Glenn Stephenson graduated in Industrial Design in 2012. He completed a placement with designer Justin Hutchinson (justinhutchinson.com), who is also one half of Urban Commons, a consultancy that creates contemporary edible community gardens (urbancommons.com.au).

Glen’s Internship Story

The work I was involved in related to the Urban Commons “Living Laboratory”, a two-day design challenge that explored methods of growing food in high-density urban environments (urbancommons.tumblr.com/post/39004895005/two-day-design-challenge).


Within the studio I helped to set up the Living Laboratory workspace; our work focused on the re-appropriation of materials, planter box assembly, planting, and general problem solving.

The pressure of short timeframe group work extracted the essential oils from each concept and promoted a rich conversation.

My advice to other students is ‘Be flexible! Be prepared!’ Unforeseen events may delay daily progress and time frames may be pushed forward or back. Always have some relevant work to continue with.

Also, ‘Don’t sit back!’ Being able to obtain a professional opinion on a personal concept is a great kickback from organisational placements, and an opportunity to showcase your design interests – the relationship is two-way.

I now feel comfortable in approaching Justin Hutchinson Design with any industry related questions I may have while also benefitting from a glimpse into life after university. Witnessing a professional work ethic and skill set has motivated me to seek other placement opportunities.

Justin Hutchinson
Director, Urban Commons

Internships are a valuable way for small consultancies like ours to identify new talent. We are always looking for people with a skill set complementary to our own.

We try to provide interns with an array of activities that draw on their existing skills, while offering them the opportunity to develop new ones.

Glenn proved to be an enthusiastic and passionate designer, who was eager to learn and take on new challenges. His openness to learning and ability to problem solve made the experience a rewarding one for Urban Commons.