

UG.1

Fall 2019

University of Michigan
Taubman College of Architecture and Urban + Regional Planning
ARCH 312 Architectural Design Studio

DAYS Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays
TIMES 1:00 - 5:00
CREDITS 6

FACULTY Melissa Harris amharris@gmail.com
Yojairo Lomeli yolo@umich.edu
Mireille Roddier mroddier@umich.edu
Anca Trandafirescu ancat@umich.edu
Peter Yi peteryi@umich.edu



"space

is a doubt: I have constantly to mark it, to designate it. It's never mine, never given to me, I have to conquer it."

—Georges Perec
The Species of Spaces

UG.1

Fall 2019

University of Michigan
Taubman College of Architecture and Urban + Regional Planning

ARCH 312 Architectural Design Studio

"But it is only necessary to walk through a traditional church to realize that the walls and vaults and ceilings are not simply positive shapes, looked at from empty space, the way we look at a piece of sculpture. They are rather the shell of an air volume that fills the interior and in the midst of which we find ourselves. The internal shape corresponding to the external convexity of a cupola is not so much a concave hollow surface as it is a second internal dome, made of air. Instead of two contradictory aspects created by the outer and inner surfaces of the stone construction—one of them convex, the other concave—we perceive two volumes fitted into each other, like the cores in the old flat irons or the foot inside the boot. Nested volumes can indeed be visualized as a unitary percept."

—Rudolf Arnheim

The Dynamics of Architectural Form

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This introductory semester is devoted to the study of space. In order to understand and gain command over the complexity embedded in this concept as it exists in the field of architecture, we will work on a series of consecutive exercises designed to enable you to manipulate the medium. This will be an on-going and iterative process of investigation, proposal, testing, and revision. We will explore ways of making space in model form through carving, layering, casting, and framing. These constructions are then filtered through lenses of scale, inhabitation and program as they engage architectural questions. Our starting focus is on (spatial) form: how it comes into being, suggests meaning, and elicits reactions. We will use the semester's assignments to gradually incorporate a range of factors affecting architecture. This studio claims that form-making and idea formulation are intertwined in the creative process. Though it makes sense to think that you have an idea first and then give it expression, just as often ideas are borne of regular engagement with media and experimentation. We aim to cultivate an attitude of practice, not instant success. Your daily curiosity, work and reflection are essential for independent thinking, design maturity.

COURSE LEARNING GOALS

Communication

- effectively use graphic conventions
- develop and convey clear formal intentions
- hone visual, verbal, and written communication skills

Design Thinking

- raise relevant and projective questions
- comprehend and use abstraction to interpret spatial information
- generate and test alternatives
- apply design principles
- reach well-reasoned conclusions

Investigative

- develop an awareness of the breadth of variables relevant to architectural design
- gather, assess, record, apply, and evaluate information relevant to own design work

UG.1

Fall 2019

University of Michigan
Taubman College of Architecture and Urban + Regional Planning

ARCH 312 Architectural Design Studio

COURSE ORGANIZATION

This studio consists of five interdependent, coordinated sections. All studio sections will have common objectives, major deadlines, and physical products. Additionally, each individual studio section will develop particular sub-themes and tailored exercises to respond to specific interest of their section. At times we will gather for large group lectures, workshops, and reviews. Other times students will be in section groups for conversations, brainstorming, desk-crits, pin-ups, and independent work sessions. The semester is divided into 4 projects:

- Project 1 layering / carving**
15% formal translations and explorations (seeing and conceiving space) through additive and subtractive processes (2.5 weeks)
- Project 2 forming / filling**
15% interprets Project 1 as a casting, formwork, and structure (2 weeks)
- Project 3 inhabiting / scaling / programming**
20% builds on the formal ideas of Project 1 & Project 2 by adding human occupation to the mix and introducing implications of scale, program, and context (3.5 weeks)
- Project 4 organizing / siting**
50% a small building proposal in the local urban fabric. conceiving and manipulating space through interior/exterior sectional qualities and relationships to an existing context. (6 weeks)

