

2017 ANNUAL REPORT

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kronospan foundation

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Letter from our President

I am delighted to invite you to read our Annual Report 2017 and hope that you will feel as much joy and contentment in reading the Kronospan Foundation's stories of smaller and bigger successes over the past year.

It is not without pride that I look back on the past few years of activities at the Kronospan Foundation. Through close work with the communities Kronospan operates in and the relentless commitment our donors provide, we have not only managed to support existing projects but to initiate new causes which have had a powerful impact on individuals around the world.

When we founded Kronospan Foundation in 2011, we started our journey inspired by the words of Nelson Mandela: "Education is the most powerful weapon that you can use to change the world". Whether it is excellence in college education that we support or reviving vocational education in different countries, we truly believe that empowering young, talented individuals is what it takes for the world to progress in the future.



Claudia, Kamil, Lisa, Péter, Daniel, Anna and Martina are the students who were given the opportunity to study at Babson College, USA. They are joined by three full classes of students supported in Zvolen, Slovakia to study in the field of wood processing and by schools sponsored in Romania and Poland, among other countries.

We blend our support in the educational field with different projects centered on environmental awareness in schools. In 2017, four schools from Bulgaria, Poland, Romania and Ukraine implemented projects which did not only increase the students understanding of sustainable living, but also brought a smile to their faces while being able to realize their visions with funding of the Kronospan Foundation.

Over the next few chapters and pages I want to provide you with an insight of what the past year has meant for us at the Kronospan Foundation and let you read about the projects we have worked on and share the stories of the individual's lives we have touched.

For the coming year, I look forward to continue working closely with our sponsors and grantees as well as supporting new organizations to help make a difference. I am convinced that if we work together and support projects that matter, we will be able to keep sharing success stories in the near future.

DR. OANA BODEA

President of the Kronospan Foundation





2017 has been a year of development, success and new beginnings at the **Kronospan Foundation**.

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Environment

Think Green for Our Future

Our vision is to maintain a balanced ecosystem that enriches our communities' quality of life. Each year we support and initiate new projects to promote environmental sustainability in our local communities. Think Green for Our Future asked elementary and middle school students to come up with a specific project that would raise awareness about unsustainable consumption and effects of such on climate change. The winning projects received EUR 2.000 to be materialized.



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Now they do not throw away any bio waste, but it is instead used for composting biomass.

BULGARIA

Primary School “Geo Milev“ in Plovdiv
Project “I and Nature”

The Geo Milev Secondary School has been developing ecological education for years. In the large school yard there is a mini farm of Red Californian worms (Lumbricus rubellus) which produces ecologically pure bio manure. The school has invested in an underground irrigation system which waters every point of the school yard.

In 2015 a bio garden for herbs and spices was created. The scope was to offer students a whole vital cycle with which to continue the function of the mini farm of Californian worms and the bio garden. After winning the Think Green competition in 2016 the school created a system for composting bio manure in the school yard. They built a platform for composting containers and created an alley.

The students took an active part in the project



realization. Once the materials were delivered, students and teachers hand crafted the platform and added the composters and the silos. Afterwards they started to fill in the composters with different materials: broken branches from the trees in the schoolyard, grass, leaves as well as bio scraps from the school canteen.

Now they do not throw away any bio waste, but it is instead used for composting biomass. The mini farm of Californian worms then continues by sterilizing the biomass and then the product is used as bio manure in the bio garden for herbs and spices.

The composting process gives a unique chance to close the nature’s restoration cycle by using natural waste (grass, leafs, branches, food scraps etc.) to create fertilizer instead of throwing everything away.



In 2016 the school created a system for composting bio manure in the school yard.



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POLAND

Lower Secondary School in Turowo
Project “Enlighten Teenagers Ecologically”

The main goal of the project was to show young people, in a creative way, how they can work together to protect the Earth for future generations and to adopt a lifestyle focused on quality of life and moderation in a world with limited resources.

Students from Turowo prepared an art exhibition as well as a performance on stage in the cinema of Szczecinek. The play was named „Judge Over A Man“ and included the following characters: the accused man, an advocate, Earth, a judge, the prosecution and the witnesses. The elements of Earth were also separate characters and portrayed through the forest, the air, water, smog, the effect of global warming, the ozone hole and acid rain. The stage setting was a courtroom scene prepared by one of the students.

Furthermore, the students also used the time of the project to collect as much waste paper as possible. In total they collected 305 kilos, which they then sold. With the profits they bought small ornamental trees and flowers which they planted in the schoolyard.















ROMANIA

“Panait Cerna” Theoretical Highschool, Brăila
Project “GREEN TEAM. We care! We act!”

The purpose of this project was to improve students’ and teachers’ working conditions and quality of life spent on the school premises through the architectural design of an outdoor amphitheater in the school yard. This should not only serve for rest and recreation, but also for efficient use during educational activities in order to form and foster students’ ecological awareness and ecofriendly behavior.

The project started in October 2016 with the rehabilitation and cleaning of the existing green space in the schoolyard. Children from two classes, together with their form teachers, cleaned the schoolyard and the surrounding area so as to prepare the terrain for the set up of the park. At the same time these activities raised awareness on the importance of a clean environment. Two more of these exercises were organised and four more classes were involved; one in March and one in June entitled “You pick up today, you can breathe tomorrow”.

Furthermore, the school signed a partnership with The Romanian Recycling Association RoRec and the voluntary recycling patrol, led by teacher Ionela Deliu, and managed to collect a considerable amount of electrical and electronic waste.

With the funding received, the school managed to level the ground, pave the alleys, plant turf between the rows of benches (96 seats), trim and whitewash the existing trees, build a stage and put litterbins in the schoolyard. Although the amphitheater is not yet finished and it is not as big as they originally designed it, the students and teachers appreciate and enjoy the existing park, either by spending time during breaks outside or by using it for small educational activities.
The school will continue to raise money to finish the building as it was intended so that it can be used for the purpose and capacity originally designed.





