

Responses to SA+P Community Questions on Met Warehouse Test Fit

Q: Met warehouse is “huge.” Can more of the SA+P not be accommodated inside? We started by wanting to bring the entire SA+P together, but we are leaving units elsewhere.

A: Met Warehouse is over 200,000 gross square feet, but less than one-half of that is actually occupiable by the SA+P. Building infrastructure takes up a surprising amount of space. Significant space over multiple floors is lost in order to introduce daylight into the interior of the building. Project Manus, the MIT-wide makerspace, occupies three-fifths of the ground floor.

Simply adding space by means of a rooftop addition or lateral expansion turned out to be cost prohibitive. The full “aspirational” program of the SA+P will require future construction of an annex north of the train tracks that will bring us to double the square footage available in the Met Warehouse. In the interest of keeping the Department of Architecture’s discipline groups fully co-located at Met, ACT will remain in E14/15 and Rotch Library will stay in the main building group.

Q: What is the allocation for classrooms at Met Warehouse in Phase 1 and how does that compare to recent classroom use in the Department of Architecture?

A: The test fit plan showed the following non-studio, non-conference room teaching spaces available:

- four classrooms of 300 sf suitable for up to 15 students each
- one 200-seat auditorium configurable for the equivalent of a 1,500 sf classroom for 50 students

An additional classroom 1,200 sf classroom suitable for 35 students has been added to the Phase 1 program.

A study of classroom scheduling over the academic years 2017-2018, 2018-2019, 2019-2020 shows that six classrooms totaling about 4,000 sf will allow on average over 80% of Course 4 subjects per semester to be taught at Met Warehouse. The study excluded only ACT subjects and some joint Architecture subjects currently taught outside Bldg. 10 in the main building group.

Classrooms added in Phase 2 would allow nearly all subjects in Architecture to be taught at Met Warehouse.

Q: Is the graduate studio allocation in the test fit adequate for the Architecture MArch and SMArchS student enrollment?

A: Yes, the graduate Architecture studios are designed for 70 sf/student and will accommodate an MArch cohort of 120 students. The SMArchS space is designed for 50 sf/student with desks for 36 students.

Q: Will the Architecture graduate studios allow concurrent teaching of all the fall/spring semester studios?

A: Yes, studio spaces are being designed flexibly based on multiples of an average studio section size of 10 students both to allow Core studio groupings and to support multiple options studios.

Q: What spaces at Met Warehouse can be used for pinups and reviews?

A: The primary review area is the double-height central “mixer” space with attached outdoor terrace. There is also a crit space attached to the Architecture MArch studios and three other common pinup spaces located elsewhere on the studio floors. The 1,200 sf classroom to-be-added can also be used for pinups. Additionally, the main auditorium will have telescoping seating to allow a large, flat floor area for reviews. The main lobby and its gallery will also be available for end-of-semester final reviews.

Q: What is the average size of a faculty office at Met Warehouse?

A: Faculty offices at Met Warehouse are designed to a 140 sf standard, which is about 90% of the average faculty office in the main building group (150 sf).

Q: How many post doc's, PhD's and master's candidates will the HTC, AKPIA and Computation spaces accommodate?

A: Here are the counts:

HTC/AKPIA PhD: 24

Computation PhD: 10

AKPIA masters: 6

AKPA post-docs: 2