

Illinois Institute of Technology

Why are you interested in Illinois Institute of Technology? (250 words or less)

During my internship last summer, I discovered how exciting it is to design in harmony with the landscape. The Illinois Institute of Technology offers a Landscape Architecture specialization that speaks directly to my own academic and professional goals. The opportunity to take workshops like "Ecology and Materials" will be a great chance to explore the topics I am passionate about such as: how can I use living plants as building materials? What is the best way to preserve the beauty of the natural environment and capitalize on the features of the landscape? I'm especially interested in taking "Site Design, Planning, and Ecology" because it incorporates experiential learning, such as site visits. In my summer internship, I loved site visits because I got to see the progress of my firm's designs and understand the problem solving process whenever things turned out unexpectedly. Furthermore, this course will engage my interest in designing with consideration for water availability and the limitations that are posed by natural topography. IIT will provide me with a Landscape Architecture education that helps me become a conscientious and thoughtful architect who designs with equal interest in the client, the land, and the building.

Tell us why you are pursuing your selected major. If you are undecided on a major tell us about the academic areas of interest to you. (250 words or less)

During my architecture internship this summer, my boss had a client who wanted a balcony with French doors upstairs. The client wanted natural light but was concerned about privacy because the balcony was affixed to the bedroom. I designed a balcony that looked like a fence with dense, thin, strips of wood that acted like vertical blinds. I created a model, cutting one millimeter styrofoam strips and sent photos of the model to the client. The client, a married couple, loved my solution and included it in the final design for their home.

I'm pursuing architecture because I love the collaborative process that allows me to work with clients, builders, and other architects. I saw this collaboration firsthand and it was exciting to feed off of my colleagues' creativity. My boss had the idea to turn the slats on the side of the balcony forty-five degrees because doing so offered even more privacy and looked more sophisticated. Working together, we could come up with ideas that combined each of our strengths and improved individual work. What I love most about architecture is working with a team toward a shared goal and finding unexpected solutions that come from brainstorming together. Architecture offers a built-in collaborative infrastructure where I will be able to both inspire and be inspired by others.