

A DAY IN THE

Life

at Perkins Eastman

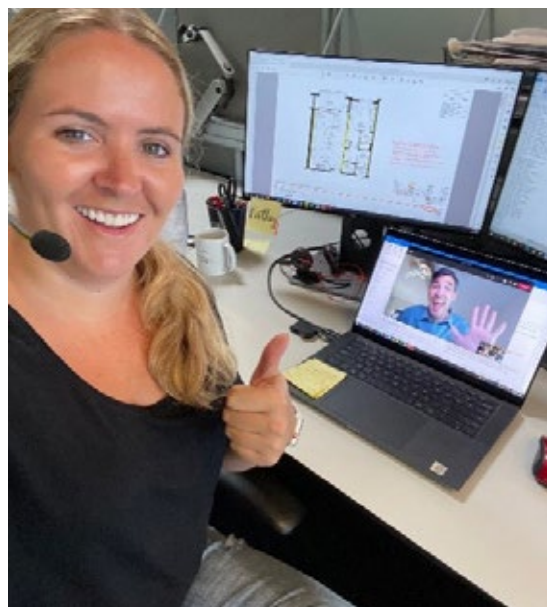


By Jennifer Sergent

Above

After more than a year, members of the Mumbai studio meet in person for the first time over lunch at a local restaurant—and use the occasion as an opportunity to select samples for ongoing work at Ashoka University. Seated left to right are Mumbai Managing Principal and Board Director Supriya Thyagarajan, Associate Principal Chhavi Lal, and Associate Namita Pashankar.

As August 31 dawns on the East Coast, Perkins Eastman Senior Associate Caitlin Gilman is out at 7 a.m., taking her young son for a walk before the workday begins in the Boston studio. She'll be back in time for her colleague, Ghazal Rizi, to lead a weekly virtual yoga class at 8:30 a.m., which is open to anyone across the firm. Both scenes will be captured on Instagram as Boston—along with 21 other Perkins Eastman studios and affiliates—records moments throughout the next 10 hours to capture what a typical day looks like in the life of a global architecture firm of more than 1,000 employees.



This page

Left: Pittsburgh Senior Associate Mauricio Ulloa was on-site at Penn State for a walkthrough tour of the School of Nursing.

Right: Charlotte Associate Katie Richard gives a thumbs up during a Teams meeting with Principal Aaron Campbell.

Despite the fact that our PEople work across multiple time zones, countries, and cultures, the spirit of collaboration and camaraderie runs deep between our locations, if their Instagram posts are any indication. The result plays out on this Tuesday, the final day of August, as designers at ForrestPerkins, a distinct design studio of Perkins Eastman, work on a hotel project in China with assistance from the Shanghai studio. And Principal Vaughan Davies in Los Angeles, an expert on large-scale and waterfront developments, is working alongside the team in Guayaquil on a waterfront master plan in Ecuador. New York, meanwhile, is supporting 10 other offices in a variety of pursuits—the most prominent being the design of the new, 40,000-student Kuwait University. There’s a regular progress call on this project today, where New York is meeting with architects, designers, and planners in at least six other studios. In ways big and small, nearly every studio will be in communication with colleagues around the country and across the seas as their days unfold.

It’s still breakfast time, meanwhile, and Charlotte Senior Associate Bonnie Likens is thrilled with the news that a 4 a.m. concrete pour “went off without a hitch” at The Cypress of Charlotte, a new senior living wellness center. The K-12 team in Washington, DC, is also in high spirits after ribbon cuttings at West/John Lewis Elementary School the previous day and at Benjamin Banneker Academic High School over the weekend, both of them targeting to be the city’s first net zero energy schools. DC Mayor Muriel Bowser was on hand for both ceremonies.

On a more harrowing note, a subcontractor working with BFJ Planning on Jersey City, NJ’s, Land Use Element has just evacuated from the path of Hurricane Ida in New Orleans, and he uses generator power to call into a meeting with BFJ’s Susan Favate and Noah Levine. Over the hills in Pittsburgh, Managing Principal Jeff Young is settling in at a perch along the

studio’s East Ledge, watching the roiling clouds of Ida’s remnants roll into town.