The school decided to create an evergreen island – a mini park with coniferous trees and shrubs.

UKRAINE

The Secondary School No 17 I-III levels in Lutsk Project “The Ecological Path”

One of the burning environmental issues of the cities today is the problem of green space. Mastering the world of the nature, a person gradually starts to understand the need and the value of the green spaces. Parks, gardens, avenues and boulevards are the kind of lungs that clean polluted air, create a favorable climate and make the environment healthier. The successful combination of various plants can significantly reduce harmful health factors of the urbanization. Green spaces reduce the dustiness of air during the vegetation period by 42%, and in their leafless period still by 37%. It is known that one hectare of coniferous trees delays up to 40 tons of dust and deciduous trees around 100 tons.

That was why the school decided to create an evergreen island – a mini park with coniferous trees and shrubs which are able not only to clean the air of dust and enrich the air with oxygen, but also to disinfect air through coniferous species’ phytoncides properties. The park was created as a continuation of an existing ecological trail.











Education

Slovakia

Vocational School of Wood Processing Zvolen

The Kronospan Foundation has committed to develop and support secondary education in the field of wood processing and furniture manufacturing in Central and Eastern Europe. This commitment involves financial support to the Secondary Vocational School of Wood Processing in Zvolen, Slovakia through covering the full costs of study for selected classes. Costs that are covered include accommodation and full board for the students as well as free English or German classes. For good grades students of the class will additionally receive cash rewards.
Due to the proximity of Kronospan Bucina DDD to the school, free practical classes and opportunities for internships are offered to all students of the school.

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Pavel Laššák

Vocational Education in Zvolen

Through the support of the Kronospan Foundation we have been able not only to maintain, but even to increase interest in studies in the field of wood processing in Slovakia. There is a keen competition between secondary schools in our country, and receiving support has allowed us to draw attention to schools like ours with a processional focus. Our marketing efforts funded by the Foundation have helped our image throughout the country and forged a strong partnership between the company Bucina DDD, who is a strong potential employer of our graduates, and our school. Through the necessary funds we have also been able to improve the quality of our vocational education and provide further training possibilities. What is more, we now have the possibility to bring in students from all over Slovakia to study on a scholarship, as their accommodation costs are covered.

The partnership with Bucina DDD is also enforced throught their generosity of offering classrooms for theoretical training as well as offering excursions to our students throughout their company. Especially students within the 1st and 2nd grade benefit through this by being able to learn more about the company, its culture



















and being able to talk to employees face to face and asking the questions.

In their 3rd and 4th year of study students have the opportunity to pursue practical lessons as well as internships within Bucina. This does not only give them the tools they need to succeed in their later career by learning about the production process, new technologies and materials as well as general production activities, but it also puts them in direct contact with the company's daily business, enabling them to start their own relationship with a potential future employer.

The Kronospan Foundation also appraises students' performance by measuring their attendance, grades as well as overall results. These appraisals do not only motivate the students to compete and improve their results, but the best students also receive monetary incentives.

We at our school are deeply grateful for the continued support of the Kronospan Foundation and greatly value their commitment towards young people in Slovakia.

Kind regards,

Ing. Pavel Laššák
Headmaster at the Secondary Vocation School of Wood Processing Zvolen

Students‘ Feedback

Kristián Hriň:

The cooperation with Bucina through the support of the Kronospan Foundation is a great project. Receiving both accommodation and food for free is a real asset for me and the English courses are just an added bonus. I am also motivated to compete for the monetary price, however it is difficult because I can‘t miss more than 50 hours of school.

Anna Mária Hašková:

I am really thankful to Bucina and the Kronospan Foundation for enabling us to take classes outside of our school and being able to learn foreign languages.

Matúš Vilhan:

The partnership with Bucina and Kronospan Foundation is connected to many useful advantages for me, most of all I think that 50€ for good grades is really a wonderful perk.

Tatiana Krasničanová:

For me and my family support from Bucina is a really essential achievement, without their help I would not be able to study in Zvolen. I really appreciate the Kronospan Foundation supporting families in need by financial means.

Andrej Kečkéš:

For me the cooperation is good and motivational. I really enjoy the extra lessons of foreign language which we get 3 times a week and so far it has really helped me to improve my English skills.

Radka Balážová:

I think that if a big company such as Bučina supports a school, it is very motivational thing. At least it should be for us students. To offer money for great results is also an excellent idea. Not everybody can get such a reward in our common secondary school system. The only negative point is the condition not to miss a defined number of lessons, which does not allow me to be ill for more than 2 weeks. It is also a great idea to support accommodation for those of us who live far away. English or extra English classes are a wonderful opportunity to find a good job in our global economy.



Ing. Danka Razkova – Dean of Students

The support of the Kronospan Foundation in cooperation with Bucina has receieved positive feedback only. It has already been two years where students have been supported through payment of their accommodation and their daily meals. They also get the great opportunity to improve their foreign language skills (German and English) with classes at Bucina. However, this is not used up to 100% yet, as students still need to realize the importance of foreign languages for their future careers.

