

Italian Powerhouse in Stuttgart

Following his passion for climate responsive design, Niccolò Rossi applied as an intern and stayed in Stuttgart for 4 months.

1. What did you think of Transsolar before the internship and how did your perspective change in the course of your internship?

To be honest, I didn't know much about Transsolar just over a year ago. In my last years at the University of Pisa, I started studying the relation between climate and design in architecture, and I was fascinated. I was also surprised, and still am, of how many architects and designers completely ignore this relationship.

Unfortunately, at that time I couldn't manage any software, but I studied deeply all the principles. So, when I found out about the School of Sustainability by Mario Cucinella and I saw the program, I immediately decided to submit an application. It was during one of the "Open Lectures" planned by the SOS that I discovered Transsolar (through Mathias Schuler and Tommaso Bitossi).

At that time, my understanding was that Transsolar helps architects and clients to design more sustainable projects.

After my experience as an intern, I think that I was almost right. But, I understood the way Transsolar works. It's more about providing guidelines and advice, especially at the initial stages, that allow to reach better solutions and better performance in projects. I understood even more the importance of collaborating with clients and architects from the very first steps of a project and how it is hard sometimes to match different visions.



2. What were some of the most impressive experiences during your internship?

- The opportunity to be immediately part of something important, like a big project (i.e. Unipol Tower) or competitions all around the world with big architecture offices (Fuksas, DPA, OMA, ...) and give a meaningful contribution.
- The use of really detailed simulations using many advanced software, especially DIVA and TRNSYS. An office able to develop their own software for thermal simulation I think is a great plus. In a very short time, I applied so much of my knowledge in simulations.
- The opportunity to meet people from all around the world and exchange experiences and backgrounds. It helps you a lot to grow not only as a professional, but especially as a person. The folks from the Academy are amazing!
- The opportunity to join some Academy lectures and the importance of sharing knowledge.

3. What do you tell future interns at Transsolar before they start?

I will tell them just to enjoy the experience and not to be afraid. People in the office are really nice and open. They are also kind and ready to help and support you if you have problems or questions (as it's normal, especially at the beginning).

4. What do you personally take home from your experience?

I certainly bring home a deeper understanding of what climate engineering means and an awareness of the importance of linking ideas to concrete and quantifiable data (through simulations) Then a wonderful experience in a stimulating workplace where you never get bored. Finally, the privilege of having met so many capable and friendly people at the same time.

5. Your TS Internship is a consequence of the SOS educational program. Is this a fruitful complement and would you encourage other SOS students to apply for an internship at Transsolar?

For me I think it was just the right path. SOS was nice to understand a good approach to environmental design (as an architect). In Transsolar I dived deep into understanding the importance of numbers, data and more technical/technological solutions (as an engineer). So, Yes, I definitely encourage other SOS students to apply for an internship at Transsolar!

6. What are your next steps after the internship?

At the moment, I'm looking for a new job in the architecture or engineering fields. I would love to continue working in climate engineering and sustainable design. I think it is the right path today and the way to design the future.

PS: Two things to add...Thank you to Tommaso for your support...I don't really like the office renovation, but I love the fancy experiments.

Niccolò – all the best in the future and we will miss you.