

STUDIO

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ecture student, said he spends about 30 hours a week in the studio and "wouldn't be surprised if that's a conservative estimate."

Roth said his social life did not extend much farther than his studio.

"Your personal life is architecture," Roth said. "It's definitely a lifestyle. To be an architecture student you have to love it. If you don't love it, it will be living hell."

Peter Keyes, an assistant architecture professor, said he agrees with Roth.

"They're not in it for money. They're not in it for power. They're not in it because it's easy," he said. "The only reason to do it is because you love it."

Roth said his core group of friends shift along with the people he's in studio with.

"Because we spend so much time in the school, our friends are there, not at home," Roth said. "It almost feels like high school again; of course there's definitely not a high school mentality, but people are really close inside the school. It's a school within a school."

Shewczyk agreed that the studio creates an environment in which to build close friends, but not without the cost of other friends.

"You really lose a certain percentage of your friends," Shewczyk said. "A lot of my friends have given up on asking me to go out."

Not only is time investment an architecture-student tribulation, but the often tedious details of architecture work cause frustrations as well, Roth said.

"It's so much work, and it's never perfect. There's always another step you can take to your design," Roth said. "You can never say it's finished, and you can never explore enough possibilities. As you're working you create or realize other problems."

Studios are required two terms out of the year and can only be taken on a pass/no-pass basis, so as to discourage competition among aspiring ar-

chitects, Roth said.

Roth said most students strive to be the best architects they can be, which is what keeps their competitiveness constant. Instructor and classmate approval, instead of a grade, is the only feedback students get on their designs.

The stiff competition within the school may be just as steep as the competition for admission to the school.

Mike Clark, an architecture administration assistant, said 344 people applied to the architecture program last year and 126 were admitted. Eighty-six students actually arrived for the first day of classes.

After the first year, about eight to 10 students usually drop out of the program, Clark said.

Keyes said the main reason for not having a graded class is so the students aren't so competitive that they have to do all their work at home and miss getting input from their constituents.

"Sometimes other people's insights can be very helpful in terms of refining your own thinking," Keyes said. "They don't need grades to keep them motivated. Anyone who takes architecture is pretty self-motivated. It's not an easy way to coast through college."

Both Roth and Shewczyk spoke of an obvious purpose, pride and respect for creativity in their work.

"Architecture has nothing to do with drafting. It has to do with creative and energetic problem-solving capabilities," Roth said.

"You have to generate new ideas and still respond to the needs of the building," Roth said. "A building with no windows doesn't address the park across the street, or having to walk five flights of stairs to get to the copy machine doesn't address the needs of the people in the building."

Shewczyk said in his work he aims to think beyond his own creativity and into the needs of others.

"I would hope I'm responsible to the world and outside more than thinking about myself," he said. "In my designs I would try to incorporate our society and our world."

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