

I am delighted to share my experience of interning as a Computational designer at Henning Larsen Architects (HLA), located in Copenhagen, Denmark. I pursued this internship during the winter semester of 2022-23, which lasted for six months, from September 2022 until the end of February 2023. During this period, I was a master's student of Computational Design at TH-OWL, Detmold, Germany.

The application process for the internship was relatively straightforward. I stumbled upon an advertisement for the computational design (CD) internship on Jakob Strømmand Andersen's LinkedIn, who is the Head of Innovation and Sustainability at HLA. The company was looking for CD interns in four different areas, including robotic fabrication, microclimate analysis, data analysis, and generative design. Given my interest in these areas, I sent in my application, comprising a CV, portfolio, and a cover letter. Within a couple of days, I received a link to an interview with Iliana Papadopoulou, the Computational Design Specialist at HLA. During the interview, I discussed the works in my portfolio. Within two days of the interview, I received an offer to work for HLA for a year, with a monthly salary of 8000 DKK for the first six months and 10000 DKK for the next six months. However, the salary was subject to tax reduction, lunch, Culture club subscription, and unemployment rate payment, resulting in my receiving only half of the actual salary.

Regarding accommodation, I rented a room in a house located 40 minutes from my workplace. The cost of the room was 4000 DKK, which included all necessary amenities. However, I also had to bear the transportation cost, which amounted to approximately 600 DKK. To find the room, I relied on a Facebook group (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/903433176531524/>) and a paid website called Bolig portal, which had more options. Within a few days, I received two room offers. My accommodation advice would be to find a place as close to your workplace as possible, to reach it within ten minutes by cycling, given that cycling can be challenging in Copenhagen during winter. I should also add that everyone in the city cycle so it is so convenient to get a bike when you arrive to both save money and time in the period you stay in CPH.

HLA has an active culture club that plans events for the entire year, including summer and Christmas parties, bingo, and foosball (Table football) championships, among others. Others also organize parallel events such as soccer or Pétanque. There is always a Friday bar in the canteen, which provides an opportunity to connect and socialize with colleagues at the end of the week. The canteen is also used for monthly meetings and other occasional events.

Working hours in Denmark as an intern is 37 hours per week, which is divided by 7.23 hours per day in 5 days a week. Working at HLA need you to be there in person since most of the time you can get involved in discussion and projects. Somehow, you have the option to work remotely sometimes from home.

About the Finances, what I would say addition to what I already mentioned, is the cost of meals and everything, which at the time I did my internship was about 1.3 -1.5 times of the price in Germany. However, one can find every international cuisine in the city, providing many opportunities to sample different cultures.

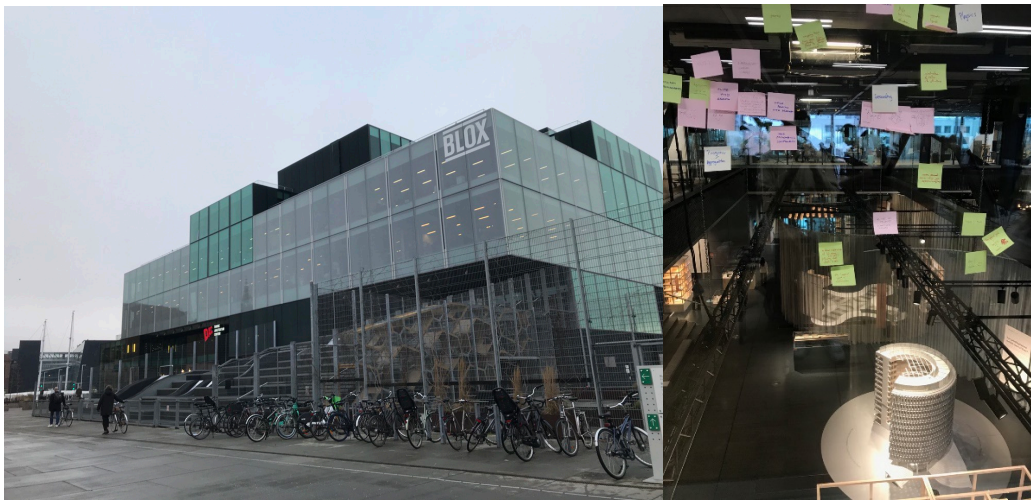
To receive my salary, I opened a Danish bank account, and I would recommend LUNAR, an online banking service that one can open as soon as getting their CPR number. One essential aspect that most people tend to overlook is registering for a tax card in Denmark. Unlike in Germany, this process is not automatic, and you need to use the website "www.skat.dk" or contact them via phone or chat to get one. To avoid paying double tax, it is recommended that you get your tax card in the first month of your arrival in

