

ARCHITECTURAL STUDIES

Overview and Contact Information

The Architectural Studies Program at Mount Holyoke offers an interdisciplinary approach to issues of design, history, and theory. The program blends studio and academic work, as well as the interactions between architecture and culture throughout history.

Architectural Studies lays a foundation of creative practice, technical skills, problem-solving, and critical thinking that prepares students for graduate study and professions in a variety of fields including architecture, landscape architecture, industrial design, graphic design, urban planning, construction, sustainability, and project management with international development organizations. Mount Holyoke College is also a member of the Five College Architectural Studies program which offers access to the collective courses, faculty, and resources of the Five Colleges.

With interests ranging from architectural history to urban design, majors have enrolled in study abroad programs across the globe, including Copenhagen, Dublin, Florence, and Paris.

Contact Information

Naomi Darling, Program Director

Melissa Burke, Academic Department Coordinator

201 Art Building

413-538-2200

<https://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/architectural> (<https://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/architectural/>)

Learning Goals

By participating in the coursework and experiences constituting a major in Architectural Studies, students will acquire the following knowledge and skills. They will:

- Demonstrate knowledge of works of built and landscaped environments in their historical and cultural settings.
- Acquire the vocabulary to describe and analyze monuments and spaces.
- Develop the ability to communicate their design ideas through physical and digital models, drawings, diagrams and visual media.
- Be able to articulate their own design process as informed by architectural theory and historical precedent.
- Acquire a knowledge of sustainable design practices and implications for our changing climate.
- Acquire research skills to locate and assess primary and secondary sources, both print and digital.

Faculty

This area of study is administered by Architectural Studies faculty within the Department of Art and Art History:

Ajay Sinha, Julie '73 and Helene '49 Herzig Professor of Art History, Teaching Spring Only

Naomi Darling, Five College Associate Professor of Architectural Studies

Jessica Maier, Associate Professor of Art History

Five College Affiliated Faculty

Gabriel Arboleda, Associate Professor of Art and the History of Art, and Architectural Studies; Chair of Architectural Studies, Amherst College

Thom Long, Five College Associate Professor of Architecture and Design, Hampshire College

Requirements for the Major

A minimum of 44 credits:

Code	Title	Credits
Foundation Concentration		
One art studio course at the 100 level; for example:		4
ARTST-120	Drawing I ¹	
or ARTST-13 Studio Art Foundations		
One of the following art history survey courses with significant architectural content:		4
ARTH-100	Image and Environment	
ARTH-101	The Built Environment	
ARTH-105	Arts of Asia	
Design Studio: 8 credits (taken at Mount Holyoke, Smith College, Hampshire College, or the University of Massachusetts, Amherst); for example: ¹		8
Mount Holyoke:		
ARCH-205AD	Introduction to Architecture: 'Design'	
Smith:		
ARS-280	Introduction to Architectural Design: Analog	
ARS-281	Introduction to Architectural Design Studio	
Hampshire:		
HACU-275	Digital Architecture Studio	
UMass:		
ARCH-300	Design I	
ARCH-301	Design II	
Intermediate Concentration: 20 credits at the 200 level		20
At least one course must be a studio art course ²		
At least one course must be an architectural history course or an art history course with significant architectural content. In the Department of Art and Art History, these courses include:		
ARTH-222	Age of the Cathedrals: Gothic Art in Europe, 1100-1500	
ARTH-233	Renaissance and Baroque Architecture in Italy	
ARTH-243AR	Architecture 1890-1990: 'Building the Modern Environment'	
ARTH-262	Arts of Japan	
ARTH-263	Arts of India	
ARTH-290	Issues in Art History ³	
If concentrating in architectural design:		
ARCH-225ED	Intermediate Studies in Architecture: 'Environmental Principles'	
Advanced Concentration: 8 credits at the 300 level (in area of concentration). Students may elect to fulfill 300-level requirements with coursework in architectural design or the history and/or theory of art or architecture		8
Advanced level architectural design courses include:		
ARCH-311	Makerspace Design-Build Studio	

