Architecture

The School of Architecture

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Alan Fleishhacker
James Furr
Visiting Assistant Professors
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Visiting Wortham Fellows
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Lecturers
Stephen Fox
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Degrees Offered: BA, BArch, MArch, MArch in Urban Design, DArch

The principal goal of the School of Architecture is to contribute to a more humane environment. The school focuses on teaching and research, the development of a broad liberal education for undergraduates in the allied sciences and arts of architecture, and professional graduate and postgraduate education in architecture and urban design. Intimate student–faculty interaction, academic freedom, and unrestricted institutional cooperation within and outside the university are distinctive qualities of the architecture degree programs at Rice.

“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, which is the sole agency authorized to accredit U.S. professional degree programs in architecture, recognizes two types of degree: the Bachelor of Architecture and the Master 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.

Master’s degree programs may consist of a preprofessional undergraduate degree and a professional degree, which, when earned sequentially, comprise an accredited professional education. However, the professional degree is not, by itself, recognized as an accredited degree.”—National Architectural Accrediting Board
The undergraduate programs maintain a balance between academic studies and professional practice. Lectures and other public programs, visiting faculty, scholarly presentations, and the Preceptorship Program, which provides a one-year internship in outstanding architectural offices throughout the United States and the world.

The graduate programs have three areas of emphasis: architectural design, with particular attention paid to history, theory, and practice; urban design, where the concern is the emerging form of the American city; and research in computer visualization.

**Degree Requirements for BA in Architecture or Architectural Studies**

For general university requirements, see Graduation Requirements (Undergraduate Students section, pages 2–5). The conditions specified here for each major also satisfy the university distribution requirements.

**BA in Architecture**—The curriculum for architecture majors is divided into a foundation sequence taken in the freshman and sophomore years and a preprofessional sequence taken in the junior and senior years. The foundation sequence consists of four semesters of design studios and other related courses in architecture. The first-semester studio develops basic design skills through directed explorations and problem-solving exercises in form, texture, color, material, and structures. In the subsequent three studios, through a carefully sequenced series of exercises, students are introduced to a broad range of architectural design issues, processes, and methods. Students are required to take courses in the history and theory of art and architecture as well as courses in architectural technology. They also should take university distribution requirements. It is recommended that students take an introductory drawing course during their first two years of study to develop visual skills.

Students who satisfactorily complete the foundation sequence may, upon approval of their major by the School of Architecture, enter the junior and senior year preprofessional sequence. During the third and fourth years, students are required to take the prescribed studio, history and theory, and technology sequence and to fulfill all remaining university distribution and general graduation requirements. Students wishing to pursue the professional degree in architecture may apply for admission to the Bachelor of Architecture (BArch) degree program during the second semester of the forth year.

**BA in Architectural Studies**—The Architectural Studies curriculum is an alternative to the preprofessional degree sequence and is open only to students who have been admitted as architecture majors and have completed the two-year foundation program. The first four semesters of the curriculum are identical to the foundation sequence of the architecture major except for the omission of one technology course. Subsequent requirements are the completion of an additional studio and four elective courses in architecture. The program provides basic preparation for later professional study while allowing other academic interests to be pursued at greater depth.
Degree Requirements for a Bachelor of Architecture (BArch)

The Bachelor of Architecture program is open to students who have completed the undergraduate preprofessional architecture program (BA in Architecture) at Rice. The BArch degree requires the successful completion of the BA in Architecture, completion of the two-semester preceptorship, and completion of two graduate option studios and approved lecture or seminar courses. Upon admission, students are assigned a preceptorship, which takes place immediately after receipt of the Bachelor of Arts in Architecture degree. The preceptorship program balances academic learning with professional experience. Students
are assigned to work for a minimum of nine months in the United States or abroad with leading architectural offices designated by the school as preceptors. Students may apply to Rice School of Architecture Paris to complete one semester in Paris.