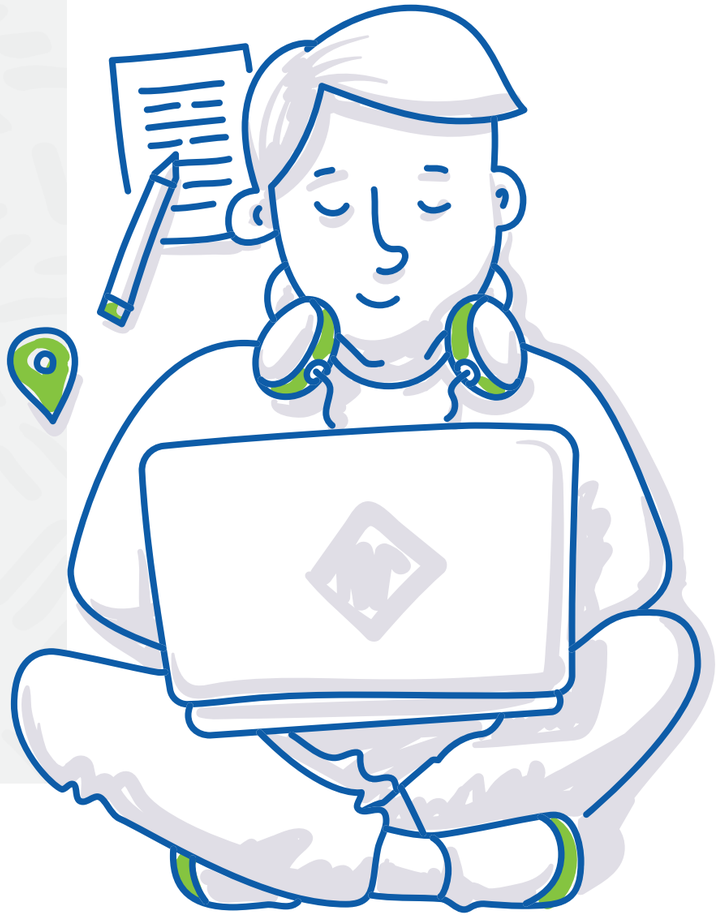
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Education

USA

The Kronospan Scholarship

The Kronospan Foundation sponsors one student per year with a full scholarship to complete a 4 year Bachelor's degree at America's #1 school for Entrepreneurship – Babson College.



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Kamil Altintaşoğlu – my story at Babson

I was born in Romania but grew up in a bicultural environment, with my mother being Romanian and my father being Turkish. I went to public school in Craiova, Romania all the way until the end of high school. I studied hard and got good grades but I was also very involved in the community through volunteering activities. This was quite difficult because there were no community service opportunities in my hometown so I actually had to organize everything myself. That's how, together with a group of high school friends, I started Interact Craiova, the first service club for high school students club in town which is still operating today after 7 years of activity.

Throughout my school years I held dear a passion for foreign languages and history. This has followed me throughout my college years and into the present. At times I felt like I should be studying more "practical" topics but I realized that learning anything that will keep your mind sharp is important and one needs a real passion to dedicate free time to studying subjects not required in school. If it feels like work, you won't be doing it for long.

That being said, I decided for studying what I perceived as a very practical subject: business – against my father's will who wanted me to do engineering. Upon finishing high school, something happened to me that could arguably count as the biggest turning point in life so far – I received the Kronospan Scholarship to study at Babson College, the top school for entrepreneurship in the US. A major reason for deciding to study there was my expectation (which was fully met) for a broad education. If you observe most people who reached the pinnacle of their fields they were not just specialists but also generalists with varied interests. The physicist Richard Feynman, the writer Nassim Taleb and the businessman Charlie Munger of Berkshire Hathaway are great examples who inspired me – you should read their works. The way Babson blends business and humanities develops you not only as a professional or entrepreneur but also as a human being capable of reasoning and creative thinking. In my years at Babson I was able to learn Finance, Accounting and Sales but also Spanish and Portuguese fluently as well as study the history and economy of Latin America, coupled with a trip to universities in Uruguay and Argentina.



The intercultural experience I had at Babson was on a whole new level compared to what I experienced beforehand. I had already travelled quite a bit around Europe by the time I started college but having real friends from all these places with which one can exchange views and experiences cannot be compared to being a tourist. Furthermore, the reach was far beyond Europe as Babson has a very large number of students from both East and South Asia as well as from Latin America.

And these connections went beyond the purely cultural, intellectual or the thrill of meeting new people from all over the world. My roommate helped me get an internship in Brazil with a financial technology startup right after my first year of university; an incredible experience which taught me a lot about how small companies scale up and create a strong culture from the beginning. That summer was divided between this internship in Brazil and working with Kronospan doing sales in Serbia. In fact, every summer and winter during college I had the opportunity to intern for Kronospan. This was the perfect complement to the classroom learning I received at Babson and at least as significant for my development as my studies were. I got to see all aspects of the business from production to accounting to sales and more, while working at Kronospan sites all over the world.

Aside from the Kronospan internships, I also went back to Brazil after my second year to work for Falconi, a management consulting firm. There I learned the practical application of the continuous improvement method (which you will also study if you go to Babson) while working on the restructuring of the sales team of a client.

Babson also offered me the opportunity to study abroad at the London School of Economics through a partnership that the two universities have. There I had the privilege of experiencing the British university system, which differs greatly from what I had experienced at Babson. It had much more focus on reading and writing essays, rather than doing practical projects and focusing on teamwork, but it was still great complement for my development.

Given my Brazil experience and language skills I was able to get an internship with Deutsche Bank after my third year at Babson, doing Latin America investment banking. After this internship I knew that I wanted to be involved in M&A deals, and after my graduation



"The intercultural experience I had at Babson was on a whole new level."

Deutsche offered me a job. They provided me with the opportunity of doing something I enjoy across all industries and in a region I was very interested in, so I decided to take a chance and go down this path.

I will be forever grateful for the opportunity Kronospan Foundation has given me and I know that only through this, have I been able to develop into the person I am today.

Martina Garabedian
Our newest Kronospan Scholar

Choosing a profession and a career path is a crucial step in a young person's life. Thanks to the support of the Kronospan Foundation, I will be able to study the field of my choice - Business and Entrepreneurship, at one of the best academic institutions in the world. Here is my story.

