

2014

MIT Museum

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NANA ADU-KOFI

SENIOR INTEGRATIVE PROJECT:
INTERNSHIP

ARCHITECTURAL STUDIES
CONNECTICUT COLLEGE
2014



CONNECTICUT
COLLEGE



MIT Museum

Internship

Architectural Studies
Integrative Project
Summer 2013

Nana Adu-Kofi
Class of 2014

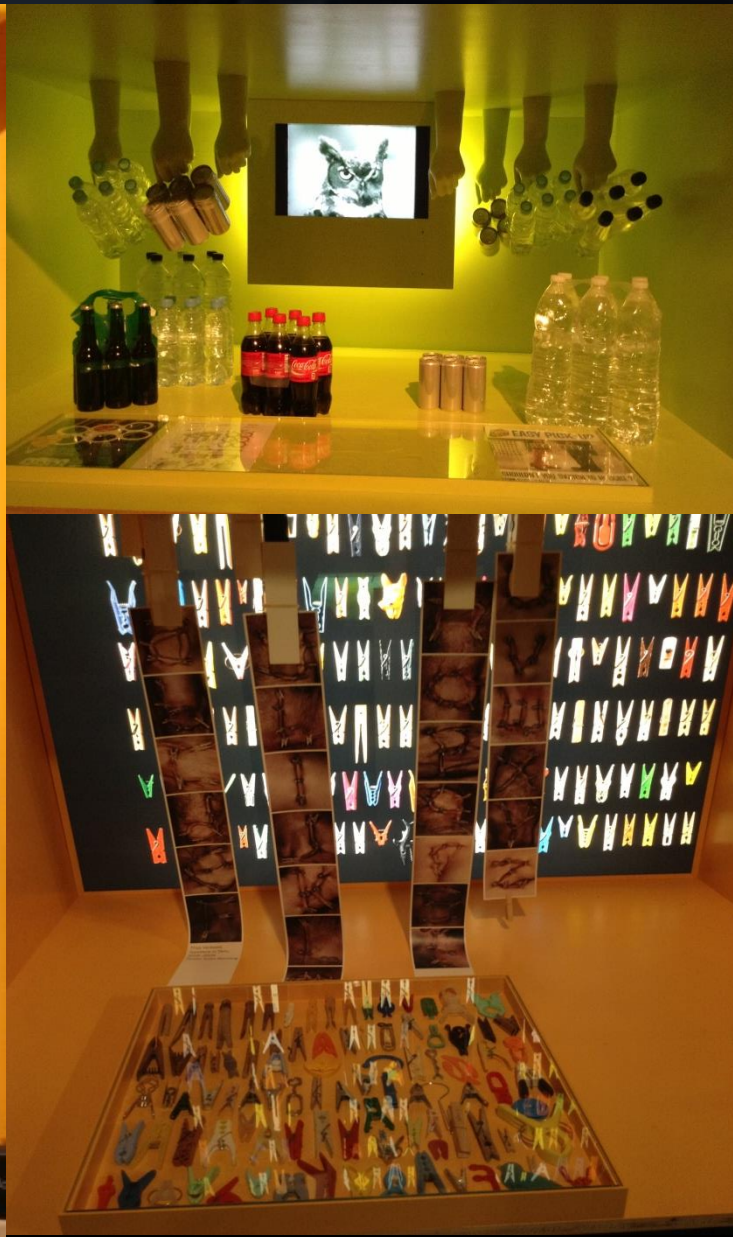
MIT Museum

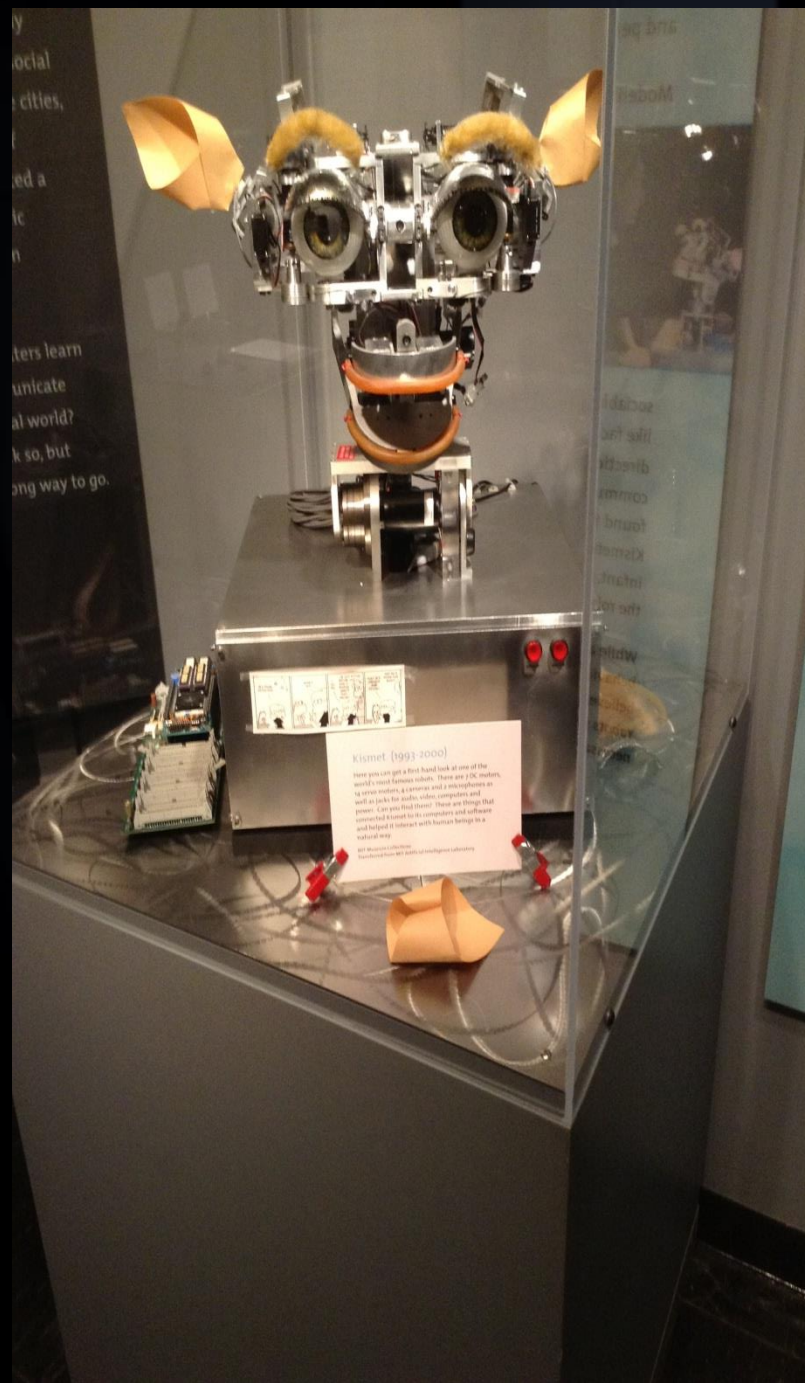
- The MIT museum is a small sized museum of about **30+** staff workers.
- The MIT Museum displays work done by MIT school and aims to inform the public about the world of science and technology.
- This is done by collecting and preserving artifacts from MIT and then being able to research and exhibit such information to the public.

Inside the Museum

Past
Exhibition
over the
summer of
2013:

“Hidden
Heroes: The
Genius of
Everyday
Things”





- The MIT Museum is widely known for their research and development on robotics as well as other mechanical devices for the future.



'Intern Life'

- The general atmosphere of the museum was relaxed and very peaceful to work in.
- I worked in the Collections department, specifically under the Architectural Design department.
- I primarily worked with my boss Gary Van Zante (photo on the right) and Amber Sinicrope as well as other curators.



