

MATTHEW TILLINGHAST

Architectural Designer Pursuing Licensure | Planner

Masters of Architecture | University of Oklahoma | 2023
B.S. Environmental Design | University of Oklahoma | 2020

Personal Statement

From an early age, I was pulled between two passions: the creativity of theater and the techtonics of how things worked. I loved the way theater told stories and moved people, while science satisfied my need to analyze, explain, and build. I struggled to find a path that truly reflected both sides of who I was. When I discovered architecture, the pieces clicked into place. It became the perfect harmony of art and science—design as storytelling, structure as physics, and the built environment as a living expression of human creativity. Architecture is more than a career for me; it is what allows me to describe all aspects of my personality and self.

U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Overseas Buildings Operations (OBO)

Master Planning Division, Planner September 2024 to September 2025

- Provided project planning, coordination, and execution for OBO's Capital Planingng Process (CPP). CPP manages \$1B annual budget world wide on diplomatic facility planning projects.
- Led the Business Case Evaluation (BCE) for the U.S. Embassy in Georgetown, Guyana, overseeing a multidisciplinary team of 20 Engineering Design Consultants. Produced a strategic plan with actionable recommendations that informed high-level decision-making by the Executive Steering Committee.
- Prepared and delivered technical briefings to senior leadership, highlighting key decisions, risks, and next steps.
- Integrated the art of design and science of planning to advance U.S. diplomatic infrastructure, shaping spaces that facilitate international collaboration, policy goals, and culturally informed, functional environments.

Architecture and Design Division, Design Manager

February 2024 to September 2024

- Evaluated designs for embassies, consulates, and representational residences, ensuring alignment with OBO standards and functional requirements.
- Provided design coordination for OBO and post driven projects, facilitating seamless collaboration between architects, engineers, and consultants. Ensured that OBO standards and requirements were incorporated by all design disciplines.
- Prepared preliminary and final design documentation for OBO and Post driven projects for which no contract architect was commissioned.
- Pursued professional development in architectural trends, workplace and residential design, interior design, and construction tectonics to broaden expertise, support long-term growth, and ensure design excellence.
- Contributed to technical coordination of sensitive, highly complex design/construction information for OBO and Posts.
- Leveraged architectural creativity and tectonic precision to craft diplomatic spaces that embody the intersection of art, science, and the human experience.

Architecture and Design Division, Pathways Intern

May 2023 to February 2024

- Led the OBO Barrier Free survey effort for the US Missions to NATO, the European Union, and Belgium.
- Crafted contracts and scopes of work for submittal to contracted firms.
- Researched historical context and provided design direction for the Brussels New Embassy Compound (NEC).
- Researched and developed approaches to alternative delivery methods for multiple projects on the Baghdad Diplomatic Support Compound (BDSC).
- Shepherded the reconfiguration of slab tectonics to create an ADA accessible entrance to Whitlock Hall's representational spaces.
- Participated in the use of the most up-to-date and available information technologies and tools to include ProjNet, ProjNet-C, MS SharePoint, Autodesk Suite, BlueBeam, OBO Link, BIMiS and other applications as they are adopted and implemented within OBO.
- Pioneered design solutions that integrated ingenuity and creative vision, delivering innovative, accessible, and functional diplomatic spaces.

Master Planning Division, Pathways Intern

March 2022 to February 2024

- Coordinated planning processes for the International Law Enforcement's Aviation Division's (INL/A) expansion in the Pacific Islands Region, supporting strategic facility development.
- Led the multidisciplinary Data Management Working Group's efforts to create the Standard Template and Data Information Collection (STADIC) platform streamlining data collection and improving project decision-making.
- Conducted research and analysis to inform policy development, overseas facility planning, evaluate site acquisition options, and provide actionable recommendations.
- Leveraged design thinking and data-driven analysis to support master planning initiatives, translating complex information into actionable, innovative recommendations.

University of Oklahoma

College of Architecture, Graduate Assistant

January 2021 to December 2023

- Worked directly with students in the Gibbs College of Architecture as one of their instructors.
- Instructed students through office hours and one-on-one communication.
- Assisted students by reviewing studio projects, evaluating individual work, and providing prompt advice.
- Collaborated with faculty to develop course materials and provide constructive feedback.

Oklahoma City Resident

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Certifications

2021-Present

Active Secret Security Clearance

2014

Certified Welder in SMAW, GMAW, and GTAW processes

Graphics

Lumion	• • •
Photoshop	• • • •
Illustrator	• • •
Rhino	• • • •
AutoCAD	• • • •
Sketches	• • • •

3D Modeling & BIM

Revit	• • • •
Rhino	• • • •
Grasshopper	• • • •
Sketchup	• • • •
3D Printing	• • • •

Soft Skills

Communication	• • • • •
Collaboration	• • • • •
Adaptability	• • • • •
Negotiation	• • • •
Contracts	• • • •
Leadership	• • • •

2023

Recognized for excellence in contributions to the OBO RPA Validation Effort

2021

Inducted into the Tau Sigma Delta Honor Society in Architecture and Allied Arts

2020-2021

Received a scholarship covering the full amount of the tuition for my Master's Degree in Architecture

2019-2020

Graduated First in the 2020 OU Environmental Design Class
Dean's List (Fall/Spring)

2019

NCAA Athlete - OU Rugby

2018-2019

Member of the OU Transfer Leadership Class
Dean's List (Fall/Spring)

2012

Eagle Scout - Lifelong Scouter

CONTACT

CERTIFICATIONS | SKILLS

HONORS | AWARDS

WORK EXPERIENCE