



Architecture in an artistic context

Before departure

I applied for the exchange semester to the Academy of Arts, Architecture and Design i Prague, as it was a school with a very broad artistic offer on classes. Chosing between Clay modeling, book binding and figure drawing next to an extremely interesting architectural studio which is theme wise very connected to my studies at Kth seemed like a great source of inspiration and vivid creative processes.

Upon arrival

I arrived one month before the semester started, found myself a great flat share and checked out the cultural scene of the city while preparing my new nest as an environment that i could feel comfortable in. I was very lucky as there was a very young kitten in the flat share as well and my flat mate introduced me to nice people of the neighbourhood. As the school started I already felt integrated and took part in the first organised trips and get-together's of the exchange coordination and students. Everybody was very welcoming and we became very close very quickly.

Financials

I received the erasmus grant and additionally have a students loan that helped me to finance my stay. As the Czech republic is a much cheaper environment then Sweden the exchange brought me a better living standard for a students budget, than i had in Stockholm.

Accommodation

I found my accomodation over facebook groups where normal flat shares are offering vacant rooms. The university offers accomodation for exchange students as well, though only in shared rooms, why i preferred to look myself.

University and studies

The university was a small university of applied arts, where next to my subject, architecture, there are taught fashion design, ceramics, glass design, animation and photography, sculpturing and so on. The studios are very small and well prepared and the students are very passionate about their art and the school environment. A lot of exhibitions are happening over the whole period and in the end the whole school is having a final exhibition where within a few days the whole building transforms from a

working environment into a multi gallery hub of art, design and architecture. a regular day consisted of a mix of free studio work, consultations, workshops and lectures, why it never was boring. The teaching language my studio was english, though most of the studios are held in czech, but there is a good offer of english classes and workshops for exchange students.

Courses

My courses have been:

Bookbinding: A very nice workshop where we learned different techniques of bookbinding and parperhandling. Very meditative and calm. Therefor great for anti anxiety training..

Clay Modeling: This workshop took place in the evenings and we learned how to sculpts a skull. You really learn a lot, but it's not as free as i was hoping in the beginning, as you mainly learned the traditional crafts of clay modeling.

Architecture Studio: I have ben in Imrich Vaskos architectural studio, which was extremely nice. A lot of freedom in design and support from the co students and teachers. I would only recommend it though, if you know already where your interests lie, otherwise one could get lost in the liberty of project development.

Czech Art and Architecture in International context; A very interesting class, where one can learn the full connection of history in Art and Architecture, the different European movements and intertwining of styles and the czech personalities in it.

Lithography Workshop: Very nice and rare workshop, where you can be completely free in creating a print design learning the old craftsmanship of lithography (lime stone print)

Computational Design Seminar: With Shota Tsikolya, a very good teacher and junior professor, where one explores different approaches on computational design.

Generative Design Workshop: Same room and teacher as the above, but now you can apply your knowledge by using Grasshopper, Kangaroo and other Plugins for paramatric design tools. The end task is free of choice again.

City and country

Prague is a fantastic city and very nice, especially if you are in the context of the UMPRUM school, I have never been at so many arts, architecture and design events and exhibitions before, and really enjoyed the vivid, free scene that you become a part of right away.

Leisure and social activities

Inviting each other to the studios and exhibitions is the main social activity here, as well as meeting your fellow students in pubs in the evenings. A great spot for social people!

Other recommendations and observations

I would definitely recommend to live with czech people in a flat share, as the schools environment is a nice international bubble in order to actually get into the czech Prague as well.