



Dear **Architecture + Design** Students,

We are delighted to have you participate in GSA's 2026 Architecture + Design Studio! This discipline letter provides insight into how your three weeks at our program will go.

Expect a challenging curriculum that will introduce you to unfamiliar learning methods and establish the groundwork for your journey as a designer. Our studios (classes) will include creative ways of realizing your ideas and help you learn how to recognize opportunities for design in your world. Our program is modeled after a first-semester collegiate-level design studio, where you'll be introduced to various design concepts, processes, tools, and software. Ultimately, this program will serve as a primer as to what it may be like to practice this artform at the next level and an introduction to different disciplines within the architecture & design world.

While GSA will provide raw materials for your projects, we have included a supply list (items you'll need to bring with you to the program) on the next page. We ask that you bring these items because we want to ensure you have the tools to continue practicing design far beyond this summer. These items are found online or at many art supply/craft stores. Please keep in mind that you'll constantly change workstations during GSA. With that being said, **we encourage you to label your personal items.**

Also, note that you can always find a substitution if you have trouble finding an item or two. In addition, if you are unable to purchase any supplies due to financial reasons, no worries! Please send a detailed request to us **immediately** at gsainfo@kentuckyperformingarts.org; we'd be happy to help.

We've also included a brief message from our counselors-in-residence:

GSA is an experience like no other with opportunities to make memories and be part of an arts community to cherish for a lifetime. In preparation for your time with us, please keep in mind a few important points for both your physical and mental health.

- Even though your brain might go into "summer mode" after wrapping up the school year, please know that the 3 weeks of GSA aren't like a typical summer camp. Every day you will work and play hard and, along the way, be challenged and inspired!
- Because our days are full of activity, be sure to try your best to prioritize rest, healthy eating, and opportunities to recharge when you can. Quite honestly, we recommend making these priorities right now in preparation, so it's a smoother adjustment.

- The GSA staff, faculty, and counselors are available to help if you ever feel out of balance while on campus. We're your go-to people to help you find the best fit in our unique community and to help with any adjustments that are needed. Don't wait to reach out because we're there to help from Day 1!
- As it applies to you, don't forget to bring any prescribed medication (we can help with reminders but do not administer) and know that we can help with coordination of telehealth therapy sessions (with your already established provider) while at GSA as long as it's not overly disruptive to your studio schedule.

We look forward to an exciting three weeks together!

Best,

Caroline and Scott (*Your Architecture + Design Faculty*)

GSA 2026 Architecture + Design Supply List

- **Pens & Pencils:** Bring a variety of what you already use to write, sketch, or draw. If you use predominantly pencils or pens, bring both. Markers and/or colored pencils are included!
- **Erasers & Sharpeners:** Bring at least one of each.
- **Sketchbook:** This can be whatever size or paper type you prefer. We recommend any sketchbook around 5" x 8" to 8.5" x 11"; avoid sketchbooks that are too small or too big. Make sure the pages are either blank or have a dot grid.
- **Glue:** Bring simple white glue, like Tacky glue, Elmer's or Sobo.
- **Cutting Blade:** Exacto Knife with #11 blade or Snap Blade Knife (Olfa Brand or similar) - Snap Blades are smaller than utility knives.
- **Metal Ruler:** It should have a cork backing, and you can choose 12", 18", or 24".
- **Architectural Scale:** An architectural scale is similar to a ruler, but for drawing architectural scale drawings. These can be plastic or metal. See the link for a suggested scale:
<https://www.dickblick.com/items/staedtler-triangular-scale-12-architect/>
- **Cutting Mat:** In either size: 12"x18" or 24"x36".
- **Scissors:** Any 'full size' variety works - not a small or 'child size' pair.
- **Physical Storage:** Any kit, box, or bag for your personal supplies.
- **Digital Storage Device:** This is where you store your personal digital design files. It can be any portable external storage and comes in various options, such as a USB flash drive or thumb drive, a pocket hard drive, or a portable drive. If you already have one, bring that along. If you have to purchase one, we suggest storage sizes from 32 GB to 128 GB from a reputable brand.
- **Google Drive Account:** We will create folders for each student on Google Drive that will be shared with you to use throughout the program. Please create a Google account (if you don't have one already) so we can share the folders with you.
- **Final Day Packing:** For the final day, please bring a box or something to pack your work to take home.
- **Computers:** Please **do not** bring your personal computer or tablet to studio. Our spaces include computers for the projects we need them for.
- **For Walking:** Backpack, water bottle, and comfortable shoes (for when we do out-of-studio tours).
- **Spending Money:** Though GSA covers housing, meals, room, and board, you might want to spend a little extra money on GSA merchandise on campus or souvenirs/snacks during field trips.

- **General:** Feel free to bring any other personal tools or media you feel comfortable using. This can include items like markers, colored pencils, a camera, and more. You may or may not use any of these items in the studio, but you are more than welcome to bring them.
- We recommend that you do not wear your best clothing to the studio, as our activities may involve materials that can stain, tear, or otherwise damage clothing. Comfortable, durable clothes and closed-toe shoes are strongly encouraged. Think of the studio as a working space- creativity can get messy!
- Please bring a few articles of nice clothing that you can wear for presentations and the Final Day.
- **Art Supply Websites:** <https://www.dickblick.com> & <https://www.utrechtart.com>