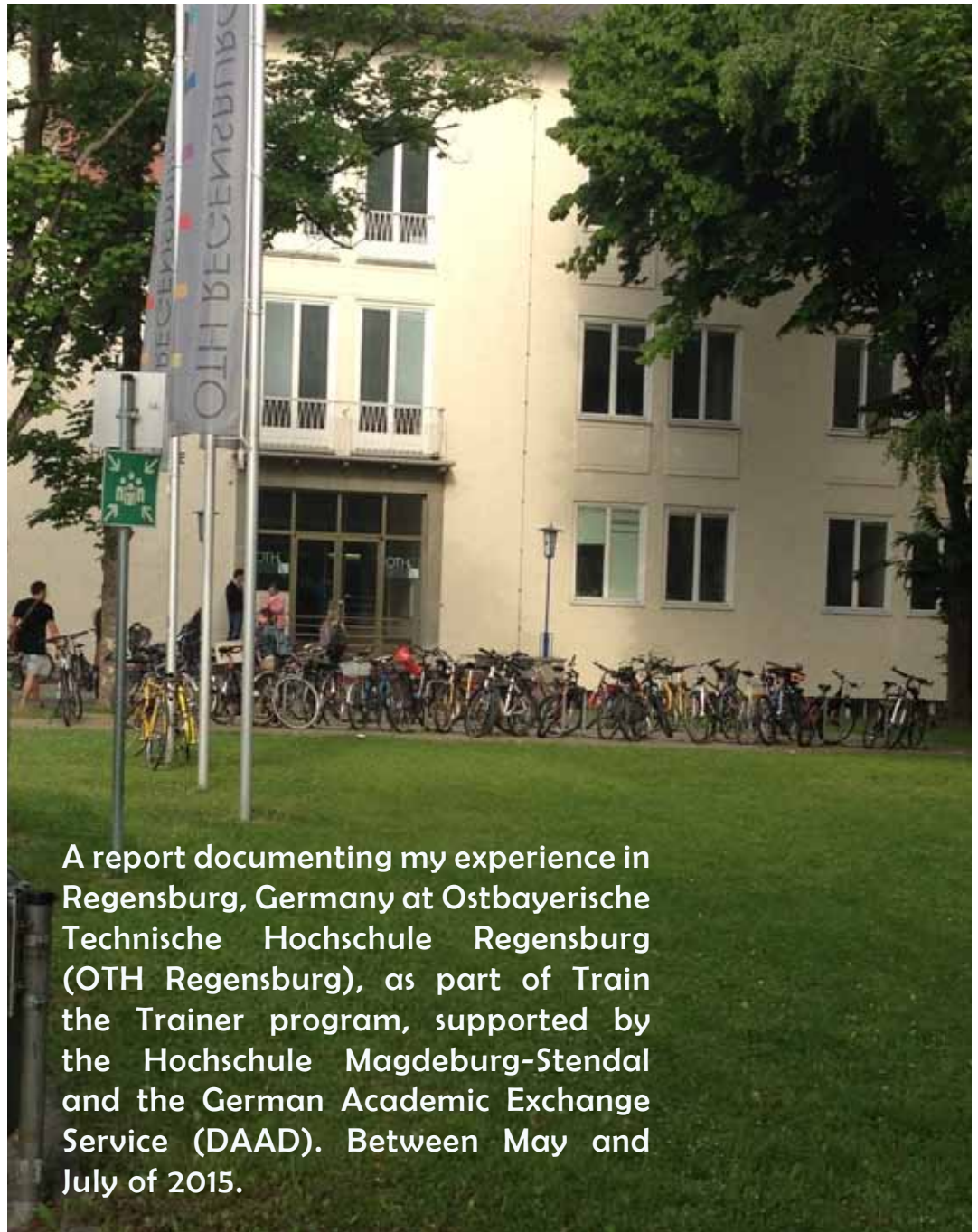


Arch. Rejan Ashour
German Jordanian University
School of Architecture and Built Environment
Germany, 2015



A report documenting my experience in Regensburg, Germany at Ostbayerische Technische Hochschule Regensburg (OTH Regensburg), as part of Train the Trainer program, supported by the Hochschule Magdeburg-Stendal and the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). Between May and July of 2015.