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Each project will be evaluated in the following three equivalent areas:

- Ideation**
 - active participation in developing the collective studio's knowledge on given topics.
 - establishing conceptual/formal framework for projects
 - investigating and refining design ideas through iterative search, drawings, models
- Development**
 - reassessing and redirecting ideas as needs arise
 - investigating and progressing independently
- Resolution**
 - achieving a high level design resolution (synthesis of intention and form)
 - thoughtfully and thoroughly representing ideas (verbally and visually)
 - achieving a high level of skill and control in all made products; craft

FURTHER EVALUATION REQUIREMENTS

Pareparedness. Students are expected to come prepared to discuss readings, present their work, and provide constructive criticisms and comments to others' work, as requested. Active participation in the studio will often require preparation.

Timeliness. All requested deliverables, whether for reviews, pin-ups, or individual desk-crits are expected to be complete by due dates. Late work may be down-graded.

Documentation. Periodically throughout the semester and after final reviews project portfolios will be requested. Project portfolios are required for the delivery of grades.

UG.1

Fall 2019

University of Michigan
Taubman College of Architecture and Urban + Regional Planning

ARCH 312 Architectural Design Studio

GRADE DESCRIPTIONS Letter grades will be assigned according to the following descriptions:

- A Exceptional:** Work reflects outstanding achievement in content and execution. Work far exceeds given requirements.
Students in this category demonstrate: High self-motivation, Independent thinking and expression, Highly disciplined, Willingness to take risks, High ability to focus, Systemic questioning, Self critique and editing, Highest qualities of representation
- B Good:** Work reflects high achievement in content and execution. Work exceeds given requirements.
Students in this category demonstrate: Some external motivation, Periodic independent thinking, Good discipline, Beginning to take risks, Good qualities of representation, Periods of focus, Closed-ended questioning, Open to suggested critique and editing
- C Adequate:** Work fulfills given requirements.
Students in this category demonstrate: External motivation, Dependent on precedent, Low discipline, Conformity, Short periods of focus, Average qualities of representation, Limited questioning, Dependent on external critique and editing
- D Poor:** Work minimally or incompletely fulfills given requirements.
Students in this category demonstrate: Lacking motivation, Dependent on precedent, Lacking discipline, Duplication, Few periods of focus, Low qualities of representation, Little questioning, Nonresponsive to external critique and editing
- E Inadequate:** Work fulfills few or none of the given requirements.
- I Incomplete:** Grade is only considered due to health reasons or other emergency situations.
< http://internal.tcaup.umich.edu/students/academic_policies/non-rackham/grading >

ATTENDANCE POLICY Attendance is required during the full duration of studio meeting times. Students are expected to arrive punctually at the beginning of each meeting. Unexcused absence from three scheduled studio times will constitute failure in the course. Excused absences are religious or medical (authorized for specific dates) in nature. Students must attend all reviews and must be in attendance for the entire review period. Missing a review is equivalent to missing an exam and will lead to commensurate lowering of the student's final grade.

ACCOMMODATIONS If you need accommodation for a disability, please let your instructor know at the earliest convenience. Aspects of this course: the assignments, the in-class activities, and the way the course is taught may be modified to facilitate your participation and progress. We will work with the Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) office to help us determine appropriate academic accommodations. The SSD typically recommends accommodations through a Verified Individualized Services and Accommodations (VISA) form. Any information you provide is private and confidential and will be treated as such. SSD office contact information: (734) 763 3000; < <http://ssd.umich.edu> >

ACADEMIC POLICIES All students will be held to all of the academic policies of the Taubman College, found here: < <http://taubmancollege.umich.edu/policies/non-rackham-policies> >

UG.1

Fall 2019

University of Michigan
Taubman College of Architecture and Urban + Regional Planning

ARCH 312 Architectural Design Studio

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Plagiarism is the use of another's words, ideas, or creative productions without proper attribution, i.e., without giving due credit to the original source. Flagrant cases of plagiarism may involve extensive borrowing of material from articles, books, websites or creative productions with perhaps only slight modifications; these are significant violations of academic standards that may provide grounds for failing the course. In using words or ideas from external sources, one must use either direct quotations (within quotation marks) or skillful paraphrasing AND cite the original source for all ideas that are not one's own in footnotes. Since much of the basic information about our disciplines comes from a variety of sources common to those who work in a particular discipline, it is unnecessary to footnote those facts and ideas that are in the common domain of the discipline.