My name is Martina Garabedian and I live in Plovdiv, Bulgaria. I am the next Kronospan Scholar and the first winner of the Kronospan competition from my country. My path to achieving this honor has probably started long before the beginning of the scholarship application cycle in September 2017. I have always been a diligent student, motivated not only to learn and achieve the highest grades, but also to grow personally by engaging in various extracurricular activities. I have never expected that the opportunity I have today would come into my life, but now, thanks to the Kronospan Foundation, I know that all my efforts in high school were steps towards the unique opportunity to study in a renowned educational institution such as Babson College.

When I was in 9th grade, I started considering my future education plans. I learned about the advantages of liberal arts education in the USA and I was sure that this would be the perfect environment for me to thrive both academically and personally. Liberal arts education has a centuries' long tradition in the US and it is renowned for building critical-thinking, adaptable and transformative leaders, who are able to make a difference in their communities. Thus my "American dream" was born. However, at that point I was not quite ready to choose a major, a university or a specific career path. I spent the rest of my high school days trying out new activities, getting involved in different clubs and learning two foreign languages –English and German.

Being a member of the Student Council at school, and later its president, was an opportunity for me to develop my social skills, while organizing a series of school initiatives: student awareness days, fundraising and charitable events, community projects. These experiences helped me explore my leadership potential and inspired my interest in the field of Social Sciences, Business and Economics.

My drive for making a difference in my community led



me to become a member of the local Interact club. I was impressed by the spirit of collaboration among the club members. At Interact we organized a variety of projects such as exhibitions, sports tournaments and charitable initiatives. I enjoyed the teamwork and the results of our work proved to be very rewarding. Additionally, I have been a member of a Visual Arts Club for more than 10 years. My passion is drawing with watercolors.

On March 16th, 2018 the long-anticipated news came from Babson College's application portal.

My Kronospan experience started with the receipt of a letter in my school in June 2017, announcing a scholarship competition among students from Central and Eastern European countries for an undergraduate study at Babson College, USA. I was thrilled to participate in this opportunity. This had been one of my most daring dreams so far: to study at a top-notch business school and grow as a future business leader with a broad global and cultural perspective.

Without any hesitation, I initiated the online application process and started preparing for the standardized tests: SAT and SAT Mathematics.

In October 2017, I was selected to join the second round of the competition. This round was the most exciting part of the application process. I had the opportunity to meet with the other candidates form Bulgaria: a group of intelligent young people with a variety of creative and academic interests. Together we spent one remarkable day, getting to know each other, interviewing and working in groups on improvised entrepreneurial projects. This was the so called Microlab. The round was held in Kronospan's plant in Burgas. We took a tour of the plant and learned about the complex organization of the production process. Most of the activities were held as games, so we had fun together, rather than feeling nervous.
Afterwards, I took the mandatory SAT. Since I have a special interest in mathematics, I decided to take additionally SAT Math Level 1 and SAT Math Level 2, at which I achieved excellent results.
The following rounds included submission of an application to Babson College and an interview with an admission officer from the college.
Then, on March 16th, 2018 the long-anticipated news came from Babson College's application portal:
I was admitted to join the class of 2022. This was a very emotional moment for me and my family. "Congratulations!" flashed from my computer screen. I was extremely proud, but at the same time, I felt a deep gratitude towards Kronospan Foundation and its sponsors for granting me this life-changing opportunity and making my most daring dream come true.

The days following my admission brought some unexpected, but very interesting experiences. The news about the Kronospan competition and my achievement received an overwhelming interest by the media in my country, including the Bulgarian National Television. There were multiple news coverages, several newspaper articles about the competition and "the life-changing opportunity a schoolgirl from Plovdiv was given", I was even invited to a life TV show. These events helped me realize another aspect of my achievement: It was not just a personal success, but also a positive motivational story for other ambitious and hard-working students. I feel honored to be both a Bulgarian representative and a Kronospan scholar at Babson College.

My advice to future applicants is to dream big, but to keep in mind Dr. Louis Pasteur's statement: "Fortune favors the prepared mind." I strongly believe that high aspirations coupled with hard work and a positive outlook can yield exceptional results.





Lizaveta Litvinava
Class of 2018

Dear Friend,

I am writing to you to express my deepest gratitude for your generous support towards my education at Babson College! I am very blessed to have been selected as a Kronospan Scholar for the Babson class of 2018. This scholarship has irrevocably changed my life, allowed me to uncover my potential, broaden my intellect and explore the amazing opportunities of studying in the United States as well as in other countries. Furthermore, at Babson diverse community, I was able to build very strong friendships with students, faculty, and staff members from all over the world.

Now, I am a senior at Babson College and I cannot believe how fast my time at Babson flew by. I have thoroughly enjoyed all of my academic and non-academic experiences. Last year, I was privileged to participate in the Babson BRIC program and study in Russia, China and India over the course of just one semester! Additionally, over the past three years, I dedicated a lot of my time at Babson to extracurricular activities such as the Babson Dance Ensemble, Babson's Free Press, Black Student Union and Origins of Necessary Equality as well as PRIDE organizations. At Babson, I received a lot of great opportunities for personal growth. However, the ones I am proudest of are my Peer Mentor and Student Employee experiences. It has been so great to know that my work is not only helping my college, but is also helping incoming Babson students to fall in love with Babson, the way I fell in love with it.

Looking back at what I have done at Babson I realize that none of this would have been possible without your support. By awarding me the Kronospan Scholarship, you have given me an opportunity to receive a great education and have a brighter future. Your generosity made me believe that dreams do come true if you are ready to work really hard to achieve them!

All the best.

Lizaveta

Hai Péter Pham
Class of 2019

Dear Friend,

I am writing to thank you for your generous and continuous support that I value greatly. The Kronospan Scholarship has allowed me to become someone I never thought I could be, study at a school I never even thought of, and for that, I will always be grateful.

