

Spring 2024 Elective Courses for Master of Architecture Program

The Master of Architecture degree program requires a total of eight (8) elective courses, distributed across five distinct categories:

- 1x Representational Studies Required Elective: select *any* 65__ level course
- 1x Historical/Cultural Studies Required Elective: select *any* 62__ level course
- 1x Technical Studies Required Elective: select *any* 63__ level course
- 3x Architecture Elective: select *any ARCH-designated elective not already used for a different requirement; three total classes (9 credits) required*
- 2x Open Elective: select any graduate-level (e.g. 5000+) course; see below.

Open Electives: The M. ARCH degree requires the completion of two *Open Elective* classes; this represents the most flexible type of elective in the degree program. An *Open Elective* can be fulfilled by completing any graduate level course of the student's choosing that is not already in use for a different requirement; B- or higher grade required. Please consider searching for other content in CAP programs: Architecture (ARCH), Historic Preservation (HIPR), Interior Design (INTD), Landscape Architecture (LDAR), and Urban and Regional Planning (URPL), or other graduate level coursework at the university.

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- **ARCH 5240 History & Theory of Architecture III**
 - Pursuing what was/is Modern Architecture, we will trace the various theoretical and formal developments in Architecture worldwide from the late 19th century through the early 21st century. Our emphasis will be on the evolution of the concept of modernity and the heterogeneous cultural, technological, political, and economic contexts of its development. We will focus on Modernity's theoretical, spatial, and experiential ramifications in art and architecture, among other cultural activities. To these ends, we will examine and discuss the works of a select group of architects from across the world in relation to the diverse body of goals and objectives, ideas and ideals that constitute the modern movements in architecture.
 - *This course is eligible for use toward the ARCH 62XX Historical/Cultural Studies Required Elective.*
- **ARCH 6256 Community Development**
 - This seminar explores ways to enhance the health and well-being of people and places through placemaking and community development. We will investigate why this is important, study best practices, learn about implementation strategies, and consider a range of opportunities for the Denver region. Themes include: In Search of Community, Building in Harmony with Nature, Entrepreneurial Creatives and Creative Entrepreneurs, Justice and Equity, Quality Public Space, the Authentic-City, Meaningful Community Engagement, and Accelerating the Shift from Ego-system to Ecosystem. In addition to readings and class discussions, students will undertake one large project focused on **enhancing quality of life by improving quality of place**. This project is divided into 3 parts: (1) **Me-Search**: State the topic, why you chose it, and initial thoughts you have for enhancing it; (2) **We-Search**: Identify several relevant best practices and people to engage to learn more about this topic; (3) **Re-Search and Recommendations**: Pursue other research relevant to your topic and combine the Me-Search, We-Search, and Re-Search to offer recommendations for the Denver region (In-class presentation).

- **ARCH 6259 Art of Traditional Design**

- The course will begin with an introduction to the Classical Tradition and its philosophical, political, and cultural assumptions. Classical concepts and methods will be traced from early Greek and Roman origins through the Renaissance to the Present. The tools and methods of Classical design will be discussed to provide students with an understandable design “language.” Design and presentation methodologies developed by the École des Beaux-Arts in France will be introduced and practiced. These concepts will be followed and examined in their current flowering in the United States.

This course engages the ‘head,’ as well as the ‘hand,’ in order to educate the whole person. For this reason, students will be expected to do the reading, make written as well as visual notes and to come to class prepared to discuss the issues presented in the reading.

To engage ‘the hand,’ students will develop Classical solutions to a variety of design problems, culminating in the design of a Classical Pavilion for Seaside, a Classical Writing Temple in Colorado, and a Neo-Classical House in Virginia. The projects will give multiple experiences of the Beaux Arts System of design, and will allow the students to produce finished designs worthy of inclusion in their portfolios.

- **ARCH 6261 Urban Design Economics & Equity**

- This course explores the economics of urban design through its relationship with private-sector real estate development, public-sector infrastructure, and budgetary/fiscal constraints on design implementation while emphasizing the critical role of urban design in advocating for social equity, affordable housing, and related issues.

- **ARCH 6290-001 Special Topics: Under Construction – Exhibiting Sites of Construction**

- One of the most charged fictions in architectural history, until somewhat recently, has been the separation of material and manual labor practices of the office and construction site. The design and maintenance of this division was precisely what drew critical art practices in the 1960s to render the performance and activities of building visible in their work. The attraction of opening this terrain to inquiry in this moment included the collaboration and choreography of building sites, and the knowledge transfers that occurred in learning by doing. At times, these practices also highlight the systematic devaluing of contributions that were considered tactile and manual in opposition to intellectual, and often bound to gendered and racialized labor systems.

Revisiting these questions of construction—from bodies, drawings, or buildings (and cultures of making more generally) are especially important political questions to ask in a school that foregrounds the architect’s re-engagement with construction practices. Part architectural history seminar, part exhibition methods class, *Under Construction* is a graduate seminar series that centralizes a series of research case studies from art and architecture, alongside contemporary readings. The class will culminate in workshops

related to an exhibition and performance by Besler and Sons and is run in tandem with the *Beyond Provenance* workshop series.

- **ARCH 6290-002 Special Topics – Necessitating Convergence: Design/Ecology/Technology/Climate Change**
 - This seminar will investigate issues involving the foundations of our cultural outlook towards climate change, technology, and Nature to speculate upon how radical departures from our traditional practices might emerge – departures that are authentically transdisciplinary and truly transgress the boundaries of the conventional definition of a “project”. A positive consequence will be to expose designers, architects, and urban theorists to the broader philosophical issues involving climate change, the magnitude of its challenges, and the potential relevance of other disciplinary research agendas in addressing our necessary adaptation to its consequences. The emergent dialogues will be a means towards creating more broadly informed transdisciplinary design attitudes that redesign the “process” by pondering potential “team” structures more adept at integrating varied expertise to guide an entire “project” from initial concepts to determining the appropriate life cycle of the ensuing infrastructure.

- **ARCH 6590 Special Topics: New Weird City: Architecture, Fiction, and Urban Crisis**
 - *New Weird City: Architecture, Fiction, and Urban Crisis* speculates on urban spaces through the effects of extreme environmental unrest. The class uses fiction to create new understandings of architecture’s human/more-than-human entanglements. Students will develop forensic research into issues of ecology and technology, designing and producing spaces and narratives that combine archival methodologies, formal provocations, and storytelling techniques.

- **ARCH 6930 / 6931 Internship I / II**
 - Students who have successfully been hired for internships during the academic term may receive academic credit by enrolling in a for-credit internship course. Please reach out to Jen Skidmore (they/them/theirs pronouns) CAP Director of Professional Development for more information. Please note: regular tuition charges apply for this course.