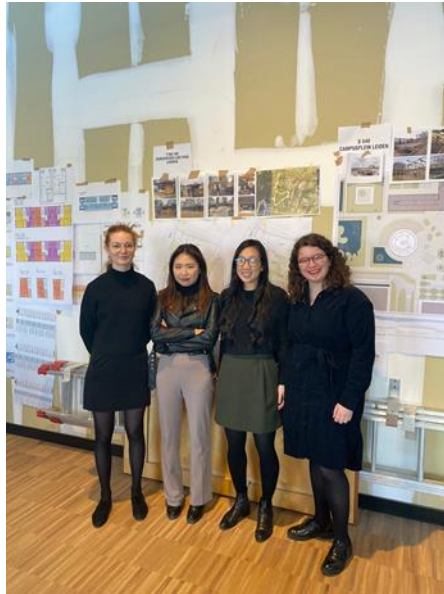




Please insert here at least one **PHOTO** of your traineeship stay abroad! Preferred motives are photos of your accommodation, of your work place, of being at work. Attention! Due to legal considerations we kindly ask you to send us only photos that have been taken by yourself!



STUDENT DETAILS

University department / faculty: **Department Agriculture, Ecotrophology and Landscape Development**
Field of study: **Master of Landscape Architecture**
Home university: **Hochschule Anhalt**
Nationality: **Korean**
Duration of traineeship (from ...to...): **1 year**

TRAINEESHIP INSTITUTION

Country: **Netherlands**
Name of traineeship institution: **west 8 urban design & landscape architecture**
Web page: **<https://www.west8.com>**
Address: **Nico Koomanskade 1021, 3072 LM Rotterdam**
Contact person: **Shelley Long**
Telephone / E-Mail: **+31 (0) 10 485 5801 / west8@west8.com**

EXPERIENCE REPORT (approx. 3 pages + more photos if applicable)

1) Traineeship institution

Please give a brief description of your host traineeship institution.

West 8 is a well-known office for urban design and landscape architecture, founded in 1987 located in Rotterdam. It has New York and Belgium branches. It has an international team of 70 architects, urban designers, landscape architects and industrial engineers. West 8 is being led by three Directors. The Rotterdam office where I have worked is mainly working on USA, Chinese, Canadian, Spanish, Russian, and Dutch projects. Each project has a leader who is managing the whole process for work and there are few assistant designers, and interns in a team.

2) Searching for a traineeship

How did you find your traineeship? Are there any recommendable links or other helpful tips you would like to share?

I just knew about this company for a long time. So I wanted to work as an intern from a long time ago. I think it would be good to search for companies related to majors in Google, compare projects with each company, and choose the one that best suits me.

3) Preparation

How did you prepare for your traineeship in terms of language, intercultural, professional and organisational aspects? Are there any recommendable links or other helpful tips you would like to share?

I had about three years' experience in Korea before I studied master's degree. The experience was very helpful. In terms of language, I think we should keep trying personally. I studied while watching a drama in English and it was fun and effective.

4) Accommodation

How did you find your accommodation? Are there any recommendable links or other helpful tips you would like to share?

I got it from the Korean community on Facebook.

5) Traineeship

Please describe the tasks and / or the projects carried out during your traineeship. In which way were you mentored and integrated? How were the working conditions? Did you have especially positive or negative experiences?

In West 8, I mainly worked for projects in Toronto named Waterfront Walk Advancement, In Water Pipe Boardwalk, and Lakeshore Blvd Public Realm as a part of design team. They are three different projects but also they are connected with each other for the blueprint of future development in Toronto. This idea helped me easily understand the masterplan of Toronto. I worked with four team members on Toronto projects led by the Canadian manager. Almost once a week, my team had a presentation or meeting with clients and cooperatives such as engineering departments, costing offices or local design offices. My manager had thought that my working experience in Korea will lead me to better adaptation and results of work. She gave me a lot of opportunities to deeply participate in the projects. Normally I produced not only for diagrams, sections or rendered images but also construction drawings for the projects. Besides, I had chances to join in meeting with clients via Skype. I mostly did not have serious difficulties regarding my tasks, but sometimes it was a sort of challenge for me due to frequent deadlines. Sometimes I helped the other teams working on Chinese, Dutch or UK projects. Even if it was a small contribution for the projects, it was meaningful because I could experience various international projects. Even if it was manic and stressful to meet the deadlines, I did have a great time during the period in West 8 and it was a trigger to think about my career in the Netherlands.

