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2020/21 Sir Ian Dixon Scholarship



Name: Mackenzie Thompson

Current Work Position: Part I Architectural Assistant

Experience: I designed the welfare facilities at Battersea Power Station during my second year of university and this is where my interest in welfare facilities began. I graduated in July 2019 with a degree in Architecture and now work as a Part I Architectural Assistant focusing on the retail and residential sector.

Reason for applying for the scholarship: Whilst working at Sir Robert McAlpine on Battersea Power Station I was under the supervision of an architect and a design manager who had an interest in welfare facilities. They suggested that I applied for the scholarship as they knew of my interest in welfare facilities and are subsequently mentoring me throughout this process.

Research Project Description:

'How can temporary towns and architecture provide a place of architectural quality whilst temporarily being on a site?'

My research aims to explore the welfare facility as an architectural typology. The aim is to question what the value of the welfare facility is by looking at the history of welfare, the legislation involved and our current manufacturing processes. The research questions whether we are providing the best spaces for our site workers which is an important topic considering the mental health issues within the construction industry today. Welfare facilities are an overlooked area in design so this piece of research aims to bring attention to this overlooked architectural typology.