

ARCH and CAP Elective Options- Spring 2027

All ARCH and CAP electives require sophomore-standing or higher. Some courses may have additional pre-requisites; see description for pre-requisite information. All meeting days/time are subject to change; please double-check listing in UCDAccess.

Classes offered by *Historic Preservation (HIPR)*, *Interior Design (INTD)* and *Landscape Architecture (LDAR)* contained in this guide may apply only as “CAP Electives” (not ARCH Electives) for students declared in the Arch. Design or Arch. Studies tracks (Fall 2021 or later). HIPR, INTD and LDAR courses may count toward “ARCH Electives” *only* for students declared in the pre-Fall 2021 degree requirements and who do NOT have “CAP Elective” requirements. Please check with your CAP academic advisor if you are unsure how these courses will apply for you.

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- **ARCH 3600.002- Special Topics Cultural: Wastelands: Decay, Debris, and the un-Building of the Environment**

- Waste, according to sociologist Mary Douglas, is “matter out of place.” Sigmund Freud once defined dirt similarly, pathologizing it as material located troublingly, “in the wrong place.” Recognizing the politics of what has canonically been called ‘place-making,’ WASTELANDS probes architecture as it interfaces with the dis-placed matter of our eroding planet. From Metabolist excretions to rural sanitation reforms, leaky modernist residences, rat-infested streetscapes and post-extractive interventions, the course positions architecture as an active body to be dissected at multiple scales, histories, and sites of impact.

WASTELANDS will unfold through an accumulation of case studies, readings, guest lectures, and regional site visits. Discourse will not be centered on the architectural object itself, but on the debris which surrounds and moves through it. The variable definition of waste will be evaluated as not only ecologically impactful, but inherently political – a moralistic judgement which has resulted in racialized and gendered spatialities through history. Each student will be responsible for their own final research project, investigating a site of interest and their relationship to it through multiple media: film, material analysis, mapping, and site-writing. The course will culminate in a collective exhibition of these accumulated residues as artist books, accompanied by a roundtable conversation with visiting scholars and activists.

- **ARCH 3600.HM1 – Special Topics Culture: The Bauhaus Revisited**

- This course will examine the ideals and political context of the Bauhaus’s origins during World War I through to its contentious development during the Weimar republic, culminating in its eventual demise at the hands of the Nazis. The conceptual ideals and fundamental rationale behind its innovative and integrative curriculum will be investigated as will a cross section of its most influential architects such as **Walter Gropius, Hannes Meyer, and Mies Van de Rohe**. The work of artists and designers such as **Paul Klee, Moholy-Nagy, Herbert Bayer, and Oskar Schlemmer** will also be explored to comprehend how their aesthetics, social ideas and personalities contributed to its highly charged multidisciplinary atmosphere. Within this context, the course will also lay bare the external and internal conflicts that plagued its existence and infected its legacy. Finally, the course will conclude by speculating upon the legacy of the Bauhaus and its role in shaping the processes of rapid globalization that exemplified the latter half of the twentieth century and still transform our lives to this day.

- **ARCH 3800.001 – Special Topics Culture: Building (Un)Intelligence**
 - This seminar investigates how architecture intersects with 20th-century technologies through spatial infrastructures and display cultures. Through creative research and visual production, students will build a collective set of references that interrogates concepts of "intelligence" while examining the social, environmental, and labor costs behind them. Potential subjects include Eames's collaboration with IBM, Sottsass's Olivetti design research, Denver native Robert Propst and his engagement at Herman Miller Research Corporation, and the "Mother of All Demos" that became a model for most tech launches today.
- **ARCH 3800.002 – Special Topics Technical: Bricks**
 - In "BRICKS" we will be looking at the history of masonry construction as a fruitful ground for new discovery in novel tectonics. We will use a combination of research, documentation, digital modeling, drawing, and 1:1 mock-ups to reconcile the facade-based use of the material with its centuries of use as structure."
- **ARCH 3800.003 – Special Topics Technical: Printed Practice: To Build a Case for Architecture**
 - Architecture is made in print as much as in concrete. Books often outlast the buildings they represent, and through their weight, structure, and sequence, they construct the arguments by which the discipline configures and reconfigures itself. Part hands-on, part theoretical, this course asks what an architecture book can be today, then sets out to design and build one, from cover to binding, as a critical, physical manifesto situated within the wider cultural milieu of printmakers, editors, typographers, graphic designers, and publishers.
- **ARCH 3800.004 – Special Topics Technical: Model Building**
 - Architectural Model Building will be taught as a critical tool for expressing building design, tectonics, and beauty. Students will learn to articulate overall architectural composition, materiality, structural systems and assembly, details, connections, and aesthetics through their own emerging design voice.
- **ARCH 4340 Theory of Structures II**
 - Focuses on the relationship between architectural concepts and the selection of structural systems. Addresses the qualitative and quantitative analysis of reinforced concrete, steel, and wood structural systems and members.
 - ***Pre-req: ARCH 3340 with a C- or higher grade***
 - ***Recommended pre-req: Pre-Calc equivalent and PHYS 2010/2321***
- **ARCH 4440 Building Systems II**
 - Focuses on the environmental systems in commercial and other nonresidential buildings. Discusses natural and artificial lighting, HVAC systems, acoustics, vertical transportation and fire protection.
 - ***Pre-req: ARCH 3110 or 2121***
 - ***Recommended pre-req: Pre-Calc equivalent and PHYS 2010/2321***
- **ARCH 4230.001- Architectural History III (*only applies as an ARCH or CAP elective in the Arch. Studies or Arch. Design tracks in the pre-Fall 2025 curriculum; students entering Fall 2025 and later are required to complete this course*)**
 - Introduces architecture and urbanism from 19th century to present by exploring the social, cultural, technical philosophical and aesthetic ideas that shaped buildings and other architectural.
 - ***Pre-req: ARCH 3230***

