The School of Architecture

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The Program of Studies

The Notre Dame School of Architecture welcomes all students who meet the entrance requirements and are willing to engage the professional and intellectual premises of the graduate program’s emphases in traditional architecture and urbanism. The School of Architecture currently offers two graduate degrees, the master of architecture (M.Arch) N.A.A.B.-accredited professional degree, and the master of architectural design and urbanism (M.ADU) post-professional degree. Both degrees are four semesters in duration.

Beginning in the fall of 2005, the School of Architecture will also begin accepting students into a three-year N.A.A.B.-accredited master of architectural design and urbanism degree program, open to persons who have undergraduate degrees in fields other than architecture. Prospective students interested in the three-year M.Arch program should contact the School of Architecture directly, and also look for forthcoming information on the School’s web site.

The theoretical foundation of the curriculum is the University of Notre Dame’s world-view, which supports the Architecture School’s commitment to learning the crafts and critically examining and extending the intellectual discourses of classical architecture, vernacular building and traditional European and American urbanism. The curriculum fosters design that is classical in spirit and form, that gives physical expression to and supports good human communities, that is environmentally sustainable, that is based on and extends the best traditions of architecture and urbanism, and that challenges and responds to the exigencies of contemporary practice.

The Master of Architecture (M.Arch) Professional Degree

The National Architectural Accrediting Board (N.A.A.B.) requires all schools offering professional degree programs in architecture to publish the following statement:

In the United States, most state registration boards require a degree from an accredited professional degree program as a prerequisite for licensure. The National Architectural Accrediting Board (N.A.A.B.), which is the sole agency authorized to accredit US professional degree programs in architecture, recognizes three types of degrees: the bachelor of architecture, the masters of architecture and the doctor of architecture. A program may be granted a six-year, three-year, or two-year term of accreditation, depending on its degree of conformance with established educational standards.

Masters degree programs may consist of a pre-professional undergraduate degree and a professional graduate degree, which, when earned sequentially, comprise an accredited professional education. However, the pre-professional degree is not, by itself, recognized as an accredited degree.

Notre Dame’s two-year master of architecture degree is intended for students entering the University of Notre Dame with a four-year pre-professional degree in architecture and are seeking a professional graduate degree that focuses upon classical architecture and traditional urbanism. Course work begins with an intensive study of design, theory, and elements of classical architecture. The second semester is spent in residence at the University of Notre Dame’s Rome Studies Center in the Centro Storico, where the student engages in design, history, and theory courses focused on the Rome context, in projects that compel the student to design with an awareness of the complexity of scales and contexts within which the city’s built environment has been created and re-created. Urban design issues range from environmental concerns, to the size of a city, to the city’s composition consisting of quarters, squares, streets, and blocks, to the balance of the architecture of the public and private realms.

The final two semesters are spent on the Notre Dame campus, where students are offered the options of either taking two design studios culminating in an independent semester-long terminal design project in the spring; or doing a year-long thesis project. In either option the student is provided with opportunities to design in a variety of scales and contexts in which contemporary architectural issues are explored, on projects that require the student to synthesize their academic experience.

The Master of Architectural Design and Urbanism (M.ADU) Post-professional Degree

The two-year master of architectural design and urbanism post-professional degree is intended for students who already hold an accredited professional degree and are seeking to further develop their design skills and critical thinking in the disciplines of classical architecture and traditional urban design. The studio course work is identical to that of the master of architecture degree program, with the first year divided between South Bend and Rome; but with more flexibility to take theory seminars, as well as the opportunity for an individually-determined thesis or terminal design project in the second year. Although this is a post-professional degree, and although Notre Dame encourages and accepts applications from foreign students with professional degrees in their home country, applicants should note that the master of architectural design and urbanism degree does not permit persons lacking an N.A.A.B.-accredited degree to sit for the Architectural Registration Examination (A.R.E.) in the United States.

Degree Requirements

Degree requirements include three course components applicable to both degrees: advanced architectural design, theory classes and approved electives; and either thesis preparation and direction or a full studio and spring terminal design project studio, for a total of 39 credit hours. Additional credit hours may be required for master of architecture degree candidates depending upon N.A.A.B.-required courses covered in their undergraduate architecture degree; but the normal expectation is that students can complete either degree in two academic years. In both degrees, selection of specific courses is tailored to each candidate in response to the candidate’s interests and undergraduate experience.
Advanced architectural design consists of two six-credit-hour studios. Theory classes consist of four three-credit-hour seminars. Thesis preparation and direction consists of a six-credit thesis preparation course in the fall and a six-credit-hour studio in the spring, where candidates explore special areas of design and research within the intellectual framework of the program. The thesis is developed under the direction of a specific faculty member whose expertise and interests coincide with the candidate's proposal. All thesis proposals must be approved by the School of Architecture Graduate Studies Committee. Alternatively, the student has the option to take a regular design studio in the fall of the second year and a self-initiated terminal design project in the spring of the second year.