A few weeks ago, I landed in Boston to start my third year studying at Babson. Coming back this semester was a little different, as I was studying abroad earlier in the year and have not been to America for almost nine months. I was a little anxious when I stepped into my new dorm room, the feeling resembling that of coming for freshman orientation, not exactly knowing what to expect for the second half of my four years here in Wellesley.

It did not take me long to realize that there was no need for me to be anxious and that this Babson is the same I know so well. Many things have changed, there are many new faces, but just as many old ones and the 'Babson way of life' remains the same. This is the school where I learned about business law, data analytics, entrepreneurship and so much more. This is where I met so many of my friends, from Colombia to Georgia. This is where I truly started to become an adult, and it was all possible thanks to your help.

Unlike other scholarship recipients, I also get to see the concepts from the classroom when I intern with Kronospan. It was incredible to visit Kronospan's Chirk site after two years and see how my understanding of business and running a multi-national company have changed and evolved since visiting as an 18-year old high school graduate. I hope I get to grow and learn with Kronospan and Babson just as much in the next two years as I got to in the last.

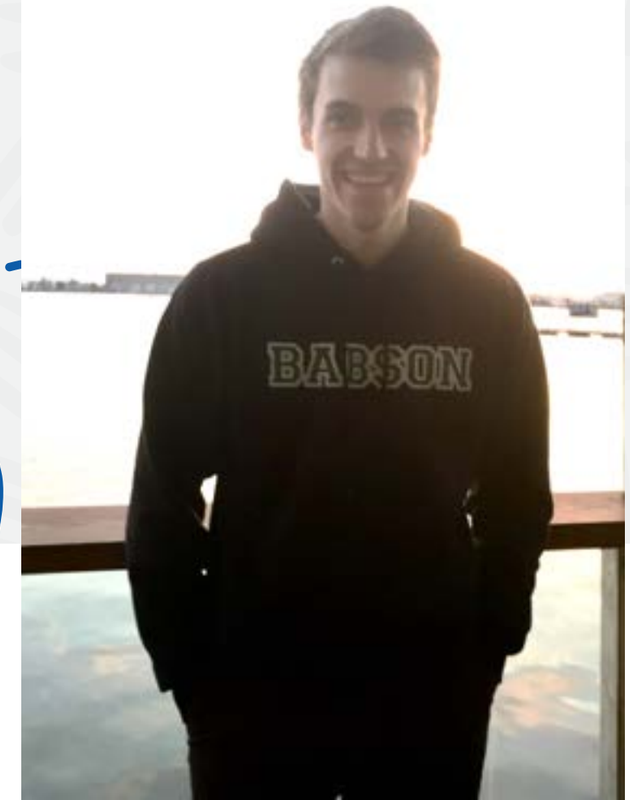
Thank you once again for everything you have made possible for me.

Peter



"Babson undoubtedly prepared me well for the internship in production management and sales offered to me by Kronospan."







Daniel Gasperowicz
Class of 2020

Dear Friend,

My name is Daniel Gasperowicz and I am a second year student at Babson College, originally from Zielona Góra, a small city in western Poland. I am writing to thank you for the financial help and mentorship you have been offering me throughout my studies here at Babson. I feel greatly honored and chosen by having this wonderful opportunity to study at the number one college for entrepreneurship in the USA.

During my freshman year, I took advantage of every possibility to further develop my passions and interests using the resources available at Babson. Really keen on numbers, I decided to begin working at the Office of Institutional Research. That position did not only help me expand my knowledge of statistics, but also familiarize myself with computer programs used for data analysis. Another important opportunity I have been given is being able to work as a student tutor for financial accounting. Helping others through teaching has always been my passion, which is why every day these appointments fill me with a lot of joy and excitement. What is more, I plan to concentrate in finance and I feel that tutoring this subject is certainly a good way to deepen my understanding of its principles.

One of the best experiences I had at Babson so far was an abroad elective program offered in the summer. The Paris Startup Strategy course that I took part in happened to be a meaningful conclusion to my FME freshman course. Together with a small group of fellow students, I visited numerous successful startup companies based in Paris, also including some founded by Babson alumni. I found this course to be a perfect opportunity to observe true leadership, which I learnt about in FME, in practice.

Babson undoubtedly prepared me well for the internship in production management and sales offered to me by Kronospan. Thanks to the possibility to visit the site in Lapovo, Serbia, I learnt how to efficiently manage a company's operations and how the communication between its different departments should look like. I enjoyed speaking with local workers who shared with me the knowledge I will surely be able to use during and after the rest of my studies at Babson.
My life has drastically changed since I started studying at Babson College. Right from my first day here, I have felt that I am growing as a leader who cares about the people and environment around him. A leader who thinks logically and knows how to critically analyze any process. And finally, a leader who never even thinks about giving in. This progress makes me proud and happy that I had decided to apply to Babson College.

Nevertheless, I would have never been given any of those chances to grow without your generous help. Once again, thank you for making this amazing dream of mine come true. I promise you that I will always do my best to further develop as a leader and give back to the community in the future. I hope that you will continue the Kronospan Scholarship Program as it lets young leaders who could never afford to pay the tuition study at their dream college.





Anna Saltykova
Class of 2021

Dear Friend,

My name is Anna and I was born and raised in Ukraine. This year I got a privilege to join the cohort of class 2021 in Babson College and this letter is the statement of sincere gratitude to you for making it possible. Education has always been my biggest dream and passion: I always tried to work as hard as I can to reach my goals and bring value to the world. From the time I was a child I always envisioned my life path, and one of the steps there was college.

I've never had enough of what my usual school was giving, therefore I have always tried to expand my horizons and try out many hobbies. Among them were musical school, volleyball, musicals and plays, singing, dancing, and volunteering. I have also taken other classes besides my school curriculum. In that way, I got an opportunity to learn 5 languages at different levels and get a lot of information about entrepreneurship and business. I was thirsty for knowledge and fortunately, it took me far.

