ANANNYA DAS.

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Possessing a passion for creativity since childhood, I, have always been interested in Architecture. As a future architect, I like to describe myself as a passion-driven curious individual. I have a keen interest in sustainable architecture and research that persuades thought-provoking concepts. After earning my bachelor's degree in Architecture from the Indian Education Society, Mumbai, I decided to pursue my Master's degree at Iowa State University; here, I discovered my zeal for sustainable design.

I have demonstrated my inclination for architectural design through progressive studio performances. However, being someone interested in the aftermath of the built environment we live in, my preference in architecture quickly grew towards integrated design, which, in my opinion, is an amalgamation of having experiential qualities and making the design energy efficient.

The journey began when I started to have a better understanding of the world, and all I wanted to do was make a difference. Last year, we had the opportunity to participate in the COTE Top Ten Awards, and this is where I decided to test my capabilities as a designer and explore the niche of sustainable design. Our project; Bazaar 324- a net-zero design set in an old warehouse district in downtown Memphis, Tennessee, made it to the Students Top ten Awards for COTE. After working on this project, my definition of "good" design has changed- anything that I design now needs to abide by the Ten measures of COTE. My most recent venture was my summer internship with OPN Architects, where I got an insight into the professional world, I would soon be a part of.

After reflecting on my journey so far, one integral point that realized was that, to design better, you need to have a holistic approach and ideate your thinking towards the community you want to make a difference in.