

# Personal Statement

## 2015, Architecture, Gonville and Caius College

Architecture is the form of art that moves me the most. On the one hand, an architect does not have the creative freedom a painter has, since he is bound by the fact that he has to create a piece of art with a function, a function that affects and restricts the form. On the other hand, when an architect is able to create something that speaks to its users, it can be extremely effective as a building, a powerful statement, and yet an enchanting work of art. As Renzo Piano said, architecture is all around us and cannot be avoided: "You can put down a bad book; you can avoid listening to bad music; but you cannot miss the ugly tower block opposite your house."

Architecture is also the perfect combination of my interests and favourite subjects - physics, maths, art history. From this initial realisation, it slowly became my passion. The experience that really confirmed this choice was a week-long internship at Zoboki-Demeter Architects this August. Seeing the practice in action (I could follow Gábor Zoboki to all his meetings and saw the design process first hand) I understood that being an architect combines long hours of planning and designing with teamwork and experimentation. I attended meetings and field work and got to see how the architect's profession actually "works", for example obtaining building permits, how tasks are divided and also what aspects an architect has to consider in the first steps of designing. I was shown how to use ArchiCAD and how to turn sketches into 3D graphics and mock-ups. I also gained insights into how a concert hall can be provided with excellent acoustics, (which interested me especially due to my musical upbringing and the fact that I had performed in an auditorium designed by Mr Zoboki), how monuments are preserved and how to integrate a new building or a whole new neighbourhood into a given urban context.

To prepare for my studies, this summer I attended art history, psychology and sociology courses in English. For an essay on Borromini's Sant'Ivo alla Sapienza I read numerous articles on the topic by J. Connors, P. du Prey and W. Hauptman. It was fascinating to see an architect's many sources of inspiration and how symbology can enrich a building. This church is uniquely innovative, with its hexagonal groundplan, helical lantern tower and ornaments that harmoniously mix Solomonic, biblical and naturalist symbols with the heraldry of 3 consecutive papal families. While art history really helped me focus on my main subject, psychology and sociology broadened my horizons generally. In sociology and psychology I explored the pros and cons of legalising prostitution and the fact that 2/3 of prostitutes have symptoms of Posttraumatic Stress Disorder after leaving the sex industry.

I am attending 2 art courses where I am developing my skills in still life and portrait drawing, as well as free form compositions, architectural and 3D sketching in various media, model making, and monochrome and coloured studies. I also completed standard and advanced photography courses; what catches my eye the most are small architectural details that are only visible with the camera's zoom.

I successfully competed in fencing championships nationally and internationally for 5 years. I always enjoyed the flow, elegance and the dynamics of this sport and the grace of the movements, and it also made me more humble and hard-working to reach my goals. Being half Italian and half Hungarian gave me a talent for languages, and in addition to Italian and Hungarian I speak English

and intermediate Russian. I got to apply and improve my language skills volunteering at a Jewish charity shop in a youth hostel 3 times a week this summer.

I believe the UK is the best place for the kind of challenging international education in architecture I'm looking for. With my Central European and Italian roots, I believe that studying in the UK would allow me to develop a cosmopolitan yet personal approach to architecture.