In 2015 I got a scholarship from the U.S Department of State that allowed me to be an exchange student in an American high school. I gladly shared with people what life in Ukraine feels like, how or why it is different. I felt like a teenage ambassador for my country and was absolutely proud of it. This experience made me realize that the international education is crucial in a constantly changing modern world. It helped me to be a more out-going person, who embraces challenges and perceives them. Moreover, in America, I was able to take Economics as one of my classes. It finally became clear in what direction I wanted to go in the future and what career this might lead me to.

As I started to think about my future educational career, I understood that the knowledge and skills I want to get are unfortunately not yet taught at any traditional university in Ukraine. However, studies abroad were not an option for my family. I did research about any educational opportunities available, and suddenly the Kronospan Scholarship popped up. I was absolutely thrilled by the possibility of my dream coming true, so I did not hesitate with my application.
The application process was very demanding, but that is what you expect when such golden chances are coming your way. I knew from the beginning that I will put my best in every aspect of it. Travels to Riga and Prague for the first time were very exciting for me, but I was even more delighted to meet other participants from all over Europe. We had a blast exploring the factory in Riga, as well as sharing our own cultures and views.

Mere words cannot fully describe my feelings when I got the news about the final decision. I literally cried tears of joy and felt extremely happy to be set off to this unbelievable journey of pursuing my dream career. This summer I already had a chance to do my first internship in Kronospan Szczecinek (Poland). I worked in the Sales Department, as well as helped with organizing Hausmesse 2017. My duties were to translate correspondence for clients from Russian to Polish, to learn about company's workflow, and to organize invoices. I also got a chance to go on a factory tour and to see all stages of manufacturing: wood reception, initial preparation of materials, sorting, painting, paper





preparation, product storing, selling, and shipment. This was a wonderful learning experience for me and I really enjoyed it.

I will be forever grateful to the Kronospan Foundation and its sponsors, Babson College, and everyone else who made this possible. I sincerely believe that Babson College is a tremendous place for me to reach my full potential, to grow and learn, as well as a place where I will be able to develop my passion, leadership, and hard work over the next four years.

Anna

Annual Report 2017
Kronospan Foundation



Community

Architecture & Design Competition “Wood reinvented“

The Kronospan Foundations aims to support the communities in which the company Kronospan is local in; promoting social, economic and cultural development. The Architecture & Design Competition gives young architects the opportunity to not only win a cash prize for envisioning a ground-breaking project, but also the satisfaction of seeing their project realized in real life.

Houses of the future
Wood as main material in the housing industry – innovation, modernism and efficiency

International architectural trends increasingly emphasize a return to the roots They follow the integration of traditional elements, by using warm, environmentally friendly and, at the same time, highly energy-efficient materials for new houses. Wood can be considered the most outstanding material of this global development.

Kronospan Foundation set out to promote on Romanian markets patterns and solutions of using wood as main construction material,

The Romanian market presents additional opportunities for successful incorporation of global trends concerning the use of wood not only in interior design and furniture elements, but also as a main material for the housing industry. Romanian customers enjoy certified sources of qualitative local wood, skilled labor force, while they benefit from the advantage of lower costs related to the construction of housing, compared to those in foreign markets. For Kronospan Foundation the extension of the use of wood as main construction material in new housing projects in Romania is therefore considered a natural evolution, which it wishes to take part in and to further develop.

In this context, Kronospan Foundation set out to promote on Romanian markets patterns and solutions of using wood as main construction material, with the added values of creativity and innovation which characterize contemporary local architecture, by supporting the first edition of the Wood Reinvented architecture contest. The subject of the contest, which was developed in partnership with the Order of Architects from Romania, was right that: a proposal of an energy-efficient home in which wood should be used as main construction material. By the debate that was spurred in 2017 on this subject in the community of architects, and by the power of example, which is due to be materialized next year by constructing the house of the winning project, Kronospan Foundation aims to promote a wide integration of the culture of wood, as qualitative contemporary architecture solution, in general, day-to-day practice.
Given the wide interest of the community of architects, the initial timeline of entering the works into the Wood Reinvented contest was extended to the period 1 April – 15 October 2017. Projects signed by architects from the whole country (including Bucharest, Cluj Napoca, Timişoara, Braşov, Ploieşti, Galaţi, Piatra Neamţ, Alba Iulia, Miercurea-Ciuc and Târgu Mureş) were entered into the contest, confirming the opening and countrywide interest of the community of architects for the subject proposed by Kronospan Foundation. The use of wood as the main material for construction of houses has been a widely known subject and a concern to a lot of architects. The Wood Reinvented contest created the opportunity for this subject to be further developed, encouraging the architects to come up with innovative approaches that emphasize the creative use of wood, in order to ensure the widest possible use of wood-based solutions in the proposed project, as well as a house project with the best possible energy efficiency.
The selection procedure of the best works was carried out in two stages. Initially all projects entered into the contest were assessed in terms of both architecture and energy efficiency. The technical commission which was in charge with this assessment was made up of two energy efficiency experts (Horia Petran – INCERC Bucharest and Andrei Ceclan – Technical University in Cluj Napoca) and three architects (Miklos Kollo – Larix Studio, Miercurea Ciuc, Dragoş Oprea – Exhibit Arhitectura, Braşov and Biborka Bartha, Embassador of Kronospan). The Technical Commission selected 5 finalists during this procedure who entered the second stage in which the grand prize was awarded by an international jury. The international relevance and actuality of the subject of the creative use of wood as construction material facilitated the presence in the jury, besides appreciated representatives of the Romanian community of architects (such as Arch. Şerban Ţigănaş, Chairman of the Order of Architects from Romania, Arch. Mihai Nuţă, founder of ZONA, and Dr. Arch.





