

East Coast Vibe – Katy Lowe, 3rd Year BLA

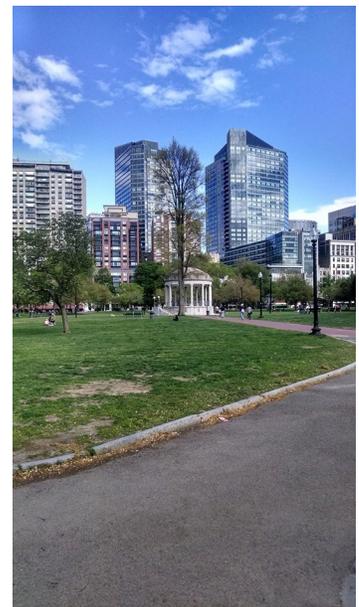
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Heading in to the summer after my second year of college, I really had no idea what my future in Landscape Architecture held for me or what area of the field I wanted to pursue. Traveling on the East Coast Field Trip helped me to understand the field of Landscape Architecture at a greater scale and ultimately led me to a love of Urban Park Design.

The first stop on the trip was Boston, Massachusetts. Walking around on that first day, touring historic Boston, I was immediately enamored with the mix of historic and modern architecture, enamored with the old and the new functioning so well together in one city. Public Garden, Boston Common, The Emerald Necklace, Quincy Market: all public places and parks, all built at different times in Boston's history, all seamlessly fitting into the overall aesthetic of Boston to create, in my opinion, one of America's greatest cities and hopefully my future home.

Other stops on the trip included Newport, New York City, Philadelphia, Concord, and ending where we began: Boston. While visiting each of these cities, my peers and I had the pleasure of visiting with well-known Landscape Architecture firms. Being able to visit these firms and experience the actual workplace of my future helped me decide what type of office environment I want to work in and what firms I want to target for internships and future workplaces. Visiting these firms also helped in the sense that we were able to have an open dialogue with principals and designers who are currently in the workforce. We were able to ask questions about what it's like to be an entry level designer and what sort of tasks we would be doing fresh out of college. These conversations cleared up a lot of lingering questions in my mind and made me more comfortable and excited for my future as a Landscape Architect.



As a Landscape Architect, traveling is something that is very important, not only because it's fun and a vacation, but because it is paramount to experience different places and the culture that comes along with those places. These experiences begin to influence your designs and way of thinking about the world in ways that only traveling can. Things that I experienced on the East Coast trip will continue to influence my studio work and my choice of work place and future home. Overall, I would recommend this trip to any student and I would make the statement that traveling in general is one of the most important aspects of personal development to help you advance in Landscape Architecture.

