Dear College of Architecture Incoming First-Year Students and Parents:

Congratulations on your admission to the Sam Fox School's College of Architecture! As you begin planning for your first year, your computer needs may be top of mind. Whether you already own a computer, or are considering acquiring a new one, this letter and the attached information will further assist you in making decisions about this essential educational tool.

Technology plays a critical role in the educational experience of our students; therefore, the Sam Fox School is committed to the integration of relevant technology into our curriculum. As part of our College of Architecture curriculum, our faculty provide required instruction in digital design technologies beginning in your first year, guided by established industry standards and best practices.

We strongly recommend that College of Architecture first-year students acquire a computer and software that match or exceed the specifications outlined in the enclosed materials. Instruction for introductory courses on digital tools is designed to meet the precise specifications of the hardware and software listed. This laptop and software will serve as a basic, but versatile, toolkit and will support at least the first two years of your education in architecture. Due to advances in technology and subsequent upgrades in software, you may need to acquire a new, more powerful computer in your junior or senior year in order to complete your area of study.

The Sam Fox School does not facilitate a computer purchase program. As such, we advise students to use the local and national sources referenced in the enclosed materials to purchase recommended hardware and software. Please keep in mind that computers should be locked down in the studio and should be added to your homeowner’s or renter’s insurance policies.

We understand that some students may need financial assistance with these purchases. If this is a concern, please contact a counselor in Student Financial Services (SFS) as soon as you are able. Counselors can be reached at 314.935.5900, 888.547.6670, or financial@wustl.edu. Washington University and the Sam Fox School want to help all students have the tools that they need to take full advantage of their college education in architecture and to be prepared to be the excellence in their field.

To further support the role of technology in our curriculum, the Sam Fox School has shared media teaching labs, as well as satellite labs, printing nodes, and computer workstations throughout the School. We regularly upgrade all equipment and software.

All first-year students are required to purchase Adobe CC through the University. The University has secured a highly reduced annual cost of $56.50 per license (regular retail cost is $240 per year). This cost will be billed to your WashU student account and a license will be issued to you at the beginning of August to your wustl.edu email. You will continue to be billed each year while you are a student for this license.

Richard Viehmann coordinates digital technologies for the School working with the faculty and with the Information Technology staff. If you have questions about digital technologies for students in the College of Architecture, please contact Richard Viehmann at 314.935.9286 or viehmann@wustl.edu; he can assist you or direct your question to the right staff member.

In the meantime, I look forward to an exciting fall semester and the opportunity to work with you during your educational career in architecture at the Sam Fox School.

Sincerely,

Heather Woofter
Director, College of Architecture | Graduate School of Architecture & Urban Design
Sam and Marilyn Fox Professor