TO: Stuart Weitzman School of Design Architecture Students
DATE: May 21, 2019
SUBJECT: Computer Purchase Options for Architecture Students

General Information:
The Architecture Department at Stuart Weitzman School of Design requires incoming graduate students to buy or bring a computer for your time as a student at Design. When purchasing your computer you need to decide between a workstation laptop or desktop model.

Computers:
Decisions about configurations, operating systems, and needed software for your coursework have to be carefully considered. **Please refer to our website www.design.upenn.edu/it-services for more detailed information**. Students are expected to have a computer capable of running **Windows**. We do not include Apple Computers in our Back-to-School Sale. It is your choice to bring in a MAC (running BootCamp or VMware and a separate copy of Windows 10) in our experience this may require more expense and complication, since you will have two rather different operating systems and applications on your computer -- a PC Laptop or desktop is usually a simpler and more dependable solution**.** As a student you are responsible for the maintenance of your personal computer.

Software:
You should purchase the software you need to adequately work in your studio space. You can't depend on the availability of computer labs since they are often reserved for teaching. Architecture students should have a subscription to Adobe Creative Cloud, and a copy of Rhino. Rhino is available for online ordering on Campus Express this summer, along with the computers. Shipping is free on Campus Express, so you can order your software and computer over the summer and it will be shipped to you.

You can also download free copies of AutoDesk applications at http://students.autodesk.com/?nd=download_center.

A free download of Microsoft Office 365 Pro Plus is available to students at the Campus Express website http://campusexpress.upenn.edu/ Microsoft Office 365 ProPlus includes Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook, and OneNote for both Mac and PC (additionally, Access and Publisher for PC are included).

Ordering from the Computer Connection:
Design, in conjunction with the University's Computer Connection, is pleased to offer Design students several computer purchasing options which can be viewed at https://www.design.upenn.edu/it/computer-recommendation-letter-students. It is very important that you secure your computer and all peripherals with a lock-down device. For your convenience, we have included computer lock-down kits in our offerings. You can place your order by logging into the Campus Express website http://campusexpress.upenn.edu and clicking on "Books and Computers".

If you plan to purchase a system elsewhere, or want to evaluate a system you already own, please match the specifications of your preferred systems to the ones offered by the Computer Connection. Many vendors will happily sell you cheaper systems with less RAM, a less powerful graphics card and/or lower hard drive performance. However, there is no guarantee that these less expensive systems will serve you well at Design. Video card and RAM specifications are particularly important to Design students.

Financing:
The University's Office of Student Financial Services provides resources that can assist you in the purchase of your computer. If you have filed a FAFSA form and are eligible for financial aid, you can ask for a budget increase from the University's Office of Student Financial Services. Download their budget Increase Form from http://www.srfs.upenn.edu/pdf/2018-19/graduate-professional-education-budget-increase-18-19.pdf and return the completed form to them along with a receipt from the computer you've purchased or an estimate of the computer you plan to purchase. For more information stop by the Design Office of Financial Aid, 110 Meyerson Hall

If you have questions regarding the configurations or order placement, the Computer Connection staff can assist you. Please contact the store at 215-898-3282, or email the staff at cconline@pobox.upenn.edu If you have specific questions about computing requirements at Design, please send an email to ithelp@design.upenn.edu.