

The Internship Diaries: NYC Edition

Godo Zabur Singh Ubhi
Transsolar, New York

Since childhood, I have been deeply immersed in the marvels of nature and have always been captivated by its ingenious and energy-efficient solutions to the challenges that afflict our world today. With a strong desire to create better buildings and environments, I embarked upon an internship with the help of PEP2022 in Transsolar, a visionary sustainability firm in New York that draws inspiration from nature to design a more sustainable world.

My journey at Transsolar was filled with exploration, growth, and learning. From the moment I stepped into their office, I knew that I was in for an experience of a lifetime. New York City was my playground, and I felt like a tiny ant crawling around the bustling city streets. The winding roads of Manhattan and the energy of Union Square all contributed to my inspiration.

My first day was nerve-racking but also exciting. I was fifteen minutes early, and I brought a plant for my desk. As I entered the studio office, I was greeted by the stunning skyline of New York, workstations with screens and plants, and the sound of a coffee machine brewing coffee. Erik, my mentor, introduced me to the team and gave me a brief presentation on the projects I would be working on. I was overwhelmed by the big names that Transsolar was collaborating with and could not believe I would be working on a project with my inspiration, Bjarke Ingels.

My internship started with creating architectural conceptual illustrations for the Oceanix project using illustrator software. My colleague Mariana was generous in teaching me the software and terminologies used in presentations. We explored different New York restaurants and played table tennis during lunch breaks. The work felt more like fun work, and I learned something new every day.

As time passed, my tasks became more complex. I prepared reports detailing climate and sun-position analysis, created sketches to illustrate climate and energy concepts, and analyzed façade cladding materials based on Embodied and Operational Carbon. I also helped my colleagues to create presentations for Net Zero Carbon and Net-zero Energy Buildings.

My journey at Transsolar changed my design approach and gave me a whole new definition of sustainability. It inspired me to write my façade master thesis on circular economy to accelerate sustainable architecture. Every day was a learning experience, and I captured some of the moments that I will cherish for a lifetime.