(1) Toronto Waterfront Walk Advancement

The purpose and goal of this project were to make a better environment for pedestrians along the street called Queens Quay West in Toronto. There are already built facilities such as wave-decks, boardwalks, or nice parks along the waterfront, done by West 8 before. So our team needed to suggest ideas to upgrade this area and future perspective.

My first mission was doing risk assessment with site photos. I needed to figure out what is dangerous and which factors could be a hazard point for pedestrians. During this task, I had a problem that I never been to the site. I had to see all the area with google map and needed to figure out myself about this site. In the beginning, I was uncomfortable with the site, but once I started to used to being on the site with the map. As a result, it was a nice chance to get familiar with the site myself. Most of the risk in the site was tripping hazards. Some part of paving or benches were destroyed and there were missing facilities which are essential like a fence or railing. So we figured out that we must repair existing pavings and facilities first.

I need to produce a sort of diagrams showing context around the site to explain which factors will positively affect our site for the client. For example, Approximately, 14 districts exist around the waterfront and easily accessible to the site from each district. Even if the waterfront is already well activated and a popular place for citizens, easy access is highly demanded for the project and I needed to highlight it to emphasize in the meetings with the client. In addition, a great deal of attractions for tourists is well settled in the areas and they are easily connected to Waterfront. It means the site is technically valuable and there is an obvious reason to be upgraded. Although making diagrams is a sort of work that is easy and does not take a lot of time, I would not produce a proper one without a considerable understanding of the site.

I remember that I spent most of the time on drawing sections. Sections should be showing an existing situation and proposal design to show the difference. Especially there is a possibility that the level of Lake Ontario can affect on the new boardwalk we proposed. So we could assume that hazard from inundation from the sections for each area.

Sometimes it was confusing because of a lot for factors that we introduce in the site. For example, I was not sure about the location of new boardwalks and bridges because there are two options. Also, the fully built and partially built situation in the site made me more confused. But I need to know the scope clearly. During the task, producing inventory images was helpful to think the scope clearly myself so I did not have to ask my manager or colleagues all the time.

To start my internship with this project was a good chance for me to understand how it works in Canada and West 8 for one project. But I had a lack of communication with the boss. I think I was feared about suggesting the idea and talking to the boss right away about the project. My manager also gave me a tip that I do not have to worry about it. I think I was working in a strict hierarchy system in Korea and that might be a reason. So I needed to figure out myself and have confidence.

(2) In Water Pipe Board Walk

The project is connected to Waterfront Walk advancement, but it was in more detail and constructive, focused on Boardwalk and granite bench. Even if it was a small scope, there was plenty of things to consider because it will be constructed. For me, it was a good opportunity to convince that I can do various types of work in the office because I used to produce a lot of construction drawings and calculated the amount of materials.

My main role in the team was to create detail drawings for boardwalk and granite bench. For that, I needed to figure out the arrangement of wood, dimension, and the gap between boardwalk and granite bench. I prepared three different options to make the client choose what they want. I needed to ask advice from an expert about construction detail in the office so that I could imagine how it works in real.

Also, there was another factor that should be considered. We needed to think about fender that becomes a role of bumper between ships and boardwalk. To show simply rendered images, I needed to learn how to use V-Ray. My colleagues were willing to helping me with this software so that I could finish my task on time.