ARCHITECTURE
& DESIGN COMPETITION

WOOD REINVENTED

Biborka Bartha - Embassador of Kronospan in Romania) of renowned and respected personalities from the global field of architecture. Thus, the jury of the contest included the architect Ken Mackay, senior partner and founder of Mackay + Partners, London, Great Britain.

The potential of wood as main construction material is increasingly discovered every year.

Winner of Build Architecture Awards & Recognised Leader in New Facade Technology UK 2016 and of International Property Awards – Best Hotel Architecture 2015, Ken Mackay could directly appreciate the way how Romanian architects continue to generate innovative value solutions concerning the use of wood as construction material, in line with the requirements and standards of a highly sophisticated market, such as the British market. The architect Pako Radovanovic, from RADO Engineering Skopje, winner of the Grand Prize for Architecture 2016 in Macedonia and at the same time one of the best European architects of the present, also contributed as member of the jury to the selection of the winner of the grand prize of the Wood Reinvented contest that was organised by the Kronospan Foundation.
After each of the 5 finalists presented its project to the public, within the SHARE conference in Bucharest, the members of the jury decided to award the grand prize to architect Silviu Aldea, from Atelier Mass, Cluj Napoca. He was rewarded for the originality of the proposed project, respectively for the diversified and extremely creative modalities which integrated modern and extremely recent solutions and technological possibilities of using wood and wood-based panels, such as CTL (cross laminated timber), which has so far been used in Romania only in a few pilot projects. "Wood is a local, accessible and efficient product. It is a natural, organic and environmentally friendly material which provides a lot of advantages, because it is a living product" was the main message of the winner of the grand prize during the awarding ceremony and it captured the essence of the vision of Kronospan Foundation. For this very purpose of creating an even clearer picture of this vision and of the trust in the future potential of wood as construction material, Kronospan Foundation will materialize the winning project. It will be constructed from scratch, under full compliance with the parameters and terms established in the winning project.

The potential of wood as main construction material is increasingly discovered every year. The technological progress, innovation and creative applicability, all of them play their part together in the constant rediscovery of multiple methods of using wood in construction of houses. This is a process which Kronospan Foundation believes in and wishes to continue to be a part of in the future.



Winning project

SkyLightHouse

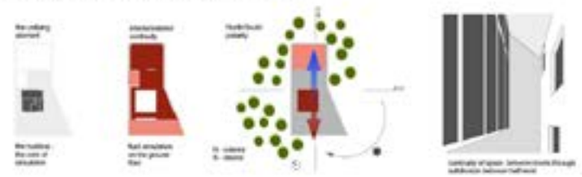


ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The project is developed on a reflection about the characteristics of contemporary living that has its roots in traditional functional criterias, but offers beyond that a particular physical, psychological and visual experience.

One of the first concepts implemented during the creative process corresponds to the predominant visual interplay between one volume and another, from one space to another. The architecture must allow a complete and global reading of the volumetry from the inside while respecting the spatial subdivision between «public space» and «intimate space» necessary for the family. The unifying element that will allow the comprehension of the space as a whole corresponds to the core of circulation, which develops over the whole height of the house. It stands out as main traffic and serving core. It acquires a polarity «North/South» which is defined between «public/private». Nevertheless, this nucleus is not a fixed and non-immutable architectural construction, its limits are porous and facilitate fluid circulation on the ground floor. The visual perception is enhanced from the entrance towards the kitchen - dining room - living room - garden and proposes a poetic continuity between the exterior and the interior, and a privileged relation with the surrounding landscape, connection between natural and artificial.

This brings us to the second concept, which pursues the visual continuity between spaces of human scale as the link of this connectivity. As stated earlier, the interior path is clearly and continuous on the ground floor. The notion of communication from one space to another becomes more complex but remains legible if one engages on the vertical progression of the central nucleus. An intermediate threshold at the first level will allow a first subdivision between half-levels.



The polarity defined in the North corresponds to the exterior terrace, continuity between interior and exterior space. In the South, the interior path will be extended to an additional half-level space above the playground, which will be a sleeping area for children. The interior circulation is designed to generate a dynamic path with the possibility of integrating areas of alternative use, like relaxation or study. There is a perpetual upward elevation. The continuity of the ascension corresponds to the idea that a house without a site must be able to refer to an ever present physical element, the sky as a natural entity forming part of this material construction.

The third concept adds to this specific experience of space, concerning the general volumetry of the house. If the interior is the engine of understanding the architectural design process, the envelope constitutes the visible expression. The body of the house is thus clad in a façade arrangement with a succession of windows that vary in height and elevation. The dynamics of the design give an oscillation between high and low levels allowing a continuous reading of the volume from one façade to another. Thus, the house is perceived as a continuous volume. Nevertheless, ambiguity is present on the South facade, the main entrance. It is characterized by the design of the «roof-façade». The roof is a significant architectural element and also offers habitable space underneath. The exterior design of the volumes follows the interior development that characterizes this house.











MATERIALITY

The materials used for the realization of this house will come among others from the 2016 catalog provided by the company Kronespan.

The first intention is to accomplish a logistical system that can facilitate the on-site assembly of the project. We will cut the four façades of the project into different parts dimensioned according to the proportions of a lorry (2.5m x 12m). These panels will be made of Cross Laminated Timber which is the structure of the house. The assembly on the site will be done with a crane and a team of about 6 workers. We were looking for a way to make the process of building the outer envelope of the house economically viable. The CLT-panels will serve as a support for the wooden strips facing the exterior and a standard OSB Firestop lining to optimize the fire-resistance rating of the house.

Subsequently the interior of the house and especially the central core, as well as the tabletops will be made of Compact 8081 BS Brilliant White. This will highlight the volume in comparison with the rest of the house. The choice of the white color will purify this volume which generates the unifying link between the different spaces.