**Typical Curriculum for a Bachelor of Architecture (BArch)**

**1st Semester**
ARCH 500 Preceptorship*

**2nd Semester**
ARCH 500 Preceptorship*

**3rd Semester**
ARCH 601 Architectural Problems*
Elective
Elective

**4th Semester**
ARCH 602 Architectural Problems*

**Preceptors 2011–12**

Bohlín Cywinski Jackson  
San Francisco

Cambridge Seven Associates  
Cambridge

Diller Scofidio & Renfro  
New York

KPF  
London

KPF  
New York

Machado and Silvetti  
Boston

Michael Graves & Associates  
Princeton

Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates  
Brooklyn

Mitchell/Giurgola  
New York

NADAAA  
Boston

NBBJ  
Seattle

Ong & Ong Architects  
Singapore

Pei, Cobb, Freed & Partners  
New York

Pelli Clarke Pelli  
New Haven

Pelli Clarke Pelli  
New York

PLP  
London

Renzo Piano Building Workshop  
Paris

Rogers Marvel Architecture  
New York

SHoP  
New York

SOM  
San Francisco

Thomas Phifer & Associates  
New York

Weiss Manfredi  
New York

Zimmer Gunsul Frasca  
Los Angeles

Zimmer Gunsul Frasca  
Portland

Notes for the BArch:
1. *Indicates a course required for the Degree and that must be taken in the prescribed sequence and semester.
2. **Can be taken anytime after the sixth semester of the BA in architecture

Total Credit Hours Required for a BArch: 62
The Master of Architecture program engages architecture as a generalist practice while encouraging each student's freedom to pick and choose from changing realities in order to shape them for the better. We prepare students to deal with an ever more ambiguous world, one that can no longer simply be flattened by such binaries as local and global, quantity and quality, mind and nature, form and function, or standards and exceptions. The challenge we pose to our students is to transgress the obsolescence of opposing values and navigate the tricky waters of a world no longer organized around presupposed notions of solidity, permanence, rootedness, centrality, protection, and identity. Our program is the very place where visions of the future are tested and where students are asked to understand the world's complexity in order to focus on the tangible, the legible, and the relevant.

Individuals who possess a Bachelor's degree can apply to the Master of Architecture program. Our curriculum offers a set of core courses (in Design, History and Theory, Technology, and Practice) and many free electives, both in the School of Architecture and across campus. In studio courses, strong emphasis is given to the very means by which architecture is able to change the world through program, form, and technology. Such fundamental aspects to design can, when mobilized, produce a practice of architecture that is as speculative as it is realist. Every Fall, optional “Totalization” studios are conducted in such a way as to have students rigorously weigh all aspects of building design while nonetheless biasing their engagement so as to produce highly specific architectural projects. In their final thesis semester, students are asked to face the world and engage it through architectural speculation and a precise understanding of historical, political, economic, and physical dimensions, which can together define a better future.

The Master of Architecture program is accredited by the National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB) and qualifies graduates to take the state professional licensing exams after completing the required internship in an architectural office.

Programs of Study—There are three program options at the Master of Architecture level: Options 1, 2, and 3. They differ according to the Bachelor's degree received prior to entering the graduate program.

Option 1

Offered to individuals who hold a four-year undergraduate degree with a major in a field other than Architecture. Preference for admission is given to those who have completed a balanced education in the arts, sciences, and humanities. A minimum of two semesters of college-level courses in the history of art and/or architecture and one semester of college-level courses in mathematics or physics is recommended. Previous preparation in the visual arts is also desirable, as are courses in philosophy, literature, and economics. In order to graduate, students in this program must complete, in addition to 6 semesters of design studios, a curriculum of 46 credit hours with an additional free electives course load of 27 credit hours.
1st Semester
ARCH 501 Core Studio I
ARCH 525 History and Theory I—Introduction
ARCH 507 Technology I—The Frame
Elective

2nd Semester
ARCH 502 Core Studio II
ARCH 645 History and Theory II—pre 1890
ARCH 509 Technology II—The Shell
Elective

3rd Semester
ARCH 503 Core Studio III
ARCH 514 Technology III—The Envelope
ARCH 646 History and Theory III—1890-1968
Elective

4th Semester
ARCH 504 Core Studio IV
ARCH 652 History and Theory IV—1968-Present
ARCH 516 Technology IV—The Environment
Elective

5th Semester
ARCH 501 Option Studio—Totalization
ARCH 623 Professionalism and Manag. in Architecture
Elective

6th Semester
ARCH 602 Option Studio
ARCH 702 Pre-Thesis Preparation
Elective

7th Semester
ARCH 703/706 Design Thesis/ Written Thesis
Elective

Option 2
Offered to individuals who hold a four-year undergraduate degree with a major in Architecture. Preference for admission is given to those who have successfully completed between four and six semesters of undergraduate design studio as well as undergraduate courses that are analogous to those given in the first year of Option 1. A minimum of two semesters of college-level courses in the history of art and/or architecture and one semester of college-level courses in mathematics or physics is recommended. In order to graduate, students in this program must complete, in addition to 4 semesters of design studios, a curriculum of 39 credit hours with an additional free electives course load of 15 hours.

