Architecture is my passion. From a young age sculpting landscapes in my sandbox to last summer going to the summer at RPI Career Discovery Program, I have enjoyed the design and reality of building. I am, and have been mesmerized by both traditional architecture and modern architecture. I love the way a building can affect your emotions, from a traditional downtown to a sleek and cold modernist building.

From a young age I have wanted to be an architect, even before I really knew what it meant. Then I found out that my Great Great Grandfather was a very influential architect in a small town in upstate NY. He marked his buildings with a fleur de lis which I started to notice everywhere there. This discovery brought me to look around and examine architecture more closely, and started me on the path that I am on today. This event combined with the attention to detail that I developed early in life, I believe are what originally got me excited about architecture.

I have a deep appreciation for architecture of the old tradition, and believe that we should look back to fundamental principles, take the abstract form of them, and apply them to contemporary architecture. I love seeing a historic downtown (like in Troy), as you can frequently see the old functions of the buildings and how they have been modified for a current function. An exemplar of this is the Mass MoCA Museum, former mills converted into really awesome exhibition spaces. All buildings create an artificial habitat for humans to live in and work in and sets the mood for an area, conveying emotions. Just like with music, architecture is not just to look (sound in music’s case) pretty, it makes us feel something. Architecture it is an applied art.

Last summer was my first encounter with contemporary architecture. We went to the Clark museum with the “Summer @ Rensselaer” Career Discovery Program and saw the new expansion on the Clark Museum. It was incredible and truly was an experience! The low profile of the entrance, the courtyards, the function of it all, the reflection pools; It was awe inspiring! Everything was so crisp and clear from the master plan to the detail of the recessed baseboard. It is fitting that you look at a work of art that happens to be holding hundreds of works of art.

I loved my time at RPI with the Career Discovery Program and what I learned from it. The Career Discovery Program took me to NYC for the second time in my life; Professor Dayem showed the pavilion at the PS1 Museum, and some really cool architecture with brilliant concepts behind them. It broadened my horizons and exponentially increased my interest in architecture and my thirst to be a part of it.

Things have changed since then, jobs have gotten scarcer, but even against the wishes of a few of my teachers wanting me to go into engineering or robotics, I still want to go into architecture. I truly am passionate about it and enjoy it. I play Minecraft in my free time making design buildings for fun, whether they could be real or not. I want to do what I love, and architecture is what I love.