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## Studio Community and Culture Agreement

The Architecture Department's studio is an intense environment. While students and faculty value this atmosphere, this condition requires continual individual and collective commitments to productive, healthy, and respectful behavior of everybody in the studio, including students, faculty, administrators, and staff.

**Working in the Studio** assures students and faculty the maximum opportunity to interact, develop work collaboratively, and learn from each other. For that reason, it is important that students complete their work among their peers in the on-campus studio. During studio instruction hours, students are required to be at their desks and working on their projects. Of course, much of the learning goes on after posted class hours and in casual conversations among students and faculty. While some students may assert that working at home is quieter or more convenient, they would miss out on the studio's essential learning opportunities.

**Time Management** is also an important component of studio culture. Students learn how to utilize their time in school more efficiently and maintain healthy habits despite the demands of their varied work. Students are encouraged to prioritize their physical, mental, and emotional needs by getting enough sleep, exercising, and eating well. Students are strongly encouraged to manage their work without skipping meals or resorting to "all-nighters." While studio work is demanding, assignments in the studio and other courses assume a finite and reasonable time allocation. Professors must be explicit about the time frame they expect an assignment to be completed. Students who cannot fulfill this requirement are asked to seek guidance from their advisors, faculty, or the Department Head. Conflicts with other classes are brought to the attention of faculty as early as possible.



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**The Work Environment** of the studio is the responsibility of the entire department population. Work in the studio — drawing, model making, research, etc. — occurs best in an orderly environment where materials, equipment, and refuse find their proper places. This means that students must keep their possessions, materials and works-in-progress confined to their desk areas and that they clean up after projects. Whenever possible, materials are recycled through the department's material reuse system. Respect for others' desk areas and work tools is essential.

**Collaborative Learning** requires both a clean and safe environment as well as a positive atmosphere that is free from unnecessary distractions. Loud music, boisterous conversations, and cell phone calls are distractions to other studio colleagues and are forbidden in the studio. Group work is encouraged but should occur in ways that are not disruptive to other students. Students are frequently expected to collaborate on assignments and are expected to find ways to do so effectively and fairly.

**Integration** of the various strands of the curriculum should be applied through formal and informal interactions. This requires a commitment to work in the studio as a necessary condition to connect diverse forms of knowledge and bring to the studio students' experiences from other classes. Students must also supplement their studio practice with outside research, library time, and departmental and school-wide lectures.

**Our janitorial staff** works incredibly hard to maintain a safe and productive studio environment for all community members. To respect their work and allow them to focus their efforts on common areas, students must take responsibility for their own areas.



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## Studio Community and Culture Agreement

**Equipment**, tools and shop facilities supplement and expand one's knowledge base and studio practice.

The study of architecture increasingly involves using ancillary technologies and equipment ranging from personal computers to the shared computer lab and printing facility, the model shop, laser cutter and CNC router. Students are provided access to these facilities to supplement and expand their knowledge base and studio practice. Students must understand and follow directions and procedures as instructed to work safely and responsibly. Dedicated technicians and technician-trained and supervised monitors are always available to address questions or demonstrate equipment use.

**Critique** is central to the method of learning-through-making at RISD. This critique takes place in several ways: at the desk, in one-on-one conversations between students and instructors; during pin-up sessions where students present works-in-progress to an instructor and their peers; and in final reviews where students, several faculty and guest critics are engaged in rigorous discussions of finished work. Students are expected to be on time and prepared for these "crits" and to listen and contribute openly to their critiques and those of their fellow students.

**Respect** for each student's work and the work of others in the studio is central to department citizenship. The opportunity to learn from fellow students is an inherent part of the value of work in the studio. With this privilege comes the responsibility to value each other's efforts, share ideas without fear of plagiarism or censure, and critique each other constructively. We all must listen actively and carefully and be mindful of the impact of one's words and actions.



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**Responsibility** recognizes that the quality of life in the studio depends on each individual's actions and that everyone does their part to play a positive role within a dynamic physical and intellectual environment. In signing the Studio Contract, each student fully accepts their responsibility.

*The Architecture studio should be a place of true creativity and professional collaboration between the faculty and students. We share a common goal: to achieve excellence in all we do and to ensure mutual respect for each other. These are the preeminent conditions for our work as a creative community.*

REV 10/01/23

