

Keep Learning, Keep Hustling!

After completing my bachelor's degree, I tried my hands on many different things. I did interior design projects, taught CAD in computer classes, designed brochures, made professional building models, and drafted approval drawings sheets as freelancer. The list is quite long. I just wanted to try my hands on anything and everything. It was not business or serious practice in architecture. In fact, I didn't work in an architecture firm for almost 6 months after graduation, except my internship during 10th semester.

Finally, I slowed down. I realized that Architecture program had educated me to do many things, but I was not completely trained to do those things. I took up a full-time job after six months – starting at 2 pm to 10 pm, considering I had my own interior design projects still running, along with other freelance work. I just wanted to learn more in less time, or rather quickly! So, I started my workday at 7am with CAD classes, interiors project site visits, traveling an hour to office, work full time and reach back home by almost midnight. Just to go out again the next day.

But I never felt tired or exhausted! In retrospect, I think it was my hunger to gain more knowledge and look for something I wanted to do more and more. Finally, I had found my passion! I found my love for large scale projects in my full-time job. I realized, I must focus on my passion more and not spend my energy on other work. I wrapped up other work and commitments and concentrated on my job, working primarily on master planning projects. The work led me to think about post graduate studies and took me to USA for my master's in urban planning eventually.

Those first 2 years were critical for my career. I had to try multiple things before taking a path that would lead me to my passion. It would have been easier to just take the first job I got (I was selected as sales executive to sell modular furniture by a very reputed company) and not explore what I was passionate about. I also did not take a 'break' since I had completed a 5-year grind of architecture college. To me learning never stopped, because if I stop learning, I stop growing... and if I stop growing, I am virtually dead!

I want all of you to continue the quest of knowledge. Be it at work, school, own projects, teaching, anything you chose to do in life. If you have joined an office, don't just do your work, look around how others are performing. If you are doing your own projects, see how your vendors, contractors, clients are behaving. If you have joined teaching, learn from senior faculty how they communicate with students. **Do not stop learning.** It's not about any rat race to achieve more. It's about living another day for you own self!!

As one of my favorite student said... *Keep Learning, Keep Hustling..*