Kayci’s Major: Interior Design

Program: UW Chinese Culture, Arts, Design and Feng Shui, Summer

Academic Life: This classroom experience was unlike any other I’d ever experienced. We didn’t attend any specific class in a traditional classroom setting. Instead we learned through lectures, observations, and personal reflections on varying sites. Professor Dong would stop along the way to teach us a piece of history about where we were, to describe a traditional Chinese design feature, or to allow us to personally reflect on our thoughts. There was a lot of note taking, sketching, and thinking, but it was extraordinarily unique for we were rarely in an actual classroom. All 13 students were from UW-Madison and most were Interior Design majors.

Advice for Students Considering This Program: This program is definitely worth considering if you are looking for a life-changing experience. It is a truly unique opportunity to learn from a talented professor in an untraditional learning environment. If you are considering this program, I highly recommend it. I had no idea I would ever want to travel to China, but I’m so glad I was able to be a part of this unique experience.

Study Abroad and Kayci’s Future Aspirations: One of the most exciting things about this study abroad experience is the lasting effect it will have on my future. I gained a new perspective which I will be able to use in future decisions as an Interior Design major. I now have an open mind about traveling to new places and experiencing the unfamiliar. I feel more confident with my freedom to pursue a career wherever I want, and I owe this confidence to the study abroad program. More specifically, I will be able to use what I learned on this trip toward my future designs. Learning about Chinese traditional architecture was a once in a lifetime experience.