

Updated July 2022

Dear incoming architecture student,

We are excited to welcome you to the Gibbs College of Architecture! While OU is a large University, our Division of Architecture is a tight knit community, which you will get to know quickly. You are about to begin a transformative experience in thinking, learning, and making. We urge you to arrive with an open mind, ready to explore. Some of the tools of architecture, working habits and friendships you will form this year, will remain with you for the rest of your lives and careers.

In anticipation of your arrival, we have assembled suggestions that may help you adjust to life at GCA, as well as a list of tools, to help you prepare for this coming Fall.

The Studio

The studio is where you will spend most of your time during the first year. It is a large space, shared by the entire incoming class. You will get a table, suited for drawing and making, and you will find that learning happens just as much from your fellow classmates as from your teachers. Design is a process that takes a long time, much longer than the official class hours, and hence the 'studio culture' is here in order to support you. By 'studio culture' we mean the shared attitude that is meant to support a creative exploration: a respect for each other's individual space, the cultivation of a shared community, and the promotion of discussion and exchange. We think that the studio experience is fundamental to the education of an architect, and we hope you will find it supportive of your creative endeavors. See our [Studio Culture Policy here](#).

Recommended Supplies, Tools and References

To make the most of your studies and to engage with your assignments successfully, we have assembled a list of suggestions. First, there are necessary tools you should own to successfully complete your projects; tools which will serve you during your entire career at the College of Architecture. Second, a laptop is required for all your classes at the University yet check the architecture school's recommendations below. Third, we have assembled a list of books and websites – suggestions for you to look at this summer and beyond. We think that the creative engagement of an architect never stops and hope you will join us in this appreciation. Some books contain technical information and important references you will need such as drafting skills; while other books and websites provide necessary, ongoing inspiration.

Tools and Supplies

The OU student chapter of the American Institute of Architecture Students (AIAS) has worked with first year faculty to assemble a kit of tools and materials or you can purchase these individually online. Students who need financial support to purchase the kit should reach out to Camille Germany (germany@ou.edu). Our alumni typically buy some kits for students with financial need. Please see the fall 2022 first year supply list below.

Each semester of architecture school, students will be responsible for purchasing materials for model making, drawing and printing throughout the year. Please plan on budgeting \$500 each semester for these additional tools and supplies.

Technology and Laptops:

From the first day of class you will need a laptop as per the posted Gibbs College of Architecture laptop policy found here: <https://architecture.ou.edu/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/College-of-Architecture-Laptop-Policy-2021-2022.pdf>

Verify your laptop is registered with and connected to OU Wi-Fi system
<https://itsupport.ou.edu/TDCClient/30/Unified/KB/ArticleDet?ID=131>

- Also make sure that Zoom is loaded on your device: <https://oklahoma.zoom.us/>

Recommended Books:

We chose a few books: some of these books are classics, some others are much more recent, yet all would be inspiring and helpful in giving you a good sense of what architecture entails. We will have them ready for you in the library to consult as you arrive, but if you decide to purchase any of these, we promise they will be useful throughout your career at the Gould College of Architecture.

Organized alphabetically by author:

- *Design Like You Give a Damn 2: Building Change from the Ground Up*, Edited by Architecture for Humanity
- *Architecture: Form Space and Order*, by Francis D.K. Ching
- *Ten Canonical Buildings*, by Peter Eisenman
- *101 Things I Learned in Architecture School*, by Matthew Frederick
- *Renegades: Bruce Goff and the American School of Architecture*, by Guido, Pilat and Person, eds.
- *Architects Draw*, by Sue Fergusson Gussow
- *Yes is More: An Archicomic on Architectural Evolution*, by Bjarke Ingals
- *Drawn to Design*, by Eric Jenkins
- *S M L XL*, by Rem Koolhaas and Bruce Mau
- *Towards a New Architecture*, by Le Corbusier
- *Manual of Section*, by Paul Lewis, Marc Tsurumaki, and David Lewis
- *The Language of Architecture*, by Simitch and Warke
- *Analyzing Architecture*, by Simon Unwin
- *Twenty-Five Buildings Every Architect Should Understand*, by Simon Unwin
- *Thinking Architecture*, by Peter Zumthor

As you prepare to study architecture, do not commit more than 10 hours per week to activities outside of school such as extra-curriculars, sports, or work.

And above all – become a curious, thoughtful, and observant participant of the natural and built environment around you!

See you soon!

See the following page for a list of required tools.

Tools necessary for the first year (at least), to be purchase individually or as a kit from AIAS:

- T-Square 42" preferred (desk Sizes are 30"x50")
- Adjustable Triangle, 10" or 12" (preferred)
- Two triangles – 30/60 and 45/45
- Architectural Scale
- Six-piece pencil set, hardness ranging from 8B – 5H
- Eraser
- Pencil Sharpener
- Drafting tape
- Metal Ruler 18" min.
- X-Acto knife and blades
- 18" X 24" Cutting mat
- 18" tracing paper rolls, (preferably white)
- Sketchbook: 11" * 17" for representation, glue bound
- Smaller sketchbook, 8.5" * 6 such as this:
https://www.amazon.com/dp/B07NVMV6KV?ref=nb_sb_ss_w_as-reorder-t1_ypp_rep_k3_1_4&crd=1FWV62AXP9BF9&sprefix=c.r
- Circle template
- Carrying tube

Additional material not included in the AIAS Kit:

- A roll of vellum 24" wide, such as Clearprint 1000H
- Compass
- Eraser shield
- Wood Glue and Super Glue
- 2mm lead holders and different 2mm leads from 4H to 4B
- Soldering iron with Flux
- Wood cutting Miter Box
- Chipboards, museum boards, basswood and/or other materials for model making
- And—the book by Francis Ching's *Architectural Graphics* (Sixth Edition) – will be a useful reference guide. You can purchase the printed textbook at the OU Bookstore or a PDF version online.