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12-31-2019

NewSchool of Architecture + Design

## 2019 Pillars Scholarship Reflection

*Q: Why did you apply and what were your goals for the summer?*

I applied to the Pillars Scholarship because I felt like the moment was right. I had seen the scholarship for two years and always wanted to apply, but I did not have a feasible topic narrowed down. Then, after receiving a skateboarding scholarship from the CSEF (Collage Skateboarding Education Foundation) and taking the class “Evolution of Surfing and Skateboarding” I thought about doing something skateboarding related on the west coast (the best coast). In this way, I would not have to travel to Europe or somewhere far away and could better utilize the budget. By choosing this topic I knew I could make something unique and personal. Finally, I asked Lucy Campbell what she thought of two ideas. I don’t even remember what the other idea was, but she liked the skateboarding one so I was like, “you know what, this is a sign” so I went for it. I am always looking for these metaphysical signs to influence actions during my stay on spaceship earth. Praise God. All the Glory to God.

My goal for the summer was to rigorously document spots I have been skating my entire life, but never documented. Building skate spots and being around concrete and wood work highly influenced my decision to embark on a built-environment based career path. My buddy Dan from Seattle had a rad online website he started in the early 2000s (northwestskater.com) that documented all these different skate parks. I loved this website and wanted to do something similar in book format. I also wanted to reenter the world of photography and storytelling which are passions of the creative artist. The goal was to drive from SD all the way up to my old northwest stomping grounds and take the ferry to Orcas Island- the skatepark mecca, and then head back down.

*Q: How did your activity relate to the Pillars?*

**Professional Practice.** Documenting case studies of form can inform a professional design business that builds and designs skate parks. I also met with some park builders who told me about construction techniques.

**Human Welfare.** Skateboarding is an enjoyable activity that has saved numerous lives despite being an outlaw activity punishable by the law.

**Environmental Empathy.** Instead of big grass fields that need water, skateboarding spots require little maintenance. Not only that, but skateboarding is human powered (non gasoline powered)

**Community & Industry Engagement.** This was an attempt to engage community members and industry in benefits and intricacies of skate spot design and history.

**Data & Technology.** The data was collected and the technology was utilized. Including data on spot history and technology including film production and 3d printing.

*Q: How did your travels contribute to your personal educational goals, the profession, and NewSchool?*

I felt like a real life professional researcher and author and photographer and designer which is the goal of the education to prepare for a life of this kind of work and it honestly felt so enjoyable I cannot even call it “work” but more like rigorous play. I am proposing a new architectural language that is both interactive and sculptural which could be new products and services for the profession to utilize. NewSchool hopefully will be seen as a huge player in the future of the skate design discipline- a new field.

In conclusion this research inspired the book I am currently writing, *49 Western Skate Spots: The Architecture of Movement*. The second part of this research, or where the case study analysis is going is toward the “Speculation on Form” which is taking these existing skate spots and injecting them into architecture. This project, **Skateable Architectures**, was just chosen as one of the 2020 AIAS CRIT Scholar Projects. I will be one of the Fellows in the 2020 AIAS CRIT Scholar Research Fellowship. So, this will hopefully be another exciting project and will most likely transform into my thesis year topic. I am eternally grateful to the NewSchool Foundation for their support. NewSchool of Architecture and Design offers so much to students willing to take a chance and dive into the work.