Introduction:

During my years of teaching at German Jordanian University, I met many professors and students from Germany who came for the purposes of exchange knowledge and education between the two countries. I always wondered if the educational system in German universities is similar or different to ours. Through participating in the TTT program, I got the opportunity to find answers to many inquiries I had in mind. I could see the similarities and the differences, in addition to experience different type of knowledge exchange.

For me, as an Industrial professor at the School of Architecture and Built Environment at GJU, and when I went to Germany through this program, I realized that the exposure this opportunity gives would be utilized in many aspects of my professional and personal lives.

That is why the structure of this report will start with the professional experience, the personal experience, and concludes with some general observations.



Professional Experience:

My TTT program was at Ostbayerische Technische Hochschule Regensburg (OTH Regensburg). Under the umbrella of Faculty of Architecture, OTH Regensburg offers, Architecture Bachelor and Masters Degree, Building Climate Control Bachelor degree, Industrial Design Bachelor degree, and Historical Building Research Masters degree.

During my stay in Regensburg I participated in teaching some classes, attending others, and participating in workshops and presentations, and giving a public lecture.

The classes I taught are:

Master class, international design project Iacobus (with Prof. Anne Beer)

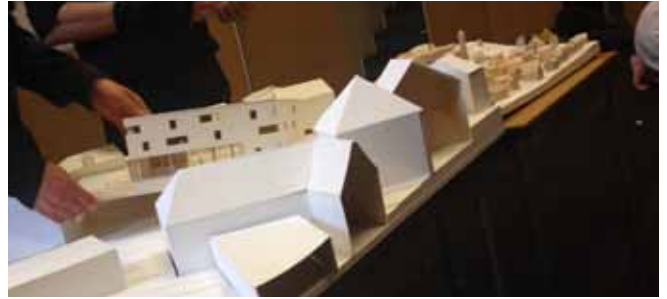
Bachelor class, thesis project (with Prof. Anne Beer, Prof. Johann-Peter Scheck, Prof. Markus Emde)

First year, Basics of Design (with Prof. Pavel Zverina and other colleagues)