Application

In addition to the Notre Dame Graduate School’s requirements for application, the following documents are to be submitted with the regular application material:

- Letters of Recommendation: for those applicants with practice experience in architecture, a minimum of one letter of recommendation from a registered practicing architect is required in addition to the references required by the Graduate School.
- Portfolio: all applicants must submit a portfolio of their work from academic experience, from independent projects, and/or from practice. The portfolio size should be a maximum 11 x 14 inches and should include only reproductions, not originals. Candidates submitting portfolios in excess of 11 x 14 inches will not be considered.

A visit to the campus and a personal interview are encouraged. The School of Architecture’s graduate studies committee conducts interviews.

Completed applications and all admission requirements except the portfolio should be directed to the Office of Graduate Admissions. Portfolios only (with self-addressed return package and sufficient return postage, if return of portfolio is desired) should be directed to:

Graduate Studies Committee
School of Architecture, 110 Bond Hall
University of Notre Dame
Notre Dame, IN  46556-5652

Financial Support

Candidates in the program receive financial support in the form of full tuition scholarships and stipends in the form of graduate assistantships and fellowships including the Bond-Montedonico Fellowship program, the Joseph Z. Burgee and Joseph Z. Burgee Jr. Fellowship program, the James A. Nolen Jr. Fellowship, and the Joseph M. and Virginia L. Corasaniti Architecture Fellowship. Teaching or research requirements for students receiving stipends comprise a minimum of three out of four semesters, and average 15 hours per week during the academic semester.

Course Descriptions

Each course listing includes:

- Course number
- Title
- Lecture hours per week—laboratory or tutorial hours per week—credits per semester
- Instructor
- Course description
- (Semester normally offered)

Required Courses

643. Advanced Architectural Design I
(0-8-6) Economakis
Introduction to classical design principles and to principles of traditional urbanism. Projects involve drawing the orders, their application to architecture, and the creation of traditional urbanism in the context of existing American settings. (Fall)

644. Advanced Architectural Design II (Rome)
(0-8-6) Staff
Architectural and urban design in the context of the traditional European city. (Spring)

645. Thesis Preparation and Design
(0-3-3) Staff
Preparatory analyses, precedents, and data required to begin design thesis. (Fall)

646. Design Thesis
(0-6-6) Staff
Culminating design studio in the master’s program. Students individually select their thesis and thesis director. Thesis is defended and presented to faculty and student body in a final review. (Spring)

647. Thesis Prep II
(0-3-3) Staff
Fundamentals of design thesis, including organization of material, research methods and procedures, and formation of theoretical argument and relationship to the design process. (Fall)

648. Traditional Neighborhood Design Studio
(3-9-6) Bess
Design project focusing upon the formal order of good traditional neighborhoods and the legal and political conditions of its implementation; done through the South Bend Downtown Design Center. (Fall)

649. Terminal Design Project
(0-6-6) Staff
Culminating design studio in the master’s program. Students individually select their project and critics. Project is defended and presented to faculty and student body in a final review. (Spring)

692. Roman Urbanism and Architecture II (Rome)
(3-0-3) Staff
The urban and architectural history of Rome within the context of the social and political factors that brought it about. (Spring)

693. Architectural Theory I
(3-0-3) Westfall
This course reviews, through lectures, discussions, analysis of assigned texts, and the writing of research papers, the intersection of the religious, civil, architectural, and urban characteristics of the built world within the Western tradition. (Fall)

693A. Architectural Theory II
(3-0-3) Deupi
This seminar explores the philosophical, historical, and literary background of traditional architecture by probing within the domain of architectural theory through a careful reading of primary sources, including Vitruvius, Abbot Sugr, Alberti, Serlio, Palladio, Vignola, Claude Perrault, etc. (Fall)

693C. Architectural Theory IV (Rome)
(0-3-3) Younés
The purpose of this seminar is to reflect on some of the most distinctive issues in architectural theory needed by contemporary classicists. The selected topics will cover the following: the reading of history, architecture and ontology, architecture and technique, aesthetics of architecture, imitation and invention, character and style, politics and the polis, classicism and pluralism, architecture and language, and nature and the man-made. (Spring)

698A. Special Studies (Rome)
(V-V-3) Younés
The graduate studies seminar in Rome concerns topics in theory and history that pertain to Rome’s urbanism and architecture. Topics are either chosen by the student in consultation with the faculty, or assigned by the faculty. Students are encouraged to choose topics not usually covered in studio and other seminars. The requirements are a notebook and term paper. (Spring)
Faculty


Alan DeFrees, Associate Professional Specialist. B.S., Univ. of Notre Dame, 1974. (1996)


Dino Marcantonio, Assistant Professor. B.A., Univ. of Toronto, 1990; M.Arch., Univ. of Virginia, 1993. (1999)

Ettore Maria Mazzola, Visiting Assistant Professor. Dipl. di Laurea, Univ. degli Studi, La Sapienza, Roma, 1992. (2001)


Duncan G. Stroik, Associate Professor. B.S.Arch., Univ. of Virginia, 1984; M.Arch., Yale Univ., 1987. (1990)


Samir Younès, Director of the Rome Studies Center and Associate Professor. B.Arch., Univ. of Texas, 1981; M.Arch., ibid., 1984. (1991)