ARCH-403 Design V Studio taught at UMass in the fall semester

Total Credits **44**

- ¹ ARTST-120 or ARTST-131 or any of their offerings; for example ARTST-120FR or ARTST-131SE.
- ² Design studios are not substitutes for art studios
- ³ Drawing, multimedia, painting, printmaking, sculpture, photography; consult the studio art course offerings
- ⁴ Where the specific topic of the ARTH-290 course is appropriate

Other Requirements

- Program plan. Students who elect to major in architectural studies in the Department of Art and Art History should select an advisor who will assist them in mapping a program of study.

Additional Specifications

- Students are encouraged to fulfill the Science and Mathematics distribution requirement by taking courses in mathematics and physics that are required for graduate study in architecture.
- Students may wish to pursue an independent research or design project. Working closely with a faculty advisor, they submit a project proposal at the beginning of fall semester and enroll in ARCH-395 Independent Study. With approval from their advising committee, students continue the project through the spring semester by enrolling in a second ARCH-395 or the Capstone Design studio (ARCH-305 or its Five College equivalent).
- Students majoring in architectural studies are not eligible to minor in art history or art studio.

Requirements for the Minor

A minimum of 20 credits:

Code	Title	Credits
ARTH-100 or ARTH-101 or ARTH-105	Image and Environment The Built Environment Arts of Asia	4
One approved art studio course at the 100 level, for example: ¹		4
ARTST-120 or ARTST-131	Drawing I Studio Art Foundations	
A minimum of one approved architectural design course at the 200 level		4
Two approved electives in art history, art studio, or architectural design at the 200 or 300 level		8
Total Credits		20

- ¹ ARTST-120 or ARTST-131 or any of their offerings; for example ARTST-120BV, ARTST-120VE, or ARTST-131SE.

Other Requirements

- Program plan. Those intending to minor must meet with a member of the architectural studies faculty to develop an approved program of study.

Additional Specifications

- At least 16 credits must be above the 100 level to satisfy the requirements for the minor.

- Students majoring in art history or studio art are not eligible to minor in architectural studies.

Course Offerings

ARCH-203 Scene Design for Theater and Film

Fall. Credits: 4

The purpose of this course is to introduce the history, art, and techniques of designing sets for theater and film. Students will learn how sets have been created in the past, how a designer approaches a script, how a designer's work supports the director's vision, how it illuminates a production for the audience, and what methods and techniques are used in the execution of the process. Students will have the opportunity to exercise their visual imaginations, through the creation of designs for a script. They will engage in script analysis, research, collaborative discussion, sketching, technical drawing, model building, and related techniques and methodologies.

Crosslisted as: FMT-240SD

Applies to requirement(s): Humanities

V. James

Notes: lab; \$50 materials fee. Any additional design supplies and materials are the responsibility of the student.

ARCH-205 Introduction to Architecture

ARCH-205AD Introduction to Architecture: 'Design'

Spring. Credits: 4

This studio course introduces a series of design investigations around particular themes and approaches to architecture and the built environment. Students will develop visual communication and architectural design skills (sketches, plans, elevations, sections, projected drawings and model making) to tackle interdisciplinary and socially pertinent design problems. Creative and indexical study and analysis will be used to generate and foster a broad range of concepts and language to solve architectural and design issues involving site, inhabitation, function, form, materiality, light and space. Our goal is to apply creative techniques in art and sculpture to the creation of meaningful space.

Applies to requirement(s): Humanities

N. Darling

Advisory: One semester of design or drawing is recommended

Notes: Students enrolled in this course will be responsible for some of the cost of materials.

ARCH-225 Intermediate Studies in Architectural Design

ARCH-225ED Intermediate Studies in Architecture: 'Environmental Principles'

Fall. Credits: 4

This hybrid studio addresses human comfort with lectures and problem work sessions integrated with design projects. We start with an in-depth study of the world's climate regions, the sun, and the earth's tilt and spin. Primary methods of heat transfer are investigated as students research two architectural solutions (vernacular and contemporary) within each climate. Using daylight, the sun's movement, and sun-path diagrams students will design, draw and build a functioning solar clock. Issues in day-lighting and thermal comfort will then drive an extended design problem. Students will be asked to solve numerical problems and present design solutions using both drawings and models.

