

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute  
School of Architecture

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**Italian Studies Program**  
45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
Alumni Gala Celebration in Rome

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*October 15-20, 2025*

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Dear Alumni,

You are cordially invited to the **Rensselaer School of Architecture's Alumni Gala Celebration** in Rome, honoring 45 extraordinary years of the **Italian Studies Program**. This unforgettable gathering marks a milestone in our shared journey—celebrating the transformative power of architecture, education, and the Eternal City itself. Join us for a once-in-a-lifetime experience, featuring exclusive tours of Rome's iconic landmarks, a distinguished exhibition of student work from the past decade, and a special presentation of architectural freehand drawings by master draftsman Richard Piccolo, whose four-decade career has captured the city's timeless beauty.

Leading up to the Gala, we will offer intimate dinners at extraordinary historical venues, providing a unique opportunity to dine among the masterpieces of Rome's rich architectural heritage. The celebration will culminate in a Gala Dinner at a distinguished Roman venue, where we will proudly present the inaugural Peter Q. Bohlin Award—a Lifetime Achievement and Service Award—to **Patrick Quinn, Dean Emeritus**, and **Frances Bronet, President of the Pratt Institute**, in recognition of their extraordinary and lasting contributions to architectural education and visionary leadership.

For details and to reserve your place at this exceptional celebration, please visit: <https://www.alumni.rpi.edu/rome-2025>

**Registration deadline:** July 15, 2025 - \$1350

*The program fee covers dining, guided walking tours, cultural events, and Sunday's excursion. Flights and accommodations are arranged individually. Refer to RPI's online registration page for recommended hotels.*

**Limited openings—register early to be part of this exclusive event!**

Together, let's return to Rome—where the city's timeless beauty not only rekindles cherished memories but inspires new connections, new experiences, and a lasting legacy of our shared journey.

With warmest regards,

Evan Douglass, Dean  
Rensselaer School of Architecture

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## **SCHEDULE**

### **Wednesday 10/15**

*Arrivals*

### **Thursday 10/16**

*9:30AM-12:00PM – Architectural Walking Tours*

*2:00-3:00PM – Rensselaer Architecture Exhibition, Palazzo Taverna*

*5:00-9:00PM – Welcome Dinner: (a) House of the Knights of Rhodes /  
(b) Palazzo Taverna*

### **Friday 10/17**

*9:30AM-12:00PM – Architectural Walking Tours*

*2:00-3:30PM – Richard Piccolo Exhibition Opening & Reception, EIIS  
Gallery, Palazzo Taverna*

*5:00-9:00PM – Dinner: (a) Palazzo Taverna / (b) House of the Knights of  
Rhodes*

### **Saturday 10/18**

*5:00-9:00PM – Alumni Gala Celebration: Galleria del Cardinale, Palazzo  
Colonna*

### **Sunday 10/19**

*9:00AM-2:00PM – Architectural Gems Outside Rome: (a) Villa D'Este /  
(b) Tivoli Gardens, Gourmet boxed lunches provided*

### **Monday 10/20**

*Departures*

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RPI School of Architecture Italian Studies

## Endowed Scholarship Fund

**“All architects must go to Rome.”** For over 45 years, the Rensselaer School of Architecture has turned this timeless calling into a reality, sending more than 700 students to study in the Eternal City. This immersive semester abroad is not merely a tradition—it’s a transformative experience that profoundly shapes the intellectual, cultural, and creative foundation of our students. It empowers them with the insights and inspiration needed to become visionary architects on the global stage in the years to come.

Today, this experience is more vital than ever. In a world that demands innovation grounded in history and design inspired by diverse perspectives, Rome offers a living testament to the enduring power of architecture to inspire and transform.

**The Italian Studies Endowed Scholarship Fund** was established to make this opportunity accessible to all. Its mission is simple yet powerful: to ensure that every RPI architecture student—regardless of financial circumstances—has the chance to explore the streets of Rome, immerse themselves in the timeless beauty of Italy, and return with a vision enriched by the vast cultural and architectural treasures found throughout the country.

Please consider giving to the  
Italian Studies Endowed Scholarship Fund:



*Follow the QR link to the RPI Alumni giving page*

*or*

*Contact Craig Westcott, SoA Director of Development*

*westcc@rpi.edu / (518) 929-5242*

*for more information on ways to give.*

Fundraising goal – \$500,000

Progress to date – 25% of goal

*Matching Gift Challenge of \$50,000 made possible by*

*David and Katrina Pacheco '92*



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