



Rensselaer

EVAN DOUGLIS, DEAN, SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE

July 2015

Architecture Supply & Technology Fee Memo

Dear Entering Architecture Student:

I am writing you on behalf of the faculty to welcome you to Rensselaer's School of Architecture. As one of the leading programs throughout the US, we pride ourselves on offering a rigorous, comprehensive and inspiring education for all of our students. From the start, you'll have the opportunity to engage with creative and intellectually curious classmates from all over the world dedicated to this amazing discipline called 'architecture'. You'll be exposed to a variety of perspectives, a renowned group of faculty and a dynamic culture that aspires to using architecture in a larger sense as a benevolent gift to change the world!

Architectural Supplies (required)

Having a base set of supplies is essential for the Fall 2015 and subsequent design studios. The enclosed document provides you with the complete list of supplies you will need. In order to save you money and simplify the purchasing process we have made a bulk purchase and extend that price to you without any markup. Just complete and return the payment portion of the enclosed form and we will charge your student account. The inventory of required supplies will be waiting for you to pick-up on the first day of classes. It eliminates an extensive and potentially costly search and guarantees that everyone will be ready to start making architecture on the 'big day'!

Technology Fee (required)

To provide you with the latest software applications that are required in your classes, and assure that our fabrication shop remains an effective student learning enterprise from one academic year to the next there is a required *Technology Fee* for all incoming freshman architecture students. With this payment you will have access to *Rhinoceros* and *Grasshopper* on your laptop (required for every incoming first year architecture student). If you choose to use an Apple computer you will need Bootcamp and the Window to use this and other applications.

Note:

You are also required to have Adobe Creative Cloud which can be purchased separately through the campus computer store / bookstore for \$239 for a 12 month subscription. Be reminded these are essential software packages required in most architecture schools as well as the profession.

Laptop Program (recommended)

All Rensselaer students are required to have a laptop that meets Rensselaer specifications. In Architecture it will be used extensively in both the classroom and your design studio courses. You should have received information regarding Rensselaer's Mobile Computing Program that can also be found at <http://dotcio.rpi.edu/services/laptops>. You will note that the Institute is offering two models, one more portable, the other more robust and powerful. In architecture we **highly recommend** the more powerful model that is able to drive the more computationally intensive graphic applications that you will be using beginning in your first year.

If you have already ordered the more portable model don't panic. You may contact Pat Valiquette at valiqp@rpi.edu (518-276-6723) or Judy Shea at sheai@rpi.edu (518-276-8821) any time before Friday, July 17 to change your order. Note that one of the significant advantages of the Rensselaer offering is a warranty that includes access to a loaner during any repair period. Although the Institute's laptop program offers invaluable technology support, choosing to purchase an equivalent laptop (MAC or PC) independently is acceptable.

In conclusion, we look forward to having you as a new member of the architecture school community. We welcome your engagement and the exciting work that will emerge from you in the years ahead!

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Pam Zepf zepfp@rpi.edu.

Sincerely,



Evan Douglis, Dean
School of Architecture
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute