

Spring 2025 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 6212 A History of Modern Architecture**

- 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.
- In-person: Monday & Wednesday, 9:00 am – 10:15 pm
- *This course is eligible for use toward the ARCH 62XX Historical/Cultural Studies Required Elective OR ARCH Elective OR Open Elective category*

- **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.

- In-person: Tuesday & Thursday, 9:30 am – 10:45 am
- *This course is eligible for use toward the Cultural Studies Required Elective OR ARCH Elective OR Open Elective category*

- **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.
- In-person: Wednesday, 9:00 am – 11:45 am
- *This course is eligible for use toward the Cultural Studies Required Elective OR ARCH Elective OR Open Elective category*

- **ARCH 6290-001 Special Topics: Under 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.

In-person: Wednesday, 11:00 am – 1:45 pm

- *This course is eligible for use toward the Cultural Studies Required Elective OR ARCH Elective OR Open Elective category*

- **ARCH 6351 Building Materials Conservation**

- This course introduces students to the fundamentals of historic material conservation. Students will learn to identify and evaluate a wide range of construction materials used in buildings of the 19th and early 20th centuries. Students will also learn the basic skills

required to conduct a Historic Structure Assessment (HSA) and recommend appropriate preservation treatments.

Course objectives:

- Acquire experience in identifying typical 19th and 20th century construction materials, understanding their properties, modes of deterioration and weathering, and identify preservation issues related to these materials.
 - Assess material deterioration and develop appropriate preservation treatments.
 - Become familiar with the multitude of informational resources for historic materials.
- In-person: Thursday, 6:15 pm – 9:00 pm
 - *This course is eligible for use toward the Technological Studies Required Elective OR ARCH Elective OR Open Elective category*

- **ARCH 6470-900 ACE Mentoring**

- Earn academic credit by serving as an ACE Mentor Program volunteer. The ACE Mentor Program connects Front Range high school students to the allied fields of *architecture, construction, and engineering*, and advocates for inclusion, collaboration, and excellence. As an ACE Mentor, you will be assigned to a Front Range ACE cohort, with the expectation that you will facilitate 14 meetings (approximately two hours each; a brief report will be due at the end of your experience to complete the class.
 - Please connect with Leo Darnell to discuss your interest in this opportunity (Leonard.Darnell@ucdenver.edu).
- *This course is eligible for use toward the Elective OR Open Elective category*

- **ARCH 6570-001 Sketching as Seeing**

- Sketching promotes seeing and seeing promotes thinking. This course is designed to help emerging designers to think & see by the regular practice of sketching & the discipline of keeping a sketchbook. 'Sketching As Seeing' goes beyond improving one's sketch ability, but also trains the student to "see" their environment through the lens of architectural relationships and descriptive forces. This course has three main goals:
 - 1) How to sketch: pen in hand, fill the page
 - 2) How to see: perceive architectonics of a space with the making of - not "taking" of - notes
 - 3) Learn to document via a sketch that communicates an idea, not simply provide a "view."

Requirements: Students must sketch for 30 min every day. In-person attendance component is mandatory, no exceptions.

- In-person: Friday, 2:00 pm – 4:45 pm
- *This course is eligible for use toward the Representational Studies Required Elective OR ARCH Elective OR Open Elective category*

- **ARCH 6590-001 Special Topics Representational Studies - Environmental Hyperempathy: Architecture, Fiction, and Urban Crisis**

- This class uses speculative fiction – such as Octavia E. Butler’s Parable and Lilith’s Brood series – to foster new understandings of urban crisis, social unrest, and architecture’s

human/more-than-human entanglements. Together, we will examine the intersection of architecture and environmental uncertainty through forensic research into issues of ecology and technology. This class entails reading discussions, lectures by faculty and guest speakers, punctuated workshops, and individual and collective research. Along the way, we will engage in forms of interpreting the world that nurture new habits of seeing and speculate on survival and adaptation strategies for uncertain futures.

- In-person: Wednesday, 2:00 pm – 4:45 pm
 - *This course is eligible for use toward the Representational Studies Required Elective OR ARCH Elective OR Open Elective category.*
- **ARCH 6590-002 Special Topics Representational Studies – The Diagram and Design**
- This course delves into the diagram as a multifaceted tool in design, exploring its roles in representation, analysis, speculation, and generation. Through theoretical readings, students will gain a solid conceptual foundation in diagrammatic thinking to investigate the power of diagrams in the design process. We will examine the applications of 2D, 3D, and 4D diagrams in historical and contemporary practices and their incorporation and impact on the design process. Through readings, presentations, discussions, and a final project, students will cultivate adaptive problem-defining and problem-solving skills, along with strategic thinking, by engaging with diagrams as diagnostic and generative instruments. The course prepares students to approach complex design challenges with a keen analytical mind.
 - In-person: Monday, 9:30 am – 12:15 pm
 - *This course is eligible for use toward the Representational Studies Required Elective OR ARCH Elective OR Open Elective category*
- **ARCH 6590-001 Special Topics Representational Studies – Some of Interior**
- This course will more on the instrumentalization of the interior, with a series of tutorials and exercises to explore representational techniques in designing the interior. This course offers a didactic platform for students to explore new theoretical frameworks for the discipline of the interior beyond spatial considerations. Through a series of discussions, workshops, and small-scale design exercises, it endeavors to examine contemporary theories and practices that propose new ideas, forms, and aesthetics of comfort, collectivity, and care at the intersections of body, interior, building, and city through representational apparatus.
 - In-person: Tuesday, 3:30 pm – 6:15 pm
 - *This course is eligible for use toward the Representational Studies Required Elective OR ARCH Elective OR Open Elective category*
- **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.