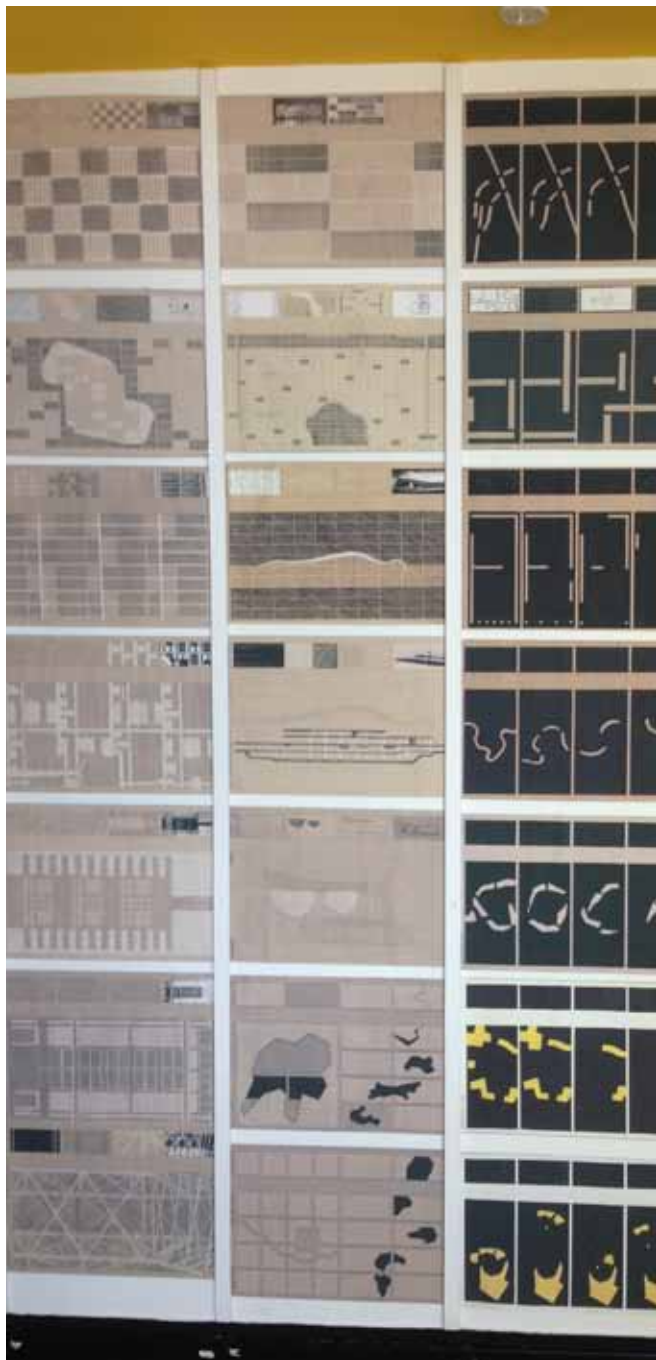
















**Professional Experience:
Workshop, lectures, and presentations
I participated in:**





A joint workshop between the Faculty of Architecture at OTH and Landscape Architectural department of Munich Technical University; the workshop was about reassessment of a main highway (Bundesstrasse 15). This project was funded by the Federal Foundation of Baukultur





Professional Experience:

Workshop, lectures, and presentations I participated in:



A presentation by the Industrial Design Department about adaptive reuse of the interior spaces of an old building in Regensburg.



**Professional Experience:
Workshop, lectures, and presentations
I participated in:**

A public lecture for the renowned architect
GOETZ CASTORPH.

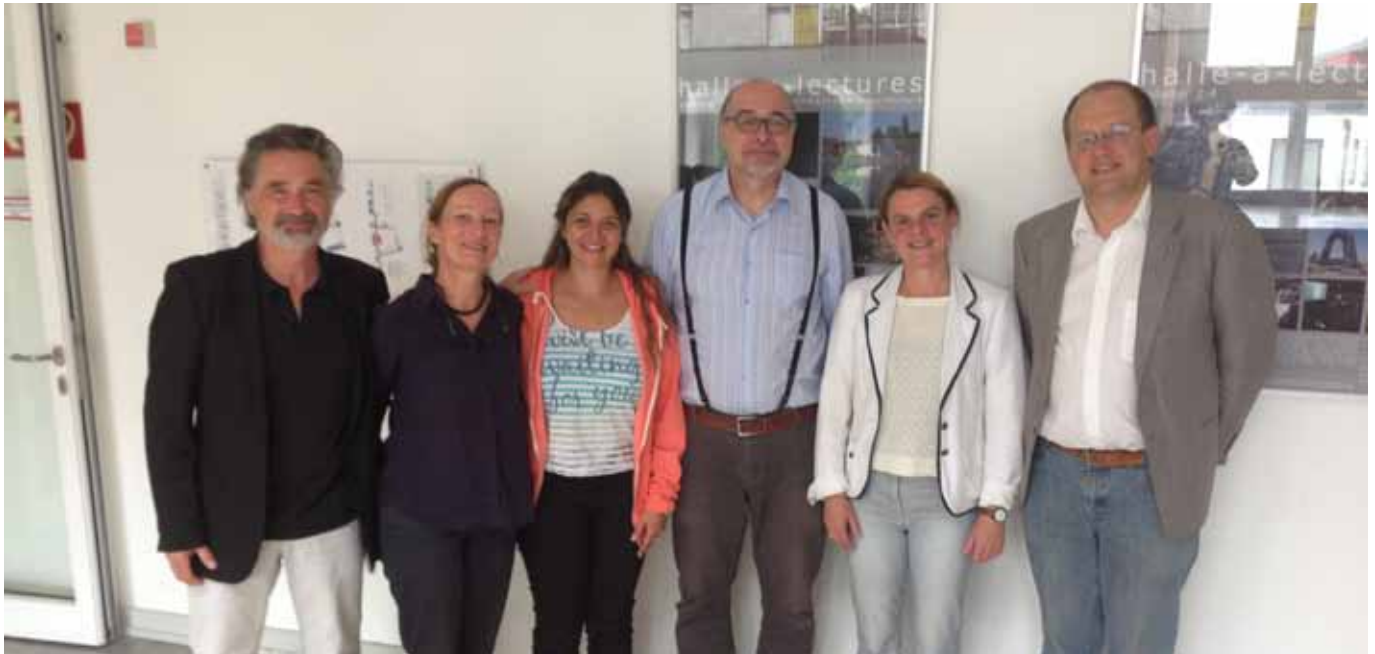
SOCIAL DESIGN BUFFET



**Professional Experience:
Workshop, lectures, and presentations
I participated in:**

“Social Design” a topic of the presentation for the fourth semester students of Industrial Design at OTH Regensburg. The presentation was entitled: “Design & Society at DESIGN BUFFET 2015”





