March 14, 2015

Dear Student

On behalf of the faculty of the Department of Architecture, I am delighted to inform you of your acceptance into the two-year, first-professional Master of Architecture degree program at the University of Pennsylvania’s School of Design.

This year we had an unusually large number of highly qualified applicants, so you should feel especially proud of your accomplishments and prospects. PennDesign thrives on both the diversity and quality of faculty and students alike. We are certain that you will profit enormously from our rich and challenging academic environment, and that your training, skills, goals and motivations to pursue your graduate studies here will be a significant contribution to all. We look forward to you joining us in the fall.

We believe that Penn’s Architecture degree programs offer all participants important opportunities to address emergent possibilities in design, while remaining attentive to the social, cultural, and urban context of architecture. Under the leadership of Chair of Architecture, Winka Dubbeldam, we have been reinvigorating our commitment to provide students with innovative design skills, cutting edge theoretical and technological knowledge, and the analytic, interpretive, and writing skills necessary for a productive and innovative career in the field.

Towards this goal, we have carefully orchestrated our professional program in order to offer in-depth training in architectural design, representation, and communication, as well as technology, construction, structure, history and theory, and professional practice. Our faculty in all of these areas is world renowned for producing cutting edge work and stimulating global discourse, as well as for their passion for teaching and commitment to student development. Our alumni frequently commend us for the intensity of our academic teaching, the relevance of the professional skills they have obtained, and the exposure to a wide array of challenging design studios and courses that prepared them to navigate with ease different working environments around the world.

The University of Pennsylvania is a congenial university in a great city, and in close proximity to New York City and Washington DC. Our location in Philadelphia allows tremendous opportunities to visit and experience first-hand a range of significant
architectural and urban spaces. Our location also allows us to invite a diverse variety of leading-edge professionals and academics in our studios, seminars and lecture series. You will also have the opportunity to take advantage of courses and events organized by the other departments in the School of Design: Landscape Architecture, City Planning, Urban Design, Historic Preservation and Fine Arts; as well as in the university at large. The School has an amazingly rich set of resources and opportunities from which to draw.

You will find a roster of our various summer offerings, as well as other important matriculation information at http://www.design.upenn.edu/information/admitted-students. We now require that all incoming M.Arch students take a digital preparation course. Other courses are offered to help students meet any pre-requisites they may lack. Please consult your on-line acceptance letter to see which courses you need to attend, if any.

The School of Design will be hosting an Open House on Monday, March 30, 2015, which I hope you can attend. We use this occasion to explain our programs in detail, provide studio tours, and offer multiple opportunities to speak with faculty and current students. Please RSVP online at www.design.upenn.edu/graduate-admissions/spring-open-house. Contact the department (arch@design.upenn.edu) if you wish to speak with me or another faculty member. We will be glad to provide you with additional information concerning the program in general or in relation to particular courses, areas of research or your own personal interests. I look forward to meeting you at the Open House.

Finally, let me congratulate you again on your acceptance into the Master of Architecture program at the University of Pennsylvania. This was an especially competitive year. We are proud of your achievements and look forward to having you join our program.

Winka Dubbeldam
Professor and Chair
Department of Architecture