March 14, 2015

Dear Student,

On behalf of the faculty of architecture, I am delighted to inform you of your acceptance into the three-semester, Post-Professional Design Program (PPD) at the University of Pennsylvania. We had an unusually high number of well qualified applicants from around the world this year, each with unique cultural and academic backgrounds, which made the selection process very challenging. Your application was one of the very few that showed an exceptional capability to work through an architectural project and demonstrated sensibilities for design required in our program. We believe that our education is a perfect fit for you to develop your design skills to your greatest abilities. We are confident that you will learn from our challenging academic environment. I invite you to become a part of our exciting community next fall.

The Post-Professional Design Program (PPD) is one that is contemporary and responds to the latest intellectual positions in architectural discourse. It is equally vital for the contemporary architect to develop cutting edge design and fabrication techniques, as it is to develop a critical position for him/herself in today's world. In order to become a successful architect a diverse and well-rounded education is necessary to develop knowledge that leads to design and technical innovation. With a high level of personalized teaching the PPD program is a unique opportunity to learn, explore and expand your boundaries about architectural design and to renew and test your ideas from concept to construction.

Our Faculty's goal is to build the future leaders in the discipline of architecture. You are also part of the School of Design and the University at large. We are the thought leaders in interdisciplinary learning within the disciplines in our school including landscape, urban design, fine arts and historic preservation. We also have access to the best schools in the world at the University of Pennsylvania including the Wharton Business School, the Engineering School and the Annenberg School for Communication. We encourage opportunities for interdisciplinary activities, research and learning.

Our students greatly benefit from the context of the University of Pennsylvania, one of the largest Ivy League universities and a leading research institution, with first-rate faculty, schools and high technology facilities in a beautiful urban campus. Our location in the city of Philadelphia, which has the third largest center-city residential population in the US, offers tremendous opportunities for experiencing and studying urban space. We take advantage of our close proximity to both New York (90 minutes) and Washington D.C. (2 hours) in our curricular and extracurricular activities.

The Department of Architecture will hold a mandatory week of intensive digital preparation for students entering the Fall 2015 PPD program. These sessions are intended to introduce students to high-end digital techniques that will be used in the design studios. You will find more information on this mandatory workshop, as well as other important matriculation information at www.design.upenn.edu/information/admitted-students.

The School of Design will be hosting an Open House on Monday, March 30, 2015, which we invite you to attend. We use this occasion to explain our programs in detail, provide studio tours, and multiple opportunities to speak with faculty and current students. Please RSVP online at www.design.upenn.edu/graduate-admissions/spring-open-house. Please email if you are unable to attend our open house and have questions regarding our program, curriculum or any questions about the School of Design, the University or Philadelphia. I can be reached at alir@design.upenn.edu. I look forward to meeting you and forging ahead with your development as an architect.

Sincerely,

Ali Rahim
Professor and Director
Post-Professional Design Program (PPD)
Department of Architecture