Professional Experience:
Workshop, lectures, and presentations
I participated in:

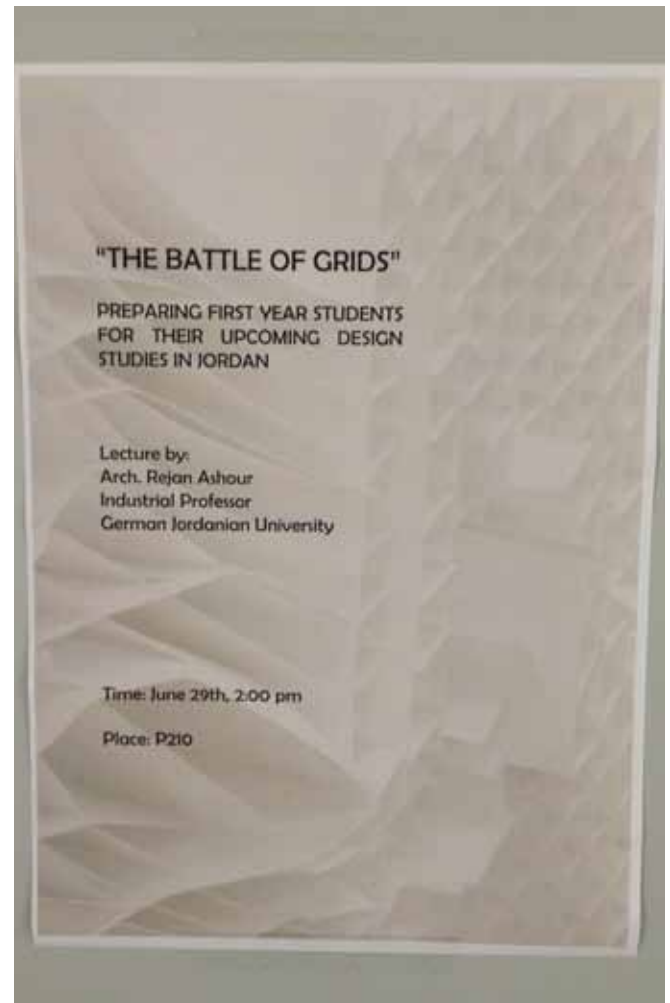
In a visit by the Dean of School of Architecture at German Jordanian University, Prof. Mohammad Ali Yaghan, to the faculty of Architecture at OTH; I participated in meeting that discussed the possible ways of enhancing the cooperation between the two schools at the level of teaching and research. The meeting included the honorable following participants; OTH Vice president, Prof. Thomas Fuhrman, Dean of faculty of Architecture Birgit Scheuerer, Prof. Anne Beer, Prof. Pavel Zverina

Professional Experience:

