



# ART AND ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY

Immerse yourself in the study of visual culture and its philosophical, aesthetic, and social meanings as an Art and Architectural History student. Study a range of subject areas such as Classical, Medieval, Renaissance, Islamic, Latin American, and North American art and architecture. Through coursework, internships, and a semester abroad in our Florence program, you'll explore the arts and develop the skills needed for careers in teaching, museums and galleries, art conservation, commercial art, and more.

- + Do you enjoy exploring new cities and wandering around museums?
- + Do you like discussing the arts in a historical context?
- + Would you like to compliment your study of architecture with theory and critical thinking, making you a strong candidate for a wide range of jobs?

## CAREER OUTLOOK

RWU Art and Architectural History alumni are working in:

- Museums
- Galleries
- Historic sites
- Publishing
- Journalism
- Advertising
- Film
- Education
- Architecture firms



## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

“Through this program, I have learned how to find patterns and critically think about architectural forms and creative concepts. I now truly understand how important physical and theoretical context is, which has helped me better connect my own work and individual thought to the environment it is meant to inhabit. These skills and the knowledge each professor has given me have helped me focus my design interest.”

Loukas Varas '19, Art and Architectural History and Architecture double major  
Master of Architecture '21

## STUDENT EXPERIENCE

### Learn and Do More at RWU

With a focus on experiential learning at RWU, Art and Architectural History majors:

- Explore local art and architectural history through field trips to museums, galleries, and architectural sites.
- Study abroad in our signature program in Florence, Italy.
- Work alongside professionals in a course-based field experience with museums, societies, and foundations.
- Complete a paid internship.
- Dig deep on a favorite topic through the optional senior thesis.

### Get a Great Internship

Art and Architectural History students can complete paid internships through the Career Investment Program with organizations such as the Rhode Island School of Design (RISD) Museum, Preservation Society of Newport County, and the Newport Restoration Foundation.

### Resources

In addition to review and seminar rooms, Art and Architectural History majors have access to our extensive collection of architectural history in the Architecture Library. The library houses more than 24,000 books and 60,000 slides, a digital collection of over 80,000 images, and subscriptions to over 200 periodicals and journals.



### Faculty

RWU faculty have expertise in a wide variety of areas including American, Renaissance, Islamic, Modern, and Latin American Art and Architecture — and they are leading scholars in their fields. They serve as mentors throughout your entire RWU career and beyond, sharing their skills and experience and providing individualized support.

## CURRICULUM

### Structure

The program leading to a Bachelor of Arts in Art and Architectural History is a 12-course, 36-credit major. The curriculum includes:

- Two introductory courses covering art and architecture from ancient times through the 20th century.
- Seven intermediate courses, ranging from The History and Theory of Photography to History of Landscape Architecture.
- Two advanced seminars, with options like “The Skyscraper” and “Nature and Art.”
- A senior seminar or thesis that explores a topic of interest in depth.
- Two optional courses of foreign language study.

This flexible program is tailored to the particular interests and goals of each student. You also have the option to develop a six-course concentration in either Art History or Architectural History.

**OVER 80% OF  
RWU STUDENTS  
GRADUATE WITH  
MORE THAN JUST  
A SINGLE MAJOR**

Design your experience with your passion and have a unique career advantage with a minor or double major. Many students combine **Art and Architectural History** with:

- Architecture
- Preservation Studies
- Elementary Education
- Secondary Education
- Educational Studies
- Anthropology + Sociology

