As an architecture student, where did technology changed, and as a consequence improved the manual labor?

With the Industrial Revolution, the story of modern urban expansion began. More and more areas of our lives felt its influences, as cities became containers of mobile population. The term of "urbanization" appeared with the "extension" of Barcelona and the city as a whole is now treated as a complex system, which accommodated multiple functions. However, it was not until Ford introduced the assembly line, that the approach to architectural design began to change. It displayed a model of industrial efficiency, creating standardized product, a car in his case, to denote the idea of a perfect object. As modern work started created its own objects, Le Corbusier wanted to instill the idea of standardized houses in the urban landscape. He saw houses as a mechanism that has a function, therefore should be efficient in all possible ways. Starting with the Dom-Ino House, a modular structure, he later created Citrohan House, which was not only easy to build, but also affordable, using mass-produced materials. A house similar to an automobile. It was trying to offer a solution to the post-war society, which in his vision, could be improved by industrialism and technology. As my history teacher, Mario Carpo, used to say "Architecture became an agent of social reform."

Is photography enhancing, balancing or tuning the mental abilities (improving the cognitive capacity) you use in delivering your assignments?

Looking back to my previous photos taken before I started studying architecture, I can say the urban space influenced my view on photography and vice versa. I would like to quote Rendel, as I identify a lot with his thoughts: "The modern architectural drawing is interesting, the photograph is magnificent. The building is an unfortunate but necessary stage between the two." I must say, however, as we both know, that photography, depicts a reality certain people want us to see. It is a tool shaping the world. This idea helped me in capturing most of my assignments and make sure that I deliver the message I intended in the first place. It is quite difficult to find a certain balance, but from where I stand, I think it is definitely enhancing my mental abilities. In general, all these assignments tend to be polished, staged, but architectural photography proved to be something else for me. I am always looking for ways to capture that 'sincere' architecture, with a strong lifestyle element in it. Each assignment reveals something new about my work, about places and also about me. Although, I am really curious, after I give my work another overview, let's say in about 3 years from now when I graduate, how my approach will change.

How did studying abroad change your view on education?

I was always driven by the idea of getting the best education possible and I made sure that I will get it. For me, going abroad was the best option, having some career goals set a long time ago. It has only been half a year, under special circumstances, given the pandemic and the online teaching. Before getting to university, I was quite sure that from now on the path will be clear, that is a straight road ahead. You get from point A to B, from deadline to deadline, from an internship to another. Now with all the uncertainty that is around us and all the opportunities, I realized it is exactly the opposite. I might have changed some of my goals and discovered new thing that I would like doing in the long run.

The approach to education here is a bit different. People are looser and focus more on being autodidact. There is more emphasis on mental health and they are not so rigid. It is quite common here to maybe be wrong with your first-choice university, to drop out and enroll again somewhere else. I can see the pressure imposed by education is not as harsh as back home. And I am starting to learn myself that education should not be as stressful as I used to see it. It has now become a process to figure out what I like most about architecture, as there are many career paths out there, more than I thought.