Interior Architecture

Company: HKS Architects

Date of Interview: 25th October 2018

Works Cited:

Tsirulnik, Addi, and Jennifer Kolstad. "Interview of Jennifer Kolstad." 25 Oct. 2018.

Assessment:

Throughout this interview, my objective was to find out what new innovations impact this industry and challenging things that architects often have to face.

Mrs. Jennifer Kolstad said that the biggest thing about her job that surprised her when she finished school was how different working is than school. In college, she said that there is more creative freedom to really just come up with what you want to create so long as you can support it to your professors. When you are working, you have clients to please. They usually come up with an idea of what they want, coming to the architect to just make it happen. Rarely do they come with an open mind saying that the architect can decide what they want to do with the project. School teaches you how to design, which, in the workplace, is really only about five

percent of the job. When working, an architect must also think about what the client wants, of course, as well as structure feasibility and effect on the people that would use the building. For example, large amounts of natural light have been shown to increase productivity.

Mrs. Jennifer Kolstad also talked to me about what she might do in a typical day which includes emailing, coordinating, using software, drawing, and often meeting. She, like many of the other architects I have talked to, said that coordinating and working together is a huge part of being an architect. It is not as independent of a profession as it used to be. Mrs. Jennifer Kolstad even showed me an example of a collaborative space that her company, HKS Architects, has incorporated into buildings that they have worked on called a learning stair. Essentially, it is a staircase with a section of cushions for seating so that many people can meet to collaborate. She said that another large, Dallas firm called Corgan has incorporated a learning stair into their facilities as well.

Another thing I asked Mrs. Jennifer Kolstad about was the process of the project from the birth of the idea to the completion of the project. She said that the first step is for the client to come to work with the firm and tell them their idea. From there, the architects plan, draw, sketch, and organize spaces to go along with their interpretation of the client's wishes. Next, the architects meet with the client again to collaborate, revise, and edit some plans. Then they think about the details of the project such as where offices might be placed in relation to a library or if the placement of a lobby is convenient. Once this has been considered and any additional edits have been made, the architects figure out how to put it all together before submitting the plans to the city to get approved. Finally, the architects find the contractor with the lowest bidding price to work with and visit the site continually while the project is being completed.

Overall, through this interview my want to be in architecture industry has only grown. Additionally, I was able to increase the amount of connections I have within this career. Hopefully, this connection will not only help me find a mentor, but I also am hoping to use the contacts I was given.