My Workspace



Tasks

- General tasks included photocopies, scans and other administrative necessities.
- However I did happen to work on major projects such as inventorying big scale architectural drawings of major designs of built and unbuilt structures.





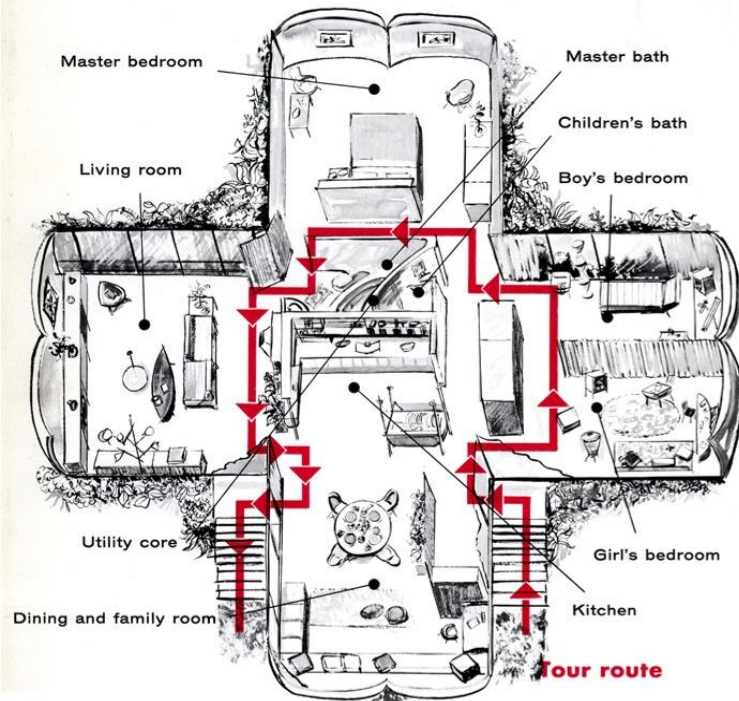
- I also worked with a 'Creative Photography' box collection containing student work photography.





- Also had the extra task of replacing and rearranging architectural magazines with hard bound journals.
- Saved space and easier to locate specific editions.

