



Tours of workplaces and construction projects are a valuable and engaging way for students to experience work life indirectly and, in the case of job sites, to observe in action some of the design principles and construction techniques they have discussed in mentoring sessions.

Tours – Workplaces and Construction Sites

Workplace Tours

Office tours of mentors' firms or of other building industry professionals can be productive learning experiences for students. The following list of guidelines and tips for such tours has been gleaned from several different ACE affiliates.

- ▶ If convenient, arrange tours during actual work hours so that students can get a feel for the office environment.
- ▶ Tours should introduce students more to the work place of a generic architectural (or engineering or other professional) firm, rather than to the specific firm. Avoid turning the tour into a pitch for the specific firm.
- ▶ If the firm is engaged in a local project which students might know about, show them models, drawings, photographs or other tangible work projects associated with that project.
- ▶ Students naturally tend to be interested in the experiences of people nearer their own age. Therefore, if any recent young hires are available, a stop by their desks can be an opportunity for them to engage students in a discussion about their particular career paths and about work life as a young professional.
- ▶ Time permitting, a short mock interview of a firm's young professional conducted by one of the mentors will let students observe a real-life work experience.
- ▶ If the firm offers internship opportunities for which ACE students might be eligible, briefly discuss them and how students might apply.