For the pieces of built-in furniture we propose PB 8881 SU Brilliant White. The furniture as an architectural detail will complement the free space of the house. The choice of white allows the abstraction used within the spaces and to formalize the link with the central core. We want the materiality of the project to reflect the genesis of the architectural concept: a visible wooden structural envelope containing a free space composed of subspaces - visually, but also physically connected by the abstract central core and the furniture.











ENERGY-EFFICIENT HOME

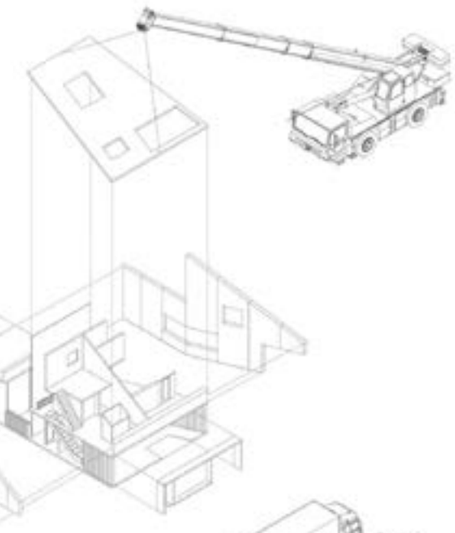
The important theme that follows the architectural concept corresponds to the energy viability of this house with a gross floor area of 141.78 sqm living area of 134.8 sqm.

As previously stated, the volumetry has an important role in understanding the interior space, but also with regard to the technological implementation. The idea of a «roof-facade» makes it possible to draw on the Sun's energy for the house. Profiting of the Southern orientation and the slope of the roof, we will install a system of vacuum tube solar collectors. These are connected to a central air-conditioning unit with supplementary dynamic heating located in the circulation core right under the roof. The central nucleus or well of light, allows the distribution throughout the house of the solar energy used for hot water for the taps and underfloor heating as well.

The heating system is completed with a passive management of air circulation inside the volume. To make the most of natural ventilation, the shaded area at the main entrance will allow fresh and cool air intake in summer which will be drawn upwards around the central core passively heating up (while cooling the house) and let out on the upper part of the central window. In the same way as a greenhouse, the house is also accompanied by an important planting plan favoring the recycling of air. We can essentially select plants which could purify the air from the inside.











Community

Open Your Heart! Charity Gala

The Open Your Heart Charity Gala is an annual charity ball organized by the Kronospan Foundation. Each year the Kronospan Foundation promotes a different cause that contributes towards its mission. Funds are raised throughout the evening with the support of local Romanian artists, who donate their artwork to be auctioned off.



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"People joined other people, united within a project dear to us all."









Kronospan Foundation supports the refurbishing of the sterilisation section of the Children Hospital of Brașov with 41.000 EUR

Since 2011, Kronospan Foundation has been organizing every year the "Open Your Heart!" Charity Gala, a high-toned event, both from a moral point of view, by its charity purpose, and from a social point of view, by the guests who accept the invitation. The event unites over 200 people every year, outstanding members of the local and national Romanian community, businessmen and political, social and cultural personalities.

In 2017, Kronospan Foundation supported the Children Hospital of Brașov for the refurbishing and fitting of the central sterilization station with equipment. This has never been renovated since the opening of the medical unit in 1986. At this point the hospital is using very old, worn out sterilization autoclaves, which do not ensure medical procedures according to the present requirements. The system is functional, but it requires a good deal of effort from the medical staff. A performant sterilization section would mean reduction risk of hospital-acquired infections and a high level of trust from everybody; medical staff, patients and all those involved in the medical procedures.

A part of the funds that are required so that the sterilization section can in future be operated according to the highest medical standards, was raised within the "Open Your Heart!" Charity Gala. The sterilization equipment, which is old and requires frequent repairs, will be replaced and the section will be refurbished. This is a useful step which will make it possible to perform medical procedures in the Children Hospital of Brașov under safe conditions, for the medical staff and, what's most important, for the sick children.

"For us to be able to speak today of this positive result, interest and care were the first prerequisites. It is the first condition which we need to achieve, understanding that the power of change lies within each of us. Secondly, engagement was required. Grouping all stakeholders and uniting them within a common effort which makes the achievement of the desired objective possible. Kronospan Foundation, its business partners, representatives of the civic environment, public figures and plain citizens, all of them could bring their contribution within the "Open Your Heart!" Charity Gala to raising the funds required for the sterilisation section of the Children Hospital of Brașov. What brought them all together was the mutual wish to achieve this project. People joined other people, united within a project dear to us all." Oana Bodea, President of the Kronospan Foundation.

So far, the “Open Your Heart!” Charity Gala has raised:

2011

donation of **EUR 18.000** for the Hospice House of Hope Foundation, for the Educational Centre for sick children who are under relief care at Hospice;

2012

donation of **EUR 36.000** to the Children Hospital Braşov Foundation and the Sebeş Hospital, Paediatrics Section, for the purchase of medical devices (ecograph in Sebeş and ecocardiograph in Braşov);

2013

donation of **EUR 18.000** to the Philharmonic Orchestra of Braşov, for the purchase of a concert piano;

2014

donation of **EUR 15.000** to the Crystal Children Association for the furnishing of a sensory room and donation of EUR 5.500 to the MUST! Organisation Sebeş for the furbishing of a town park;

2015 & 2016

donation of **EUR 72.000** to the Technological High School of Sebeș, for the refurbishing and fitting of the workshops with machinery and the support of vocational education.

Partners of the event, 2017:

Opera of Braşov, Hotel Kronwell, National Radu Stanca Theatre of Sibiu, Numis Med, Sanosan, Grindesign, Euro Educational, Fantasy Dance, Le sommelier, Cora Trade Center, DBO, Kiki Dumitrescu, Marie Nouvelle, Transylvania Art Gallery

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