As morning proceeds across the country, the ForrestPerkins team in Dallas welcomes one of its interior design vendors, Pholio Co., whose founder Jessica Pinzon arrives with “a delicious spread of croissants” for a pop-up outdoor showroom presentation of the company’s latest lines and products. When asked what that day’s “Win” was? “It was the croissants!” replies Managing Principal Colletta Conner. Another win will take place soon afterwards in the San Francisco studio, whose senior living team will hold its first in-person client meeting since the pandemic started to discuss potential new projects in the Bay Area. And the studio’s new marketing coordinator, Emily Byers, arrives at the office for the first time since her pandemic hire on August 16 to meet colleagues in person.

Projects everywhere continue apace. The day has already ended on the Arabian Sea, where the Mumbai studio is ready to hand over the library at Ashoka University near Delhi—the final element of the university’s South Campus phase, which started a decade ago. As a bonus, the library was awarded a LEED Platinum rating today. The Dubai studio spent the day focused on four major projects in Cairo for the developer Talaat Mustafa Group, including a water park and an open-air mall. New York and Austin are also involved in these broad undertakings.

Back in the States, Raleigh’s architects are busy on a master plan for the Tyler Perry Studios in Atlanta, which includes the actor and director’s new film production studios, a mixed-use development, and a performing arts theater. Over in Oakland, Managing Principal Lance Kutz and Huiyao Chen visit Yerba Buena High School in San Jose as they begin work designing an innovative new theater lobby with a folding-glass wall that will open it up to the outdoor

stage of an amphitheater. “With the current pandemic, doing a site visit today at a high school full of students was unusual and uplifting,” Kutz says.

In-person visits are ramping up across the firm. Costa Mesa Co-Managing Principal Brian Dougherty is headed to Lamont, CA, today—“just north of Weed Patch and near Pumpkin Center,” he notes—to finalize a contract with the local school board to design a ground-up STEM academy. San Francisco Principal Leslie Moldow is flying to Seattle to meet with new Perkins Eastman affiliate VIA’s senior living team to lead a visioning charrette for a mixed-use, intergenerational project in Bellevue, WA.

And even though August 31 is a slow, sultry day at the end of the summer, Perkins Eastman offices are buzzing with activity. Associate Principal Heather Cain reports that her Chicago workplace team has just found out it needs to revisit several planning scenarios for a 70,000 sf client space by tomorrow. RGR Landscape Principal Geoff Roesch is working with colleagues Sid Burke, Wan-Li Fang, and Chao-Yu Chen to develop site-plan renderings for a New Jersey dementia-care village to review during a conference call tomorrow as the team prepares for an upcoming presentation to the local planning board. The tech teams in New York and Los Angeles are developing an app to let clients follow their projects’ progress by scanning a QR code during an interview or meeting. The architects at Pfeiffer, a newly distinct Perkins Eastman studio, are wrapping their submission of

Gonzaga University’s Myrtle Woldson Performing Arts Center for the 2022 United States Theater Technology Architectural Awards. And every studio worldwide is on deadline to submit two projects to be considered for Perkins Eastman’s inaugural Design Excellence Awards. This being the last day of the month, of course, timesheets are also due!

As the end of the day draws near, Creative Director Kendall Tynes of Perkins Eastman’s Experiential Graphic Design studio sets out ingredients for a favorite casserole—a comfort-food reward for getting a major proposal out the door and making a successful presentation to a new client. ForrestPerkins’ Colletta Conner readies for a dinner meeting in Dallas. And the entire Raleigh studio is heading out for drinks at a local restaurant, where newly hired architectural designer Laura Pfaff is exhibiting her paintings. Finally, as the sun sets over Austin, one of the firm’s newest studios moves from its temporary co-working space to the Four Seasons Hotel next door, where they celebrate the end of summer and mark their first four months together as a team on the veranda overlooking Lady Bird Lake.