- **HIPR 3260.001- The Psychology of Historic Preservation: Why We Love Old Buildings**
 - The field of historic preservation is quickly evolving from its focus on buildings to a focus on people. This has required the field to broaden its approach to what we preserve, how we preserve, and for whom we're preserving the built environment. To begin to understand this new direction, we must first consider our relationship to our surroundings more carefully. We may not always recognize it, but we're deeply affected by the physical world around us on multiple levels. In this course, we'll explore how preserving the built environment can impact mental health, physiological health, as well as our social health. The built environment affects our daily lives, our behaviors and feelings, and how we, in turn, help shape and influence what we choose to save for future generations.
 - **Pre-req: Junior-standing or higher**
- **HIPR 3510.001- Building Materials Conservation**
 - This course emphasizes the relationship between knowledge acquisition, professional judgement, and design modification. Topics include: 1) Historic Building Types & Methods, 2) Field and Lab Methods of Building Assessment, and 3) Management of Building Rehabilitation. The course takes an integrative approach to the scientific, aesthetic, managerial and legal dimensions of preservation.
 - **Pre-req: Junior-standing or higher**
- **INTD 1005.001- Introduction to Interior Design**
 - This course is an introduction to the practice and principles of Interior Design. Providing an overview of design theory and process while exploring key elements such as furniture, texture, color, lighting, sustainability, and materiality shaping the built environment.
- **INTD 3100.001- Drawing Out the Interiors**
 - In this course, students gain an understanding of elements and principles of design, including spatial definition, organization, and human-centered design through precedence studies and on-site spatial analysis. Students develop 2d and 3d visualization skills, and gain knowledge of analog and digital tools to effectively communicate design ideas from conceptualization and design development integrating furnishings, products, materials, and finishes.
- **INTD 3200- Light & Color**
 - Students will understand and apply principles and theories of light and color in relation to environmental impact and well-being.
 - **Note: This course was previously listed as INTD 3686 Special Topics in Interior Design. If you already completed "Light & Color" as a Special Topics course, you should not enroll in this course, as you cannot earn credit for it again.**
- **INTD 3300- Interior Materials**
 - Exploration of the various materials, finishes, and textiles available to the interior designer for interior specifications. Emphasis on interior finish materials and textiles.
 - **Note: This course was previously listed as INTD 3686 Special Topics in Interior Design. If you already completed "Interior Materials" as a Special Topics course, you should not enroll in this course, as you cannot earn credit for it again.**

- **INTD 4200.001- Interior Design Workshop**
 - This hands-on workshop explores the art and science of furniture design within contract interiors, emphasizing human factors, ergonomics, sustainability, and the relationship between furniture and interior space. Students will examine how furniture has evolved in response to social, technological, and environmental shifts and apply that understanding to designing their own furniture collection. Through theory, critique, and hands-on design practice, students will explore historical and contemporary perspectives. Taught by the Director of Design at Slate, the furniture studio at Elements, the course will feature guest lectures from furniture designers and manufacturers, connecting students with the broader design community.
 - **Pre-req: INTD 3100 and declared Interior Design minor**
- **INTD 4200.002- Interior Design Workshop**
 - This hands-on, studio-style workshop explores the design of school spaces through human factors, teaching methodologies, historical references, wayfinding, interior design, and furniture design. Through two- and three-dimensional studies, students will investigate ergonomics, materiality, and user experience while designing and modeling custom millwork for a final project. Applied projects emphasize creative processes, visual order, critical thinking, inclusivity, and sustainability. Taught by BC Interiors, the course gives students the opportunity to collaborate on a real-world project in conjunction with MOA.
 - **Pre-req: INTD 3100 and declared Interior Design minor**
- **LDAR 3601.001 – Introduction to Landscape Architecture**

This course is an overview of the historical development, social context and contemporary practice of landscape architecture, which has existed as a profession for over 120 years and has been practiced in one form or another for millennia.
- **LDAR 4430.001- Site, Society and Environment**
 - Sites are defined by relationships within environmental and social settings. Therefore, site design should be primarily ethical and secondarily technical. This course examines the implications of this idea through site methodologies, conceptual construction of site, site analysis and site typologies.
- **LDAR 4432.001- Landform Manipulation**
 - Focuses on the fundamental technical aspects of landscape architectural design and site engineering of related topography, grading, drainage design, landform manipulation, earthwork calculations, and road alignment.
- **LDAR 4470.500- Plants in Design**
 - Explores the challenges, opportunities and responsibilities of designing with living, growing, and ever-changing organisms. Students learn to identify plants that are commonly used in the Colorado region and the principles, theories, methods, and techniques for planting design. ***This course takes place at the Denver Botanical Gardens. Students will need to secure transportation to the location.***
 - **Note: This course is classified as an “Extended Studies” course, which means it is not COF eligible.**