



## Rhode Island School of Design Appoints Kent Kleinman as Provost

*Previously the dean of Cornell University's College of Architecture, Art, and Planning, Kleinman will bring broad teaching and administrative experience to RISD as its chief academic officer*

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### **PROVIDENCE, RI, December 20, 2018 –**

After an extensive international search, Rhode Island School of Design (RISD) is pleased to announce the appointment of Kent Kleinman as provost, effective March 2019.

"Kent brings broad teaching and administrative experience to RISD coupled with a vision for how we can propel art and design education into new realms of leadership, impact and inclusivity. Throughout the search process, I was continually impressed by his ability to be future-focused while also understanding RISD's legacies and core culture," notes RISD President Rosanne Somerson. "Additionally, Kent's questions and observations reflect his strong natural instincts and distinguished experience in working with both faculty and students. I am excited to work with Kent as our next academic leader to develop opportunities for RISD within the complex and evolving intersections of art, design and the liberal arts."

Kleinman is currently a professor of architecture at Cornell University, where he served as Gale and Ira Druker Dean of the College of Architecture, Art, and Planning from 2008–2018. Prior to that, he was a professor and dean at the School of Constructed Environments at Parsons, The New School for Design; a professor and chair of architecture at the State University of New York/Buffalo; and an associate professor at the University of Michigan/Ann Arbor. He has also taught and critiqued at a number of international schools, with a scholarly focus on 20th-century European Modernism.

Kent received his professional degree in architecture from the University of California/Berkeley, and is a licensed architect in California. He has received numerous awards and grants, including a Mellon Foundation fellowship in 2002, four Graham Foundation grants, the Rudy Bruner Award and two *Architect's Journal* Top 10 Books of the Year awards. *Design Intelligence* also recognized him in its list of "Top 25 Most Admired Educators" in both 2016 and 2018.

As provost, Kleinman will work closely with President Somerson to lead and support the evolution of innovative academic programs and represent a stellar faculty that is increasingly diverse. Working closely with Student Affairs, faculty, administration, staff and the student body, Kleinman will build on a strong legacy and further advance a dynamic institution with a global reach through its unique model of education and research.

"During the search I discovered innovation, creativity and deep engagement with the history and future of material culture at every turn. RISD is an astonishing, intense and wildly creative community, and it is a tremendous privilege to be invited to join this remarkable institution," noted Kleinman. "In this time of profound cultural, environmental and technological shifts, RISD's well-established leadership in art and design education will be in demand as rarely before. I look forward to working with President Somerson, the faculty and the students on these complex and stimulating challenges and opportunities."

### **About Rhode Island School of Design**

The mission of RISD (pronounced "RIZ-dee"), through its college and museum, is to educate students and the public in the creation and appreciation of works of art and design, to discover and transmit knowledge and to make lasting contributions to a global society through critical thinking, scholarship and innovation. Our immersive model of art and design education emphasizes robust liberal arts studies and conceptually driven studio-based learning in full-time bachelor's and master's degree programs across 19 majors. RISD's exceptional faculty foster student growth and development in extensive specialized facilities, enabling students to become confident, cross-disciplinary thinkers and nimble problem-solvers ready to confront the complexities of global practice in the 21st century. Nearly 30,000 alumni worldwide testify to the impact of a RISD education, exemplifying the vital role artists and designers play in defining global innovation. Founded in 1877, RISD and the RISD Museum help make Providence, RI among the most culturally active and creative cities in the region. For more information, visit [risd.edu](http://risd.edu) and [our.risd.edu](http://our.risd.edu).

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#### **Contact:**

Andrea Klabanova  
Account Coordinator, Architecture and Design  
Blue Medium Inc.  
[andrea@bluemedium.com](mailto:andrea@bluemedium.com)  
T: +1 (212) 675-1800