Shapes and Mannerisms of Urban Design sketched and captured throughout my Lyceum Fellowship Experience.
For anyone reading this you might be starting a new chapter in your life, in the middle of a journey, or lost in a particular time. Nonetheless, I’m writing to you from a time in my life that I consider the beginning, but which feels altogether apart from time and afforded me the opportunity to escape and design my own journey.
I’m flying away into a different world dimension where my soul will find new people, experiences, and hopefully somewhere to call my home away from home. It’s one week before my trip and I’m writing to you all from my first (and current) home in Hell’s Kitchen, NYC. Hell’s Kitchen is nestled in the heart of midtown Manhattan surrounded by lively street corridors, diverse cultures, and luminous architecture. Growing up here for the last 23 years has been a blessing and a platform for the creative concepts of all my work.

A project idea I have been formulating for a while, during my preparation for this trip, is to visually document how urban design shapes human behavior. Living in Manhattan I’m intrigued by how the creation of new urban developments throughout the various upcoming neighborhoods generated a variety of positive and negative behavioral responses from the users that lived there, and the tourists that visit. This observation was the core of the concept for Guelph Living City Market, my graduate design project that won 1st place in the 2018 Lyceum Design Competition; an urban market environment designed to help influence the behavior of its users to become more healthy, sustainable, and connected.

In a lecture about western urbanism during my design education at Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD), a quote by the British Politician Winston Churchill struck a lasting chord within me: “We shape our buildings, and afterwards, our buildings shape us”. I believe it’s crucial for designers and architects to understand how human perception and behavior is regulated by the built environments we create and the natural environment that surrounds them. This perspective inspired me to dedicate my Lyceum Fellowship world journey to the analysis of the various human behaviors that are generated from the unique practices of urban design and architecture.

For the next 3 months I’ll be traveling to 5 different countries: Japan, Italy, Greece, Holland, and Norway, visiting 28 uniquely built coastal cities, where I will document through photography and sketching how our urban environments shape our mannerisms and social interactions. I foresee that moving through the layers of time of each of these profoundly diverse global communities will prove that the captured built form must be wondrously biological as I anticipate this evolutionary journey to current style.
IMPERIAL PALACE
TOKYO SKYTREE
(325TH FLOOR)
FUSHIMI INARI SHRINE
TSUTENKAKU
OSAKA CASTLE
BETTER THAN CHICKEN
ART ISLANDS
WEEK 3
PUMPKIN
YELLOW

YELLOW PUMPKIN
SAPPORO, Otaru, Norboribetsu & Hakodate

WEEK 4
MORENUMA PARK
Ouchijuku: Old Edo Period Towns
VENICE BIENNALE
SPANISH STEPS
ATHENS, SANTORINI, & PAROS
WEEK 9
AMSTERDAM & ROTTERDAM

WEEK 10 - 11
COOL DISTRICT ROTTERDAM
SONNEVELD HOUSE
TJUVHOLMEN