

# **Computer Requirements and Recommendations Fall 2010**

## **Interior Architecture and Product Design**

With the ever-changing world of technology and computers that we live in today, its hard to keep up with not only what is available to you, the consumer, but also what is the best computer for your needs. Here in Interior Architecture and Product Design, we look at all the best choices for our students, and determine a list to make it easier for you to make that decision.

When purchasing a computer, it is important to consider multiple factors. One, your budget. Sure, a \$3000 computer would be nice, but it is not necessary. The ideal computer for each student begins with the price that fits you. Secondly, consider the longevity of the computer. This is at least a three year commitment if bought in the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of the program. If you choose a slower computer, it may need to be updated by the time you reach the 5<sup>th</sup> year of the program. Finally, consider whether you want a laptop or a desktop. This is important because a desktop can only be used in the studio, and will be left in studio for the duration of each semester. A laptop can be taken to and from home, allowing the student to do work away from studio. A laptop also takes up less space. However, a laptop is also not as powerful in most cases.

Many students already have a laptop coming in to their 3<sup>rd</sup> year, and this is a great way to multi-task. In a best case scenario, we recommend you purchase a low level laptop, or use one you may have already purchased, capable of using the internet, word processing, and basic Photoshop work. For the bulk of the student's work, though, we recommend a more powerful desktop. The specifications below are for desktops that we would recommend, as well as requirements that each computer should meet at a minimum.

### **Desktop Computer Minimum Requirements**

- Supported Operating Systems
  - Windows 7 Professional 64bit
  - Mac OS X 10.6 Snow Leopard w/Update 10.6.4
- Quad core processor, 2.4GHz or greater.
- 4GB RAM or greater.
- Graphics card supporting 1600 x 1200 32-bit color with 512MB RAM or greater, OpenGL 2 and DirectX 10-capable with Shader Model 3 hardware acceleration. nVidia based graphic cards highly recommended.
- Flat panel 19" or larger monitor with 1600 x 1200 or greater.
- 250GB, 7200rpm hard drive or greater. Dual drives encouraged.
- DVD recordable optical drive.
- 10/100/1000 Ethernet interface.
- CAT6 Ethernet cable. It is recommended not to purchase this cable until after you have been assigned a desk in studio, the length needed will be determined by your location.

## **Desktop Computer Recommended Setup – Low End \$1000**

- Windows 7 Professional 64bit
- Intel Core i7-920 Quad core processor, 2.66 Ghz
- 6GB RAM DDR3.
- nVidia GeForce GT 220 Graphics Card
- Flat panel 19” with 1600 x 1200 resolution or greater.
- 250GB, 7200rpm hard drive or greater. Dual drives encouraged.
- DVD recordable optical drive.
- 10/100/1000 Ethernet interface.
- CAT6 Ethernet cable

## **Desktop Computer Recommended Setup – Mid Level \$1600**

- Windows 7 Professional 64bit
- Intel Xeon W3530 Quad core processor, 2.8 Ghz
- 8GB RAM DDR3.
- nVidia Quadro FX 3800 Graphics Card
- Flat panel 24” with 1600 x 1200 resolution or greater
- Dual 500GB drives , 7200rpm hard drive or greater, using RAID1 to backup information
- DVD recordable optical drive.
- 10/100/1000 Ethernet interface.
- CAT6 Ethernet cable

## **Desktop Computer Recommended Setup – High End \$2600**

- Windows 7 Professional 64bit
- Intel Xeon X5650 Six-core processor, 2.66 Ghz
- 12GB RAM DDR3.

- nVidia Quadro FX 3800 Graphics Card
- Flat panel 24" with 1600 x 1200 resolution or greater
- Dual 1TB drives , 7200rpm hard drive or greater, using RAID1 to backup information
- Blu-Ray optical drive(optional, only needed if you want to watch Blu-Ray movies, DVD drive will be fine)
- 10/100/1000 Ethernet interface.
- CAT6 Ethernet cable