

Summer 2026 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 BIM Principles & Practices**

- Introduces basic aspects of building information modeling (BIM) concepts, software, development, management and delivery for architectural projects.
- In-person: Monday, Wednesday 3:00 pm – 5:45 pm
- *Completion of ARCH 5240 (or equivalent via advanced standing) is a degree requirement for any student admitted to the Master of Architecture degree prior to Fall 2025. For students admitted Fall 2025 or later, this course may be completed as an elective course, specifically toward either the ARCH 6XXX departmental elective or the Open Elective requirement.*

- **ARCH 6180 Furniture Design**

- Students learn how to design and build furniture in the College's woodshop. Topics include ergonomics, properties of materials, principles and techniques of joinery, and techniques of hand and machine tools.
- In-person: Monday, Wednesday 3:00 pm – 5:45 pm
- *This course is eligible for use toward the Technological Studies Required Elective OR ARCH Elective OR Open Elective category*

- **ARCH 6560-500 Architecture Photography**

- Architecture elective in photography of space, interior, and exterior with an emphasis on design composition of architecture
- Hybrid: Tuesday, Thursday 1:00 pm – 3:45 pm
 - This course requires Forty to fifty percent of class meetings will take place remotely, via Zoom. The remaining fifty to sixty percent of classes will take place in the field—at iconic Colorado Buildings, museums, parks, etc., where students will learn in a hands-on environment.

- *This course is eligible for use toward the Representational Studies Required Elective OR ARCH Elective OR Open Elective category.*
 - *Please search for this course using the “Extended Studies” campus designation (by default, the search will use Denver Campus – this will need to be changed to inform your search).*
- **ARCH 6590-Z01 Special Topics: Portfolio Making Lab**
- This elective presents a distinctive platform for students to hone their skills in enhancing the representation of their design work while crafting a comprehensive portfolio to prepare for academic and professional applications. Over the course of eight weeks, the elective will provide students with lectures, workshops, and desk critiques to navigate the process of refining their design work, exploring novel perspectives, and elevating their visual narratives. Furthermore, students will delve into the intricacies of portfolio-making, discovering various techniques to curate an impactful assemblage of work that showcases their design skills and visions
 - Remote: Monday, 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-Z02 - Architecture of Fun**
- What is fun? And what is fun architecture? It seems like an easy question at first. But like a lot of easily questions, easy answers are hard to come by. This course tackles this seemingly simple question through creative practice and critical interrogation. By making and thinking about the objects we employ to “have fun”, you will develop a conceptual framework and develop skills for designing and creating fun objects, with an eventual focus on a special class of objects we recognize as fun architecture.
 - Remote: Tuesday, Thursday 5:00 pm – 7:45 pm
 - *This course is eligible for use toward the Representational Studies Required Elective OR ARCH Elective OR Open Elective category.*
- **ARCH 6590-Z01 Special Topics: Portfolio Making Lab**
- This intensive summer course introduces students to advanced fabrication and production techniques through the realization of five full-scale installations, detailed physical models, and display implements. The five projects will present the voices of local community organizations and be on public display during the inaugural Denver Community Design Festival. Working in close collaboration with city and community partners, students will refine, prototype, and fabricate projects under the supervision of Leyuan Li and Danny Wills.
 - 3 week intensive: July 20th – August 7th
 - In-person: Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays 1:00 pm – 5:30 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 (Jen.Skidmore@ucdenver.edu; they/them/theirs pronouns) CAP Director of Professional Development for more information. Please note: regular tuition charges apply for this course.

Off-Campus Study

- **ARCH 6290/6590 Special Topics: Aspen / Bauhaus Workshop**

- Applications are open for this summer's [Aspen Workshop](#). The workshop, led by Professor Michael Jenson, will take place from May 26th – June 16th, 2026. The Aspen/Bauhaus Workshop was founded by CAP in the summer of 2011 to offer students a unique opportunity to work in the offices of local architectural firms and alongside some of the nation's leading architects in Colorado's Roaring Fork region to gain insight into their design process, studio culture, and professional practice. In parallel to this experience, students will now also learn of Aspen's history and its connection to the Bauhaus, especially in relation to the life and work of Herbert Bayer. There will be lectures, readings, and field trips exploring how Bauhaus's design principles reshaped a failing former mining town in the mid-20th century into one of the world's most cosmopolitan cities. Apply by April 1. Contact Michael Jenson with questions: Michael.Jenson@ucdenver.edu.