TEACHING EVALUATIONS

You will be reminded to fill out faculty evaluations between November XXth and December XXth, 2019. These are meant to improve the quality of the curriculum, course offerings, and college as a whole. Your feedback is as useful as it is thoughtful.

A FEW MORE THOUGHTS ON STUDIO

- Design studios are the center of an architectural education. They meet for the most hours per week, hold the highest number of credit hours, and are taken in every semester of architecture school. This reveals the complex nature in the acquisition of design skills for the making of architecture. It is expected that you will devote a large part of your academic time to this course.
- Design studio is the place for the formation of collective knowledge. You will learn as much from your instructor as from the students that surround you in the studio and the other studios. It is for this reason that you are given individual and collective space in which to learn. Use the studio as much as possible to work.
- Design studios and reviews are the place of open dialogue. This means all parties present have a voice and are given the floor to converse and respond when they have something to contribute to the conversation.
- Leave the studio once in a while. It is a myth that spending more hours in studio will lead to better work. Rest, exercise, and time away with other interests are equally important components of a productive creative design studio practice.
- Practice good study habits and time management. This means "chipping away" at deadlines every day rather than waiting until the last days to fulfill tasks. To avoid all-nighters and maximize students' ability to concentrate and appropriately relate intentions, there will be an unofficial "pencils down" policy in place for every project at 11 PM the night before a review.
- Students are responsible for backing up their work at all times. The loss of electronic data is prevalent but not an excuse for missing hand-ins or review attendance. All work produced in the University of Michigan is the property of the University of Michigan.

UG.1

Fall 2019

University of Michigan
Taubman College of Architecture and Urban + Regional Planning

ARCH 312 Architectural Design Studio

COURSE CALENDAR

01.

W 09_04 Kick Off / INTRO PROJECT 1
(1-4pm | space CMYK)
F 09_06

09.

M 10_28 XXXX
W 10_30 XXXX
F 11_01 INTRO PROJECT 4 (1-2:30pm, 2104)

02.

M 09_09
W 09_11
F 09_13 WS: Rhino (1-2:30pm, 2104)

10.

M 11_04
W 11_06
F **11_08** PORTFOLIO PROJECT 3 DUE

03.

M 09_16
W **09_18** REVIEW PROJECT 1
F 09_20 INTRO PROJECT 2 (1-2:30pm, 2104)

11.

M 11_11
W 11_13
F **11_15** MIDREVIEW PROJECT 4

04.

M 09_23
W 09_25
F 09_27 WS: Photo (1-2:30pm, 2104)

12.

M 11_18 MIDREVIEW PROJECT 4?
W 11_20 MIDREVIEW PROJECT 4?
F 11_22

05.

M 09_30
W **10_02** REVIEW PROJECT 2
F 10_04 INTRO PROJECT 3 (1-2:30pm, 2104)

13.

M 11_25
W 11_27
F 11_29 Thanksgiving Break - no classes

06.

M 10_07
W 10_09
F 10_11 WS: DigiWorkflow (1-3pm, 2104)

14.

M 12_02
W 12_04
F 12_06

07.

M 10_14 Fall Study Break - no classes
W **10_16** PORTFOLIO PROJECT 1 + 2 DUE
F 10_18

15.

M 12_09
W 12_11 Last day of classes
TH **12_12** FINAL REVIEW
F **12_13** FINAL REVIEW

08.

M 10_21
W 10_23
F 10_25 REVIEW PROJECT 3

16.

W **12_18** PORTFOLIO PROJECT 4 DUE