

ARGODESIGN

TOTAL HOURS : (3 hrs per person, 4 people) 12 hrs

SUMMARY

Four of our team members went to Argodesign for an office tour and a discussion about the significance of the design process. We learned a lot about the importance of their motto, “**Think By Making,**” and decided to apply this concept to how we go about building our robot.

WHO	WHAT	WHEN	WHERE	WHY
Ian and Lauren at Argodesign, Nick, Alfonso, Sam, Angela	Office tour & design discussion	February 12, 2019	Argodesign	Seeking potential employers

ACTIVITIES

OFFICE TOUR

Ian showed us around their office. This was a lot of fun because the workspace was very nice and homey. There is an abundance of open space with walls of whiteboards and design layouts. This reminded us of our team meetings because we always write things out on whiteboards to communicate ideas to one another and visualize things properly. They also had large boards of sticky notes, which is something that we usually do at kickoff.

DESIGN DISCUSSION

Lauren prepared a presentation about how Argodesign approaches the design method. Their motto is to “Think by Making.” Essentially, this means brainstorming with all of your senses, and building things to come up with new ideas. This interactive form of learning allows people to come up with new and innovative ideas by teaching them how to think in a new perspective. Lauren and Ian wanted to communicate this lesson to us and taught us how to start with our five senses when brainstorming, and then branching off from those senses to see how many ways you can come up with new ideas.

PROMOTING TEAM

Throughout the presentation, we talked about our team: what we did, how we built things, and, most importantly, what we wanted to do when we grew up. All of us wanted to go into slightly different things, but they showed us how we could apply STEAM'D (science, technology, engineering, art, mathematics, and design) to each of our passions. Ian actually happened to have a son that was on an FLL team, and he was really curious to learn more about our team, so we gave him our engineering notebook. (We also talked about the significance of tracking progress throughout the design process, and they showed us their fancier engineering notebooks.) He took the time to look at every single page, and had no questions.

OUTCOME

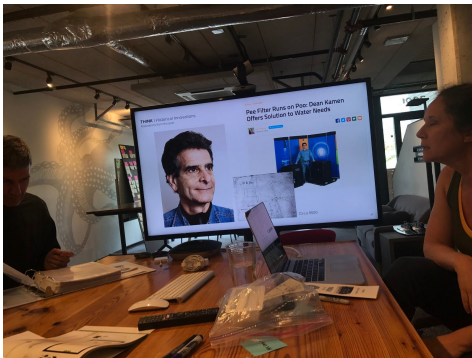
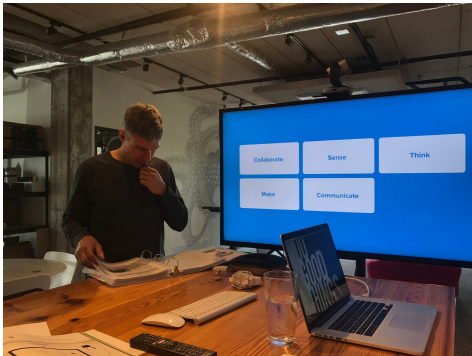
PROMOTING *FIRST*

This event will allow us to spread recognition for *FIRST* and its programs. We have created brochures that explain *FIRST* values and programs, and includes information regarding how parents and students can bring the program to their communities.

CAREER INTEREST

A few of our members were able to walk away from the event with the desire to work at Argodesign ; the atmosphere, community, and innovative work that they do really drew the attention of the students on our team. Although they typically only take interns who have graduated college, we asked them about potential shadowing opportunities during the summer for some of our graduating seniors. We will continue to maintain contacts with them, not just for robotics, but for potential careers as well.

POST-EVENT REFLECTION



- “Learning the concept of ‘Think by Making,’ and the different approaches to design was really interesting. I can see myself in a workplace like this,” - **Nick Chan**
- “This new design process would allow us to visualize things better, and we can embody the ‘Think by Making’ process in our own robot,” - **Sam Kim**
- “I thought it was really cool learning about their design process (observing, thinking, synthesizing). This can give us a better idea of how to design through different processes and new perspectives we could incorporate in our team,” - **Alfonso Velasco**
- “This was such an incredible opportunity. I researched company at the beginning of the season because I was interested in some of their projects. Visiting their office and being welcomed into their work community was really eye-opening because not only did I learn about their extensive and in-depth design process, but I could also see myself working there. They have a UX team and that’s something I’m interested in, and I may even talk to my sister about looking into this company for her job search because this seems like a great company for her to work with as well.” - **Angela Phan**
- **Summary:** We connected with **Ian** and **Laura** at **Argodesign**. They gave us a tour of the office and shared the different project they are working on such as Interactive Light and a product to help diabetic people measure their blood sugar levels. They taught us about the importance of “**Think by Making,**” and we are applying their motto to our robot by, literally, thinking by making.