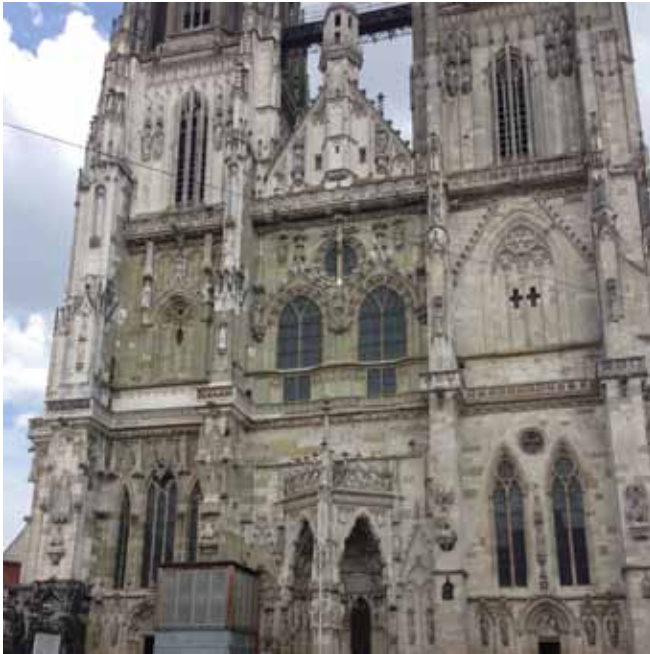
Public lecture

I presented a public lecture about first year design education in German Jordanian University. The lecture presented the process of preparing the students for their upcoming studies overcoming the previous lack of proper art and design education in high schools. It described a special project that was designed to incorporate all subjects taught within the design lectures.

This lecture opened a discussion about the differences between the two systems of education and students were encouraged to visit GJU and take courses there at some point of their academic life.



Personal Experience:

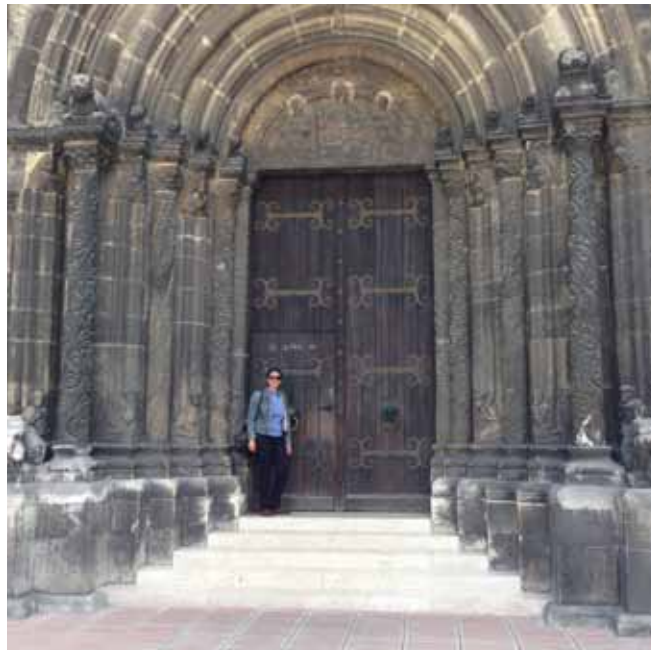


I was lucky to spend my TTT time in a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 2006, like Regensburg, where with its historic old town, culture flows around. Not a single week passed without a cultural event rooted back in its long history of Bavaria and Germany. The city is full of attractive sites that speak history and culture, making the study of architecture there a unique experience.













Personal Experience:

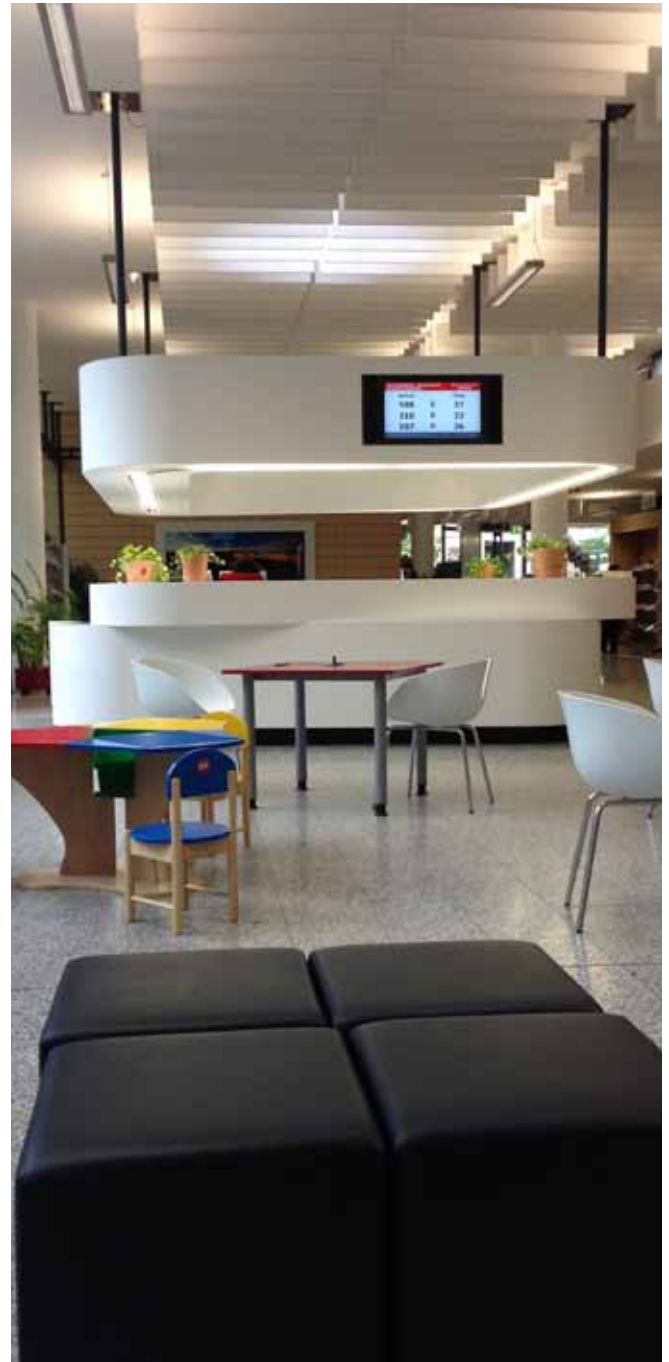
The whole experience was new to me having to accommodate myself to the requirements of the new situation.