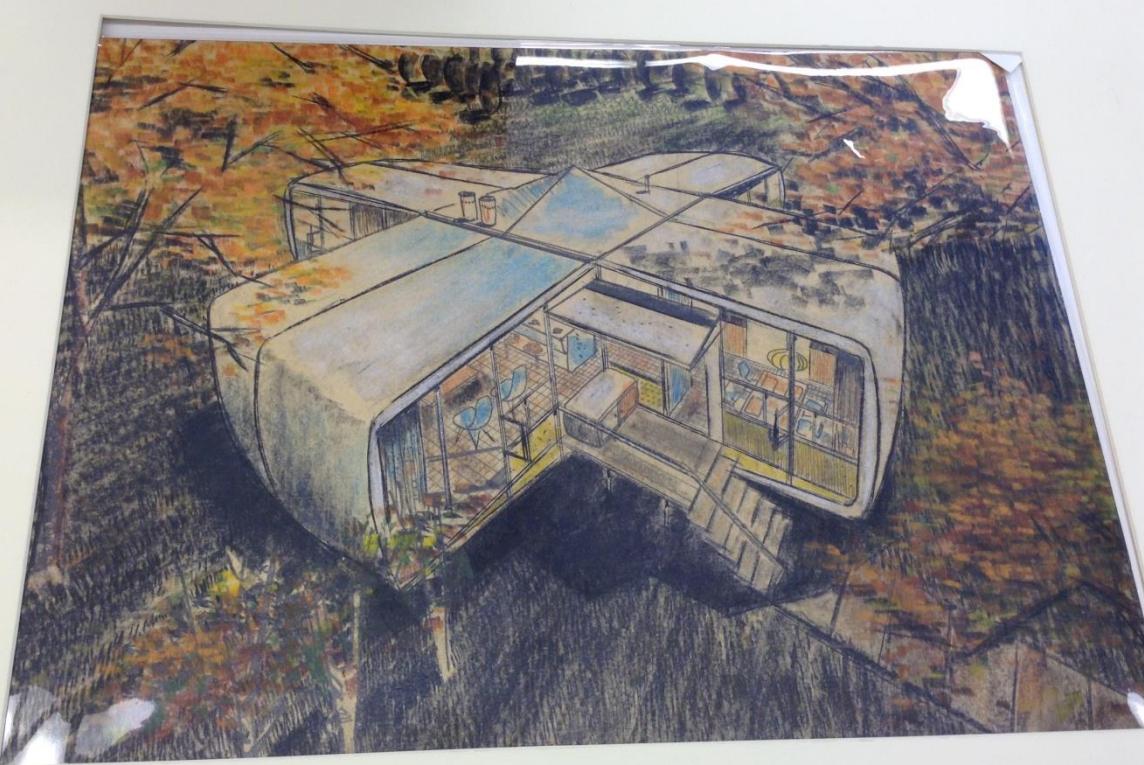
Monsanto House of the Future



- A major project I enjoyed working on was the 'Monsanto House of The Future' collection.
- The Monsanto House of The Future was a walkthrough all plastic house exhibition done in 1957-1967 at Anaheim, California.

Monsanto House of the Future

- Monsanto Company, a chemical company, sponsored this exhibition to promote the use of plastics in building material due to its durability and affordability.
- The design of the house was done by MIT, Walt Disney Imagineering and Monsanto Company. The plastic housing shows off its functional and aesthetic abilities in its simple minimalist design as well as its durability from its curved outer shell design.
- The house exhibited household appliances that 'could' be used in the future such as microwaves, ovens, dishwashers as well as electronic table tops.



- Today the only major photographs, letters, drawings, recordings and model pieces lies within the MIT Museum architectural collections department.
- I had the privilege to work with them for a future exhibit at the museum.

Monsanto House of the Future

- I was assigned to re organize many folders containing exclusive information on the MHOF; they were mostly letters, meeting plans and memos about the creation and destruction of MHOF.
- These letters were from the staff team at MIT and Monsanto Company.
- I was also assigned to scan a whole bunch of developed photographs showing processed creation, exhibit and destruction of MHOF, which will be used later on a special website designed by MIT. I was also able to measure out large scale architectural drawings for this project and inventory the information needed.



ITEM NO. 1110

ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS-HOUSE OF THE FUTURE. BOX 1



Filing of
MHOF Documents

Piece of original model of MHOF.
Only physical object existing,
donated to MIT museum



- Working with other media for MHOF project - transferring data from old devices to digital commons harddrive -



Reel video on MHOF



Overall Experience + Advice

- My original internship objectives were met by being exposed to many different architectural drawings which served as an inspiration for my major in architectural studies.
- Before coming to the MIT museum, I had no experience in inventorying; however my boss and supervisor helped me to gain that skill by assigning me different tasks, such as organizing and recording student photography work using MIMSY software which is a software that helps in management of large collections.
- That experience was also fulfilled by the organization and research objectives. However, I wasn't able to take part in exhibition tours and attend many informational staff meetings which were probably due to the work load I was receiving.

Overall Experience + Advice

- In terms of professional experiences, my internship helped me to be a self-starter as I was mostly working alone.
- Projects and general tasks would be given to me and it was my responsibility to get them done on time and move on to the next one. This responsibility also enhanced my organization skills which will affect my senior year in a positive way to get specific tasks done on time.
- I was also able to apply critical thinking skills in inventorying information from the collections box of MHOF.
- Overall I really enjoyed this internship. Everyone there was approachable and ready to help
- I would recommend anyone who is interested in museum curating or anyone who would want a general work experience to go for this job.



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