1st Semester
ARCH 503 Core Studio III
ARCH 514 Technology III—The Envelope
ARCH 646 History and Theory III—1890-1968
Elective

2nd Semester
ARCH 504 Core Studio IV
ARCH 652 History and Theory IV—1968-Present
ARCH 516 Technology IV—The Environment
Elective

3rd Semester
ARCH 601 Option Studio—Totalization
ARCH 623 Professionalism and Manag. in Architecture
Elective

4th Semester
ARCH 602 Option Studio
ARCH 702 Pre-Thesis Preparation
Elective

5th Semester
ARCH 703/706 Design Thesis/ Written Thesis
Elective
Option 3

Offered to individuals who hold a professional degree in architecture (BArch) or its equivalent from a foreign university. Preference for admission is given to those who have significant practical experience in architecture and who have demonstrated high achievement in design. In order to graduate, students must complete, in addition to 2 semesters of design studios, a curriculum of 16 credit hours with an additional free electives course load of 18 credit hours.

1st Semester
ARCH 601 Architectural Problems
Distribution Elective *(History, Theory, and Criticism)*
Distribution Elective *(Computing, Logic, and Representation)*
Elective

2nd Semester
ARCH 602 Architectural Problems
ARCH 702 Prethesis Preparation

Distribution Elective *(Structures, Practice, and Environments)*
Elective

3rd Semester
ARCH 601 Architectural Problems
Elective
Elective

MArch Thesis Requirement

Thesis is payback time—it is when students build upward and outward from what they’ve learned over the years, giving back to the school by providing new disciplinary fodder. More immediate than a crystal ball, some of the common threads underlying a Rice thesis might well reveal tomorrow’s future. Despite working in the context of Texas’s vast horizon, Rice thesis students do not envision an endless frontier. Rather than turning away from the discipline, our students have found new territories embedded within architectural and urban paradigms, breathing into them new life and vitality. All Master of Architecture candidates are required to do an independent thesis, articulating an ambition and envisioning its architectural specificity. Students develop their individual thesis proposals during their penultimate semester in a required, pre-thesis seminar. Thesis design evolves from the honing of that proposal and continues through the final semester, under the guidance of an individual advisor. In early January, thesis projects are reviewed publicly by a panel of eminent jurors in the RSA’s Farish Gallery. In Short, the school starts each new year with a batch of new visions.

RSA Paris

MArch (Option 1, Option 2, and Option 3) students may apply to RSAP to complete one semester in Paris: Option 1 students may do so in their fifth or sixth semester, Option 2 in their third or fourth semester, and Option 3 in their third semester. BArch students may apply to RSAP for their final year of study.

Master of Architecture in Urban Design

The Master of Architecture in Urban Design (MAUD) program prepares graduates for a full range of professional activities in the field of urban design. It is offered to individuals who already hold a professional degree qualifying them for registration as architects or landscape architects. The MAUD program makes extensive use of Houston as a setting for case studies and design problems. During the first year, strong emphasis is given to developing design skills, logic, and imagination through an intensive series of urban design studio courses.
Three additional courses in urban history, planning, and design are required each semester. Students also are required to prepare an independent thesis during their third semester.

**Doctor of Architecture**

Admission to the Doctor of Architecture program requires either a bachelor's or master's degree in architecture and a detailed statement of research concerns and anticipated array of investigation. A student entering with a master's degree normally takes three semesters of course work before the qualifying examination. A student with a bachelor's degree normally requires two to five semesters of course work before the qualifying examination. Preparation for doctoral candidacy may include a foreign language or computer skills. Specific course requirements are established individually when a student is admitted to the program.

After successful completion of all required course work, students may apply to take the qualifying examination after submitting a prospectus outlining their research programs for the doctoral dissertation. The dissertation must represent an original contribution to knowledge in the field of architecture. Completion and successful defense of the dissertation will take a minimum of one year. University requirements for thesis (dissertation) preparation and defense must be carefully followed. The time limit for successful defense of the dissertation is established by university policy. Students should not expect to complete the Doctor of Architecture program in less than four years of full-time study.

*See ARCH in the Courses of Instruction section.*