Denmark. If you do not, you will have to wait until March or April of the following year to receive a refund. For more tips on living in Denmark, you can visit the website <https://international.kk.dk/moving-to>.

Overall, my experience as an intern at HLA was fantastic. I had the opportunity to work in a high-level architectural company with knowledgeable and experienced colleagues. Most of the other interns were doing a master's degree and came from all over the world. We formed a small community in the office and organized many side activities after working hours. I made many friends from different countries, and it was a great experience to learn from experts in the field and make connections with specialists in computational design.

Denmark is a country with friendly culture, and almost everyone speaks English, so you will not have communication problems. However, the weather and dark winters can be challenging, with strong winds and early sunsets around 4 pm. You may need to supplement your vitamin D intake during the darker months.

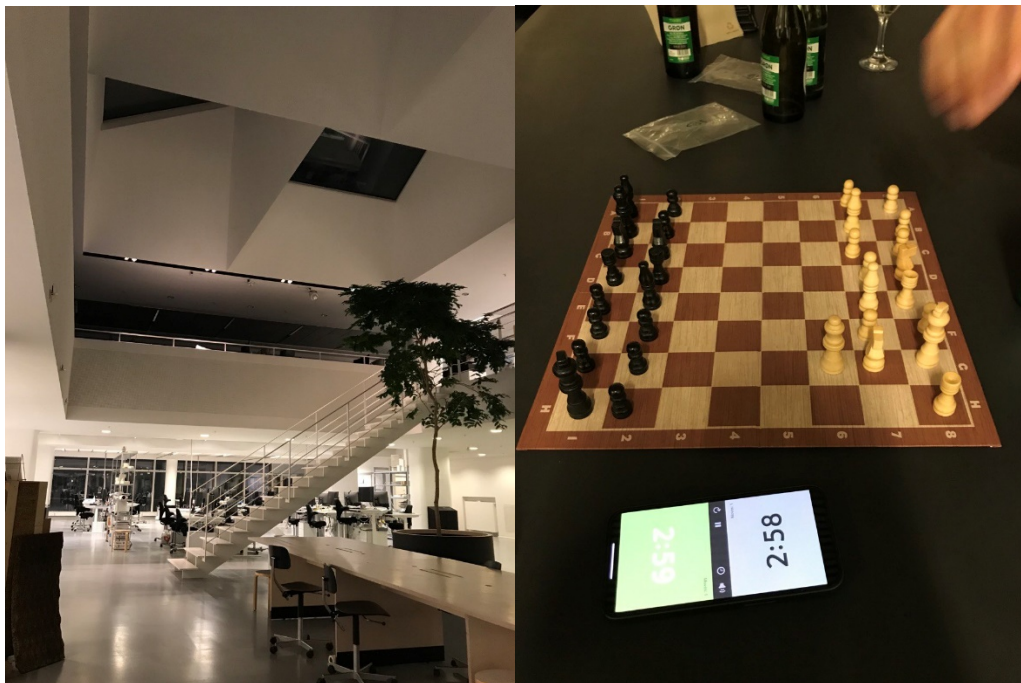
Overall, I highly recommend pursuing an internship at HLA and experiencing Danish culture firsthand.



*Generative design hackathon at BLOXHUB*



*Events organized by interns at intern's apartment. (Turkish, Greek, Cantonese Cuisine)*



*Henning Larsen Office after working hours, and Friday-bar event.*