Getting used to public transportation was one of the major hardships, at the beginning, that was transformed into a beautiful experience during time. I managed to understand the clear logic behind the whole transportation system not only in Regensburg, but all over Germany. Most of the German cities have their main railway stations dividing the city into two parts. One have the city center (having the “-stadt” affix) and is close to the (hauptbahnhof) the central station, while the other could form the quite suburban parts of the city.



Personal Experience:

Another challenge was opening a bank account. It was very difficult because most banks have certain policies relating to time spent in Germany, language, and rental contract. However, Sparkasse bank, and the people there were helpful and kind and finally I managed to open an account. This experience in itself was so educational to me in terms of understanding the municipality and the banking systems.



Personal Experience:

Another joyful experience was at the German language course at OTH main campus, that I was invited to join by Mag. Lucie Eireiner, a special thank to her for the most helpful information.



General Observations

GJU students' level:

When I attended the masters class for the first time, I asked one of the professors, who taught the class, about the students of GJU, and wither the Faculty of Architecture at OTH Regensburg give them the subjects of the BA level, or the Masters level. He told me that at the beginning, they used to give them the subjects of the Masters level because they were at their fourth of year of education when they arrive at Germany. Later, the professors felt that the students were not up to that level, so they started giving them the subjects of the BA level. Weeks later to my arrival, I discovered that the real problem was that students of GJU face language barriers; especially when it comes to the professional German language. This is the real reason for them not to adapt to the system at the beginning, especially that the staff and the students talked only in German. After few months, the students start to getting used to the conversation around them and they do very well in their training later.

Inspiring Idea

Every participant in a presentation gives a small donation. That total sum will be the prize for the winning project of an open vote to help in realizing his work or part of it.



General Observations

Sometimes I was amazed by the richness of the facilities that was offered from schools for the students everywhere. A very advanced machines, printers and plotters, computers, model-making labs, and different materials, are always available and accessible for the students.





Acknowledgment:

GJU students' level:

I would like to thank all persons who helped in making my experience in Germany that successful; from both GJU and OTH personnel. They are:

Prof. Dr. Natheer Abu-Obaid, president of GJU

Prof. Dr. Mohammad Ali Yaghan, Dean of SABE

Dr. Maram al Tawil, Head of department of Architecture at GJU

Dr. Dorothea Jecht, Dr. Andrea Pape, Mr. Daniels Chris, and Miss. Christiansen from the GJU International Office at GJU.

The German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)

Hochschule Magdeburg-Stendal

Jenny Engelmann, Financial Manager, GJU Project Office, Hochschule Magdeburg-Stendal

Birgit Scheuerer, Dean of faculty of Architecture at OTH

Prof. Anne Beer, faculty of Architecture at OTH

Prof. Pavel Zverina, faculty of Architecture at OTH

Sabine Lange, Department Coordinator:

Fritz Brey, Faculty computer science and mathematics