(3) Lakeshore Boulevard East Public Realm – Don river to Carlaw Avenue

The purpose of this project is improving the public realm along Lakeshore Boulevard East. For now, there is no public realm because of traffic barriers and wide traffic lanes. To solve this problem, there are three suggested principles by the team. First of all, the right plants should be in the right place to maximize infiltration

helping stormwater management. Secondly, Cars, pedestrians and cyclists are going to be balanced so that they can have more space and feel safe. Besides, there will be an improved landscape experience in the city. The team has done skeptical design showing the arrangement of the road, pedestrian path, bike path, and median. Also, planting strategy was required. After the design was fixed, my task was making drawings such as material plans, layout plans, and planting plans. I felt comfortable with this task thanks to my experience. One thing that I needed to perceive was following their drawing style. I had an experience in this case. I had been working in JTEG in Korea which is a landscape architect office usually working on practical projects. The office had a strong drawing style itself and I was used to doing work in their way. But I changed my career to the other office and serious difficulties to adapt their style. After a few months, I finally accepted the new working style. From this experience, now I automatically can change my view according to what the office needs. The next task was drawing sections for the existing situation and our new design. Just drawing sections is simple work, but there was a new element that I needed to introduce in the sections. A lot of utilities like stormwater systems and gas mains are existing underground. I had to find out if the utilities will affect our design. For example, if there is a stormwater system right under the place of new trees that we design, the tree can not be planted there. It needs proper depth to grow. After drawing sections, I figured out there will be no hazard from the existing utilities on our design according to the result that there is enough gap. This project is currently ongoing and I feel familiar with its procedure thanks to the two Toronto projects that I mentioned above: Toronto Waterfront Walk Advancement, In water pipe Boardwalk. I hope I will have more chance to learn myself from further steps.

6) Acquired qualifications

Which qualifications and skills could you acquire or improve during your traineeship?

I set a specific goal before I start my internship in West 8. I would like to get knowledge about working process in the Netherlands. For 12 months, I tried to understand it and learned a lot from it. In addition, There are several points that I made amazing achievement. Firstly, my English has improved a lot. Even If I have studied in an English course for my master's degree, English was always challenging for me. Thanks to the international environment in West 8, I started to feel comfortable with English. Especially, my mentor is an English native speaker so that I could have more benefits to be exposed in English. Secondly, I have learned new software that I was not familiar before like Rhino or Rumion. Honestly, I had a weak point regarding 3D software compared to Auto cad, Photoshop or Illustrator. There are great colleagues in west 8 so that I always could ask them what I would like to know about the software. So now I can use Rhino easily and have learned Rumion. I will improve my skill more to be a person who has fully requirement considering this field. Besides, I was happy about the project that I usually worked on: Toronto projects. I always worked on the landscape for apartments in Korea. I got a lot of achievement from the field in Korea, but at the same time it made me not to think in creative ways, It would be a vulnerable point definitely as a designer. The Toronto Projects were a different type of work compared to my specialty so that I started to think in more creative ways.

7) Country-specific features

Are there any specific traineeship regulations in the target country that affected you as an Erasmus trainee (e.g. France: housing allowance, convention de stage)? If yes, which ones? Are there any recommendable links or other helpful tips you would like to share?

8) Visa, residence and work permit (only for international students)

Which prearrangements had to be made in terms of visa, residence and work permit? Are there any recommendable links or other helpful tips you would like to share?

In order to work as an internship in the Netherlands, the company handles all the processes. There was no inconvenience because the company handled the required documents as long as they were prepared.

9) Other

Is there anything else you want to let other students know?

10) Conclusion

What is the conclusion drawn after your traineeship experience abroad?

This experience is encouraging me to work in the other offices abroad. Even if it will be not easy, I have decided to try for the next challenge that makes me stronger. I do not know what will be happening in the future. However I can try what I want to achieve at least.

Declaration of consent

I hereby agree to the publication of this report on the website of the Leonardo Office Saxony-Anhalt.

I assure that the photos used in this report do not violate the rights of other persons or companies (personal rights, copyrights etc.).

Please send this report by email to angela.wittkamp@ovgu.de!
Acceptable file formats: [.doc], [.docx], [.rtf], [.odt].