Here in the School of Architecture at Rensselaer, we take pride in preparing our students to become future leaders in the profession. Architecture is situated at a unique moment in history where a convergence of global interests demands that our discipline respond in a critical and innovative manner. Faced with the ever-increasing focus on creating coastal city solutions, immersive environments, and ecologically sound building components for the 21st century, the profession of architecture has inherited a wealth of transdisciplinary priorities that call out for a new era of creative inquiry and engagement. It is an extraordinary time in academia to explore alternative design methodologies, digital design and manufacturing technology, and the larger mission of educating the next generation of architects to harness their innate intellectual and creative imagination in service of a complex planet undergoing continuous change.

Evan Douglis, Dean
B.Arch., The Cooper Union, M.Arch. II, Harvard University

**Master of Architecture (M.Arch.)**
Three-and-a-half year, full-time program
This graduate program leads to a professional degree in architecture that is accredited by the National Architectural Accreditation Board (NAAB). The program is designed for students with no prior training in architecture at the bachelor’s level. Master of Architecture students come from a broad range of backgrounds and disciplines, including the sciences and humanities. The School seeks thoughtful, accomplished individuals with a demonstrated ability to discover and apply creative solutions.

All M.Arch. students participate in a semester-long program at the Center for Architecture Science and Ecology (CASE) in New York City. CASE is dedicated to addressing the need for sustainable, energy-efficient built environments. CASE is a multi-institutional research and professional office collaboration co-hosted by Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and the architecture firm Skidmore, Owings & Merrill.

Students who have successfully completed a qualifying pre-professional degree in architecture may be considered for advanced standing. Applicants with significant design studio experience may be considered for advanced placement in the studio sequence.

Competitive, merit-based scholarships are available to qualified Master of Architecture applicants.

Applicants to the Master of Architecture are not required to submit GRE scores.

Contemporary architectural practice is required to meet increasingly stringent requirements for environmental and social responsiveness. At the same time, contemporary practice is being transformed by technologies of visualization, simulation, fabrication, and by new materials. The M.Arch. program at Rensselaer prepares future professionals by providing them with technical skills, by focus-
School of Architecture

ing their critical insight, and by nourishing their creative imaginations to make tangible contributions to the built environment and to the larger cultural and social context.

**Master of Science in Architecture**

**Geofutures**

One year, full-time program

*Geofutures* provides a highly integrated and diversified 30-credit curriculum of coursework over the span of two consecutive semesters. Students start this program in the fall semester. The curriculum includes:

**History, Theory, and Criticism.** This sequence of lecture courses and seminars introduces students to both historical and contemporary forms of architecture, and urban and environmental discourse.

**Advanced Courses in Building Science.** This sequence of courses provides students with an introduction to the fundamental principles related to the science of ecology alongside a comprehensive working knowledge of state-of-the-art passive—as well as active environmentally responsive—building systems.

**Computational and Fabrication Seminars and Workshops** provide exposure to the current software and production technologies critical for success in the field. Students sharpen their skills in scripting and parametric computer modeling in Rhino and Maya; advanced energy modeling and simulation; Global Information Systems (GIS) information gathering and mapping; advanced visualization with Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator, and InDesign; and digitally automated CNC milling, laser cutting, and 3-D printing.

**Design Studio** allows students the opportunity to synthesize all three course sequences into comprehensive strategies for design on both architectural and urban scales.

*Geofutures* seeks to pose the question as to whether architecture should embark on establishing new affiliations beyond the human—a fundamental realignment of the discipline to become something no longer significant to humans alone.

In 2000, Nobel Laureate Paul Crutzen announced that the world had entered a new geological age Crutzen called the Anthropocene, a period characterized by industrial anthropocentrism as a new geophysical force on Earth. The principal characteristics and conditions of this new age, namely climate change and global warming, mark a fundamental shift in human-nonhuman relations. The Anthropocene Age marks the beginning of a new world and ushers in a new period of environmental anxiety and existential uncertainty. *Geofutures* endeavors to convert crisis into opportunity by harnessing both the pressures of a planet at risk and the promise of emerging environmental technologies to generate a broad spectrum of possible—if not probable—urban and architectural futures for the 21st century.

**Competitive, merit-based scholarships are available to qualified M.S. Architecture applicants.**

Applicants to the M.S. in Architecture are not required to submit GRE scores.