

US/ICOMOS International Exchange Program
Kyra Lomas, Graduate Architect

As a part of the US/ICOMOS International Exchange Program in 2018, I was one of 10 international interns chosen from around the world to participate in the 3-month exchange program beginning with a week-long orientation session in Washington DC. I met likeminded young professionals from Chile, Peru, Lithuania, India, Italy and the United States who had the opportunity to travel to countries all over the world with this program.

I spent my summer in Washington DC with the National Trust for Historic Preservation. My time with the Trust aligned with their annual summer intern program, with 15 other young professionals from across the US with backgrounds in public affairs, social media, law and government relations. I worked closely with Ashley Wilson, the Graham Gund Architect for the National Trust and Allison Semrad, Silman Fellow for 2018 on a number of diverse projects at National Trust sites.

One of my main projects was the documentation and recording of an historic bandstand next to President Lincoln's cottage at the Armed Forces Retirement Home in DC. I prepared a measured drawing set and entered my work into the Leicester B. Holland Prize, a Historic American Building Survey measured drawing competition. Documentation in feet and inches was an interesting experience and I am happy to be coming home to the metric system.

I worked on various local projects including the design and documentation of the Oatlands roof replacement project, the Woodlawn fountain restoration and Brick House external drainage works.

One of the highlights was a weeklong work trip to upstate New York where I visited National Trust properties Chesterwood, Kykuit, and Philip Johnson's Glass House. My lead project was to design changes to the main house at Daniel Chester French's property to allow for accommodation of artists in residence including bathroom and kitchen renovations.

Being based in Washington DC enabled me to explore the East coast of America with ease. I travelled to Baltimore, New York, Virginia, Massachusetts and even inland to Pittsburg on both work and personal trips over the three months. My road trip to Frank Lloyd Wright's Fallingwater and Polymath Park with new friends from work and my Student House was an architectural highlight and although it involved me driving on the wrong side of the road for 5 hours, it was definitely worth it!

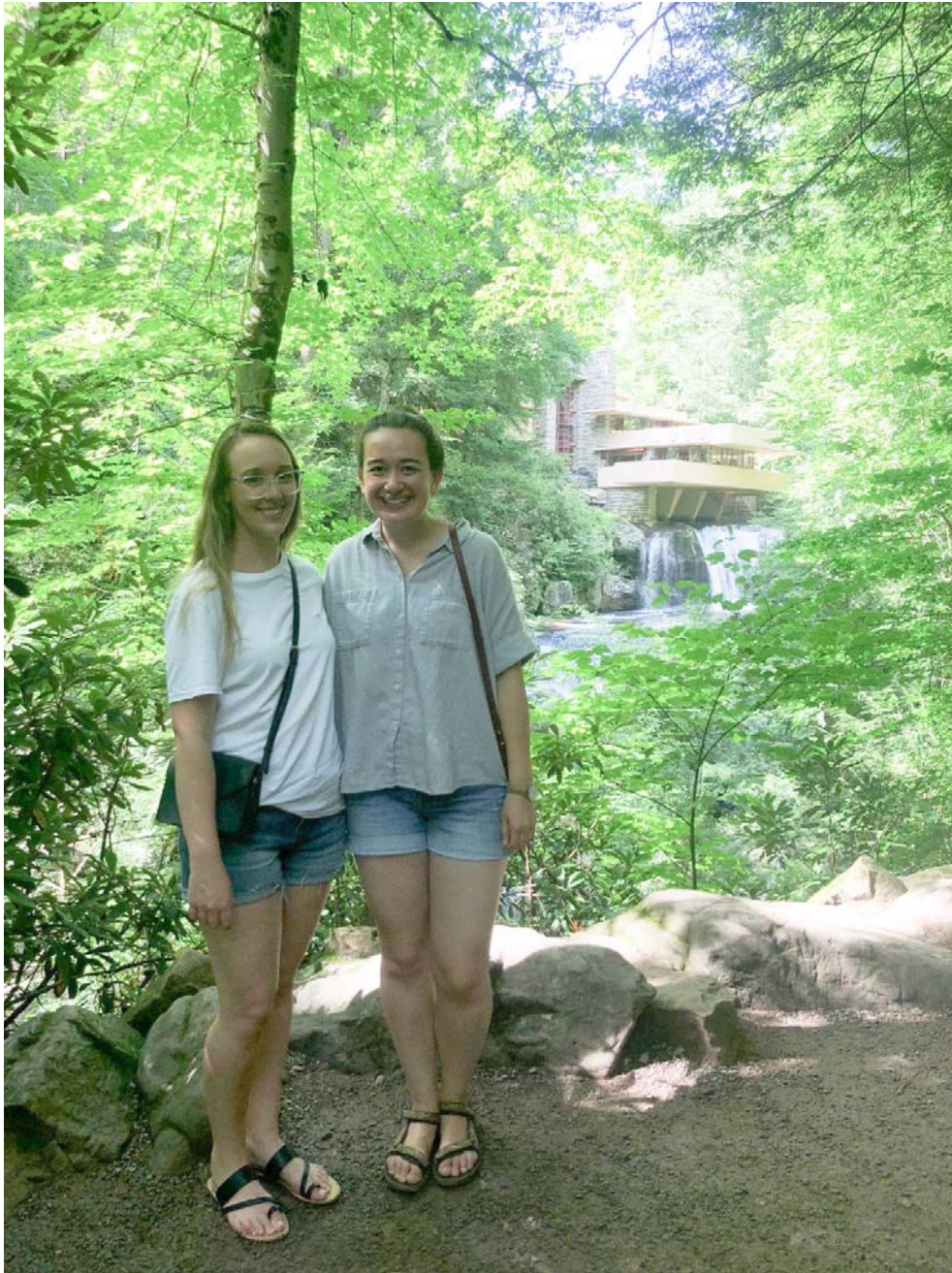
At the end of the internship the other IEP participants joined me back in DC for the closing session and I was able to show them around my favourite places that I frequented during the summer.

The IEP was run seamlessly by US/ICOMOS and my special thanks must go to Brian Leone and Bill Pencek for the effort put into the program. My placement with the National Trust for Historic Preservation could not have been a better match, I was able to learn about their property portfolio and their summer 'brown bag' series was invaluable, providing an insight into the extensive works of the different organizational departments and initiatives run by the non-profit. Thank you to Australia ICOMOS for my nomination to this program and the National Trust of Western Australia who allowed me to take time off for this opportunity. I was very fortunate to have been chosen for this program and would

recommend it to all emerging professionals in Australia, it has strengthened my interest in historic preservation and fueled me to continue working to save our significant Australian heritage places.



Kyra Lomas measuring Lincoln's Cottage Bandstand, June 2018



Kyra Lomas and Allison Semrad visiting Frank Lloyd Wright's Fallingwater, July 2018.