Applies to requirement(s): Humanities

N. Darling

Prereq: ARCH-205 or equivalent.

Notes: Students enrolled in this course will be responsible for some of the cost of materials.

ARCH-295 Independent Study

Fall and Spring. Credits: 1 - 4

The department

Instructor permission required.

ARCH-305 Advanced Topics in Architecture**ARCH-305CS Advanced Topics in Architecture: 'Capstone Studio'**

Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4

This studio provides a structured creative environment for students to explore and design in both an individual and collaborative setting. Students develop their own individual design projects, identifying their approach, then executing their creative acts throughout the semester. This course is highly interdisciplinary in nature, yet designed for students developing projects in various areas of architecture and design, environmental studies, and urban planning. Discussion and writing are integral to this studio. The semester culminates in a collective exhibition. Students must have an individual project in mind or in progress at the start of the term.

Applies to requirement(s): Humanities

N. Darling

Notes: A considerable amount of self-directed work outside of class hours is expected from students.

ARCH-305UE Advanced Topics in Architecture: 'Public Space and Everyday Life in Globalizing Spanish Cities'

Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4

This course will examine everyday urban life and public space in Spain from the post-Civil War period (1939) to 2021. We'll approach cities as dynamic global networks shaped by cultures, politics, economics, ideologies, memories, and imaginations. Through literary, visual, and theoretical texts, we'll explore the in/exclusivity of large-scale urban phenomena such as street design, gentrification, city ordinances, globalization, and mass tourism. From a lesser-known ethnographic angle, we'll also bring into dialogue the power within everyday practices (walking, sitting, remembering, shopping, placemaking) as well as subjects and objects (street vendors, immigrants, urban furniture, historic buildings).

Crosslisted as: SPAN-350UE

Applies to requirement(s): Humanities

Other Attribute(s): Writing-Intensive

M. Saltzman

Prereq: Two 200-level Spanish courses above SPAN-212.

Notes: Taught in Spanish.

ARCH-311 Makerspace Design-Build Studio

Spring. Credits: 4

The rise of digital fabrication processes has blurred the traditional division of labor enabling architects and designers not only to draw but to also fabricate projects, often using the very same programs. Following the rise in CAD/CAM has been a burgeoning Maker movement as more and more individuals have rediscovered the joys (and sometimes frustrations) of realizing projects within a collaborative environment. This class will introduce students to both traditional and digital making through a series of exercises that will enable students to realize projects using the facilities of the Fimbel Lab.

Applies to requirement(s): Humanities

N. Darling

Instructor permission required.

Prereq: ARCH-205, and a digital studio at Hampshire College (with Thom Long) or Smith College (with Elisa Kim).

Advisory: ARCH-225 is recommended.

ARCH-395 Independent Study

Fall and Spring. Credits: 1 - 8

The department

Instructor permission required.

ARCH-395P Independent Study with Practicum

Fall and Spring. Credits: 1 - 8

The department

Instructor permission required.

Related Courses

Students who plan to enroll in courses outside of the Five Colleges, especially in courses to be taken at another institution or abroad, should first consult with their advisor and the program coordinator to determine if the courses meet the departmental criteria for the major.

Five College Course Offerings in Architectural Studies

Current courses in architectural studies are offered throughout the Five Colleges. Check listings in the Five College course schedule (<https://www.fivecolleges.edu/academics/courses/>) and fcarch.org (<http://fcarch.org/>).

- Amherst College: Department of Art and the History of Art
- Hampshire College: Humanities, Arts, and Cultural Studies (HACU), Lemelson Center (HCLC)
- Smith College: Department of Art; Landscape Studies Program
- University of Massachusetts: Architecture and Design; Building Construction Technology; Landscape Architecture and Regional Planning.