Ben Landau graduated from Industrial Design in 2010. He held a volunteer position at the Melbourne Museum for about eight months, beginning mid-way through his fourth year at RMIT, and then worked at the Museum as an exhibition designer for the following two years.

**Ben’s Work Experience Story**

Despite my volunteer role at the Museum, I was involved in real projects and did the actual tasks required of the exhibitions in development at that time, which were decided upon when I arrived each week in the Museum’s basement studio. All my work was done onsite, either in the office or within the exhibition space. I learnt a lot about the detailed process of mounting an exhibition, from concept design all the way to completion.

I worked closely with Exhibition Designer Ingrid Rhule (a former tutor at RMIT), who taught me how to visualize the exhibition space and the possibilities within it. Ingrid guided me in CAD work, model making, laying out of exhibitions, and drawing in Photoshop, as well as how to navigate the complex systems which connect the museum’s collection to their exhibitions.

The experience at the Museum – a non-commercial design environment – led me to understand design as not solely an industrial or commercial pursuit, an understanding that still frames my practice. I would recommend that students keep a diary of the internship experience as it happens – it makes you much more reflective and observant.

I successfully applied for an Exhibition Designer role that became available and worked at the Museum for the next two years. I still keep in contact with museum staff. I think museology, exhibition interpretation and interactivity will continue to feature in my design practice.

**Ingrid Rhule**

*Exhibition Designer (now at NGV)*

Museum Victoria engaged Ben Landau as a volunteer to assist with the development of the Science & Life galleries. Ben was required to assist with drafting, model making, presentation work and general support for the design team, all of which he excelled at. He became a valued member of the design team, offering a great energy as well as a fantastic sense of humour, which was always a welcome distraction in the studio!

I worked closely with Ben, discussing the intricacies of exhibition design and project development and production. I believe it is really important for design studios to nurture and support future designers, and the Museum’s volunteer role allows us to connect with emerging designers moving through the design schools. Ben’s enthusiasm and commitment paid off when he later successfully applied for an exhibition design position within the studio, allowing him to work on his own projects.

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