

In 2015, I was awarded a three-month placement on the US/ICOMOS Internship Program as one of a group of ten people from England, India, Mexico, China, Canada, El Salvador and the United States. Beginning the program in Washington D.C, we spent five days attending meetings and being briefed by various organisations associated with US/ICOMOS including the National Parks Service, the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the World Bank. After a busy week visiting historic sites in Washington and meeting preservationists within the city, we departed for our internship placements across the United States and India.

I was extremely fortunate to have been placed at the headquarters of the National Trust for Historic Preservation in Washington D.C. where I worked under the Graeme Gund Architect within the Historic Sites Department.

Myself and one other architectural intern, worked on a variety of projects across the summer and gained access to a diverse range of National Trust sites. One of my main ongoing projects was at Woodlawn Mansion and involved; entering the preservation project into the Best of The South Awards, working on the historic garden restoration and undertaking various research into the history of the cultural landscape at the property. The work identified the early history of the property, condensing and synthesising a number of previous histories and reports into a comprehensive history to be used for future works on site. The historic garden, first restored in the 1950's, was researched again for the proposed works and I prepared drawings for the restoration and a detailed planting list to aid in the restoration works. A second key project at the same site was the exterior wood conservation at Frank Lloyd Wright's Pope-Leighey House. The project had started prior to my arrival with the cleaning of the wood siding and application of Bora-Care to inhibit bio-growth. I assisted on the application of the final protective coat to the wood returning it to an earlier known state.

As part of our work, we were also able to attend a number of site visits to other National Trust properties including Belle Grove and President Lincoln's Cottage.

In addition to our work, and as part of the internship program run by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, interns were able to participate in the summer 'brown bag' series of talks given by various departments within the Trust. Further, I was able to attend a number of further talks by other heritage organisations within D.C. such as a discussion and walking tour of Tax Credit projects, the Association for Preservation Technology trivia night and a Presentation Review Board meeting.

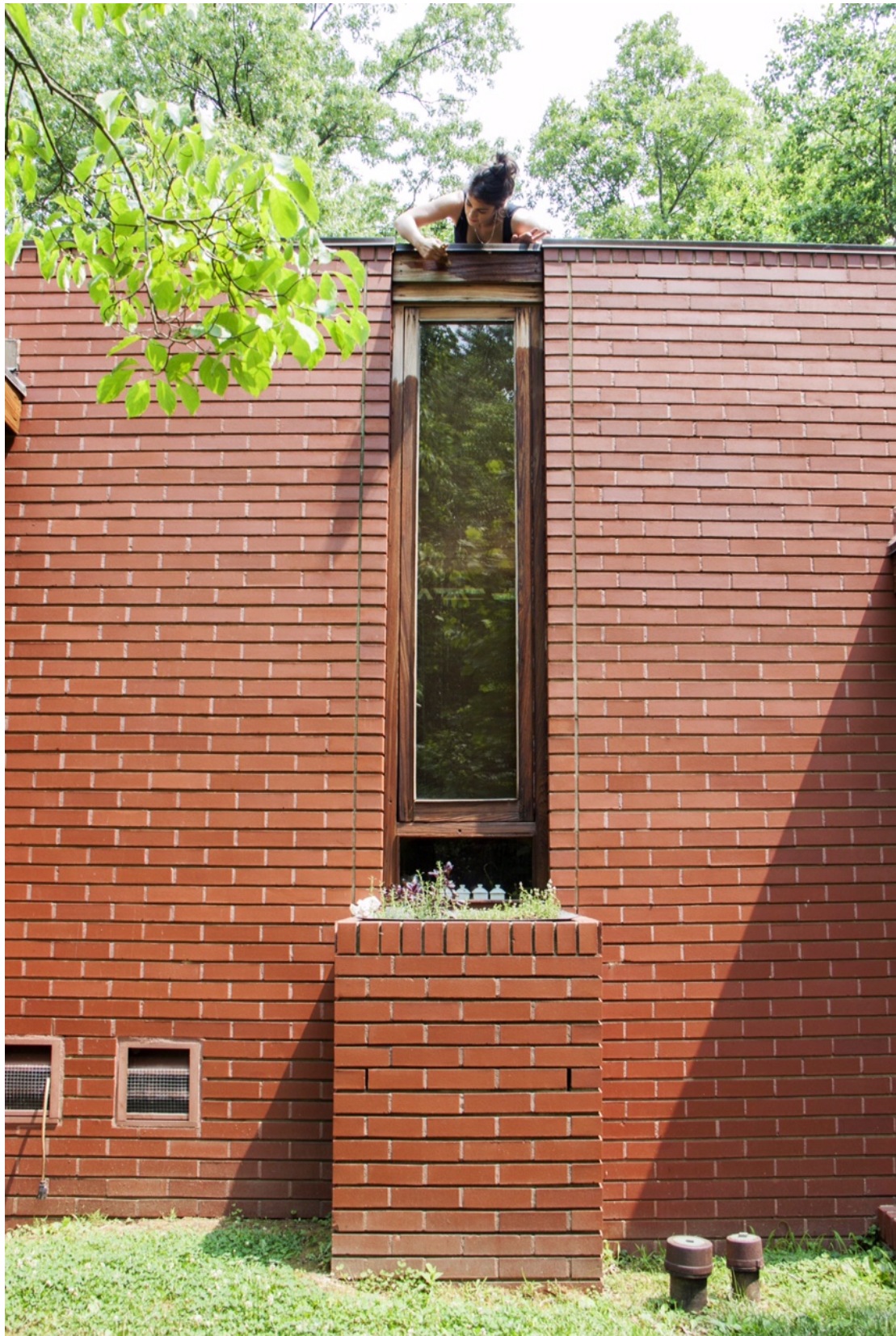
During the internship I lived in the heart of D.C, with other summer interns from different disciplines. With them, I explored all D.C had to offer including many trips to the local watering holes!

At the end of the internship, the other interns returned to Washington for our final presentations and closing program. We were lucky enough as a group to visit Frank Lloyd Wright's Fallingwater before the close of the program, a fantastic experience for all of our group and a definite tick on my architecture bucket-list.

After the completion of the closing program, I remained in the U.S for around six weeks visiting many different cities including Palm Springs, Austin, San Antonio, New Orleans, New York and Chicago. Along the way, I was able to visit a number of amazing architectural masterpieces including the Glass House, Farnsworth House and Frank Lloyd Wright's House and Studio.

My internship experience was fantastic, and definitely worthwhile for my professional development. I came home with wonderful memories, and vital skills and knowledge in international historic preservation. I wish to offer my sincere thanks to Australia ICOMOS for nominating me, my employers at Trethowan Architecture for allowing me the time to take this opportunity, US/ICOMOS and the staff at the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Particular thanks go Ashley Wilson (Graeme Gund Architect) and the Historic Sites Department at the Trust for guiding me through the new system and who made my internship so enjoyable.

Renee Muratore
Graduate Architect & Heritage Consultant



Renee Muratore working on Frank Lloyd Wright's Pope-Leighey House (completed in 1941), National Trust for Historic Preservation.