



Design meets engineering In North Carolina

Two months can be both a very short period of time and a very long one. Short in the sense that when you spend it working in a new country it goes by quicker than you would believe possible. Long if you measure it in the number of new experiences, people and situations you have encountered. That is why I would rather use a word like awesome to describe my summer in Raleigh, North Carolina.

Montie Design is a product design and development firm that's working in the borderlands between industrial design and engineering. As such it's the perfect place to work as an intern if you happen to be a student of Industrial Design Engineering. The main activity of the company is to do consulting work for other companies, encompassing everything up to ground up construction and engineering. It does however also have a product range of its own, under the name Montie Gear, which consists primarily of shooting and outdoor equipment.

During my summer at Montie Design I've had the chance to experience numerous different work assignments. Working at a smaller company means that everyone is expected to do a little bit of everything and for me as an intern it has meant that I have had to learn a lot of different things. Seeing that Montie Design to a certain degree manufactures its own prototypes one part of my work has involved the preparation and assembly of these. A job that is very hands on and requires knowledge of the available machinery, knowledge I've been happy to gain. As part of this education process I have also had the opportunity to visit several suppliers in order to learn more about manufacturing methods such as laser cutting and 3d printing.

On the other side of the scale, I have also been working with product development all the way from its very first phases of gathering information and analysing the potential gaps in a product line-up to creating and evaluating different ideas. Part of this work has been carried out together with American design interns which has been very rewarding, the differences are often smaller than one might imagine despite different culture and educational background.

Southern hospitality can turn a trip to the grocery store into a social event

I also had the privilege of doing my own project, one over which I had the responsibility both to come up with the idea and then to develop it to its fullest potential. This project eventually resulted in me developing a shooting bench, i.e. a bench on which the shooter can sit while simultaneously offering a stable support for the weapon in order to drastically improve the accuracy of the shooting. The project included everything from benchmarking the competition and performing user studies to sketching and later to prepare computer models for the production of prototypes. Among the issues that had to be taken into consideration were the image of the existing Montie Gear products, different materials and their properties, assembly, cost of production and much, much more. The biggest challenge was that my shooting table not only had to be extremely stable, it also had to be portable. This resulted in a lightweight fiberglass construction which will probably be available in the Montie Gear range in the future.

A summer should contain a lot more than only work however



Opposite page: Because of the heat, soccer was typically played late in the evenings. Up, left: Machining some prototype parts in the workshop. Right: Using the help of my caddies when playing golf in Georgia. Down left: Trying out race cars in the mountains.

and this one surely has. One way in which I have tried to get a deeper insight into the American culture has been to do something which doesn't feel very American at all, playing soccer. Together with my teammates in Molson Safelite I have participated in a summer tournament which has seen me play two games a week pretty much the entire summer. And although we missed out on the championship win by a single point, that disappointment was insignificant when considering all the good times the team had during the summer.

Having visited Raleigh in the past I knew that although its population is similar to that of Gothenburg, there are plenty of differences. Public transportation for example is more or less non-existent and so I ended up depending a lot on my unfortunately not very dependable Volvo, it did however bring much happiness when it did work. Having a car is especially important since there are many things to see within a few hours drive from Raleigh. Among these I had my most memorable experience camping in the Blue Ridge Mountains although trips to Georgia and Florida showed some of what neighbouring states had to offer as well.

Living in North Carolina, a southern state, has added an extra sense of exoticism to my summer. While the accent, the food, the heat (in this record summer 40°C days soon lost their novelty) and much else were daily reminders the one thing that I'll remember most is the southern hospitality, something which could turn even the tiniest trip to the grocery store into a social event.

Finally I wish to send out my greatest thanks to everyone at Montie Design and all others who have made this summer one to remember. I would especially like to say thank you to my boss Montie Roland for having me as an intern and for focusing not only on what I could do for his company but also what I could gain from my internship. None of this would have been possible without the existence of the USA Summer Internship Program however and that in itself comes down to a group of hardworking students with generous support from a number of companies and organizations. I am most grateful to all of you, it will be with joy and pride that I look back on my time as editor for this amazing organization.

Jesper Frithiofsson

Born: December 19th, 1988 in Linköping | **Present Education:** Bachelor of Science in Industrial Design Engineering | **Best memory:** Camping in the Blue Ridge Mountains | **Future plans:** Unitech exchange studies at RWTH Aachen, Germany

Montie Design

Founded: 2006 | **Situated:** Morrisville, NC | **Employees:** 10 | **Business area:** Product Development | **Hosting interns since:** 2011 | **Homepage:** www.montie.com