Tomorrow will start a new month and the beginning of a busy fall season, and, to quote Raleigh Managing Principal Michael Stevenson as he remarked when a new RFP (Request for Proposal) came through the door, “Off to the races again!” **N**

For more stories and pictures from this day, check out #adayatPE on Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/explore/tags/adayatpe/>

Opposite Page

Top: New York Associate Ling Zhong offers an illustrated account of his day.

Middle left: The Shanghai team collaborates on multiple screens with clients and other PE studios.

Bottom left: Costa Mesa co-Managing Principal Brian Dougherty records a victorious selfie after “I nailed playing the Foo Fighters’ ‘Times Like These’ along with the recording!”

Center: Stamford Associate Lynzee Halligan is on-site at the Mystic River Magnet School in Mystic, CT, punchlisting for furniture, fixtures, and equipment.

Right: Boston Senior Associate Caitlin Gilman and her son start the day with a refreshing walk.



4 a.m. A second-floor concrete pour “went off without a hitch” at The Cypress in **CHARLOTTE**

8:30 a.m. Ghazal Rizi from the **BOSTON** studio leads a weekly virtual yoga class for the whole firm

Design vendor Pholio Co. arrives for a meeting in **DALLAS** with a delicious spread of croissants

The **SAN FRANCISCO** studio holds its first in-person client meeting since the beginning of the pandemic

James Forrest of the **BOSTON** studio is on-site at the Boston Arts Academy across from Fenway Park

7 a.m. Caitlin Gilman takes her young son for a walk before the workday begins in the **BOSTON** studio

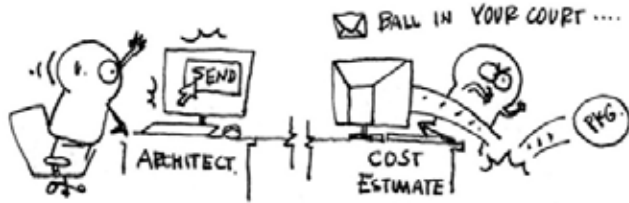
A day after Hurricane Ida ripped through New Orleans, a local subcontractor who was forced to evacuate uses generator power to join a Teams meeting with **BFJ PLANNING**

Taylor Young of **BFJ PLANNING** begins initial mapping for a new project in Yorktown, NY

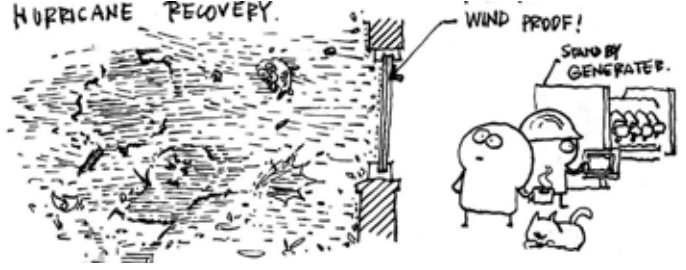
Leslie Moldow of the **SAN FRANCISCO** studio flies to Seattle to meet with **VIA**’s team for a visioning charrette



TODAY IS DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING PKG FOR PRICING.



HURRICANE RECOVERY.



The **COSTA MESA** studio has a brown bag lunch to discuss new design goals



Teams meetings happen all day between PE studios, from **DC** to Bangkok, **DALLAS** to **SHANGHAI**, **NYC** to Egypt, **RALEIGH** to Europe, and **OAKLAND** to **NYC**



Colletta Conner readies for a dinner meeting with a client in **DALLAS**

The **BOSTON** studio holds a virtual catch-up where everyone brought their pets to the screen



Tech teams in **NYC** and **LA** are developing an app to let clients follow their projects' progress



Kendall Tynes in **NYC** sets out ingredients for a favorite casserole as a reward for finishing a major proposal



The **RALEIGH** studio heads out for drinks and to view Laura Pfaff's painting exhibit

