Dear Students

The fundamental role of drawing in the education of the architect has been central to the curriculum at the University Of Miami School Of Architecture; and over the years both faculty and students have produced beautiful and rigorous drawings that have been the outcome of countless hours of research and commitment. Today, these drawings are generated both manually and digitally; and it is essential that each student be equipped with the proper tools to engage the multi-faceted nature of architectural drawing.

The University Of Miami School Of Architecture utilizes the computer as an essential part of a modern and advanced undergraduate education. The curriculum incorporates a variety of two dimensional and three dimensional software including: Autocad, Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator, In Design, Google Sketch - Up Pro, Rhino, Revit, Maya and 30 Max. As you prepare to begin your first year at the School of Architecture, you will need to purchase a computer (if you do not already have one) that is capable of handling these sophisticated graphic and design applications.

Due to the changing nature of the electronic world, the School of Architecture refrains from prescribing any specific computer brands, processor models, etc. The School cannot guarantee that any single device will be adequate to address all computing needs; however, the following set of guidelines is meant to assist each student in purchasing a computer capable of supporting the software requirements of the current curriculum.

The School of Architecture and the University of Miami at large is set up to support Microsoft Windows operating systems. However, students may purchase Apple Macintosh computers if they prefer.

The School recommends that each student purchase a laptop, primarily for the ease of portability and compactness.

**Hardware Specifications**

**Computer age:** computers should have a processor not older than the fall of 2015. At the time of this writing, this means an Intel Core i7 (Quad-Core) processor or equivalent.

**Screen size:** this is the single most important consideration for AutoCAD and graphic work. The School recommends laptops with 15-inch displays as the minimum screen size. However, we advise that students purchase a laptop with an external monitor (as large as possible), as laptops with larger screen sizes usually add 1-2 pounds of weight and have decreased battery life, making them less mobile.

**External Optical mouse:** second to screen size in importance, an external mouse with two buttons is an essential tool for multiple software applications, particularly AutoCAD. The current "track-pads" and built-in mice on laptops will not be used.

**RAM Memory and Hard Disks:** the School recommends a minimum of 16 Gigabytes of RAM and a solid-state drive (SSD) of no less than 500 Gigabytes of space. This is particularly important for Mac users. Applications such as Revit, 3d Max, Grasshopper (Plugin for Rhinoceros 5) and Autocad Architecture (not to be confused by Autocad) are PC compatible only. Mac users will need to take this into consideration and make sure a system with sufficient hard drive space is purchased for Windows installation (Bootcamp).

**GPU (Graphical Processing Unit) Video card:** it is recommended for computers to have a dedicated graphics card of at least 2 GB. NVIDIA and AMD offer workstation solutions such as Quadro (NVIDIA) and FirePro (AMD) lines, which are specifically targeted
for content creation CAD applications.

**Extended Onsite Warranty:** The School strongly recommends that each student purchase extended, on-site warranty service for their computers. Most of these offerings include accident coverage as well. On-site warranty means the company will send someone to the home or campus drop-off location to fix the computer, rather than having to wait for weeks or more for mail-in service.

**Software**

Most software requirements for the School of Architecture are free to students via vendors including:

Autodesk Software (AutoCad, Revit, Maya, 3D Max and other applications): [http://www.autodesk.com/education/home](http://www.autodesk.com/education/home)

Microsoft Office Suite:

The following software are offered at a discounted price for students:

Adobe Creative Cloud (Photoshop, Illustrator and In-Design)

Rhino 5 (Click on Students and Faculty Tab)
[https://www.rhino3d.com/sales/north-america/United_States](https://www.rhino3d.com/sales/north-america/United_States)

Google Sketch-Up Pro:
[http://www.sketchup.com/3Dfor/education-students](http://www.sketchup.com/3Dfor/education-students)

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Coordinator, ARC 111, Architectural Drawing I