

Master of Science in Architecture

School of Architecture and Interior Design

College of Design Architecture Art and Planning

The Master of Science in Architecture is a post-professional degree, usually best suited to those who have completed a professional bachelor's degree, or those who have strong backgrounds in other fields and whose interest in architecture is of a theoretical or investigative nature. The program's broadly intellectual emphasis enables in-depth critical involvement and methodological acuity. Specific course plans are tailored for each student. We encourage interdisciplinary investigation. The small program, with fewer than 20 students, enjoys the advantages of low student-faculty ratios and informality; most courses follow the seminar format.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Program Description

The core of the Master of Science in Architecture program, in which all students participate, consists of the study of architectural theory and its relations to practice. This is the grounding for all of the more specialized research areas described below. By “theory” we refer to the conscious intellectual and critical engagement with the ways in which socio-cultural and philosophical values and presuppositions influence the production of architecture, its research, or its discourse. These perspectives, covered in the core courses, will account for the understanding of theory as explanatory generalizations, as speculative propositions, as epistemological frameworks, as disciplinary knowledge bases, and as certain specific architectural texts. Specific areas of research include:

Architectural Theory

This involves understanding the discipline of architecture, its role in society and culture, the nature of its knowledge and practice, its relationships to philosophy or other humanities, or the study of particular texts and treatises on architecture.

Historical Interpretation

Besides documentary scholarship in particular topic areas, reflective attention is given to theories of history and interpretation, with emphasis on the interpretive process, including attention to diverse contexts and methodologies. Special opportunities exist for studies of virtual heritage and electronic reconstruction of past environments.

Human-Environment Studies

This area explores the perceptual, behavioral, cognitive, and cultural dimensions of the relations between persons and the built world, such as behavioral or ritual settings, ethnic or group identity, post-occupancy evaluation, or programming.

Interior Design

Investigations into the discipline of interior design emphasize teaching, research, or scholarship, and are oriented toward careers in interior design teaching, advanced graduate study, or more theoretically reflective practice.

Urban Design Studies

This area concerns itself with the study and application of new techniques and methodologies within rapidly changing urban societies, from social, economic, ecological, and design standpoints, and with attention to the broad cultural meanings of the city and of civic life.

Of Special Interest

Academic/research centers. Full or partial assistantships may be available to graduate students in two research centers connected with the School. Since 1988 the School's **Center for the Study of Practice** has undertaken research projects on a variety of practice-related topics. Sponsored conferences, documentaries, publications, and lecture series have helped disseminate ideas that enrich the discourse on practice. **CERHAS** (Center for the Electronic Reproduction of Archaeological and Historical Sites), founded in 1995, is an interdisciplinary research/production laboratory in the College of DAAP. It is dedicated to research in advanced multimedia and digital imaging of vanished or otherwise inaccessible cultural resources, sites, or landscapes. **The Design Research Institute** undertakes industry- and grant-funded research and experimental design initiatives in an interdisciplinary environment, with the aim of advancing knowledge in the College's fields of inquiry.

Faculty in the School of Architecture and Interior Design have come to Cincinnati from excellent universities all over the country as well as from England, Germany, India, Nigeria, Australia, and Turkey. Most of the faculty members are registered professionals and many complement their university teaching with design practice. Research areas include historic preservation, sustainable design, digital media, building morphology, historical and contemporary theory, post-occupancy evaluation, universal design, building science, environmental technology, community design, urban design,

interior design, archaeology, and post-colonial modern architecture. Teaching and research assistantships with faculty members are available to graduate students.

The College of DAAP supports a rich multidisciplinary design and art culture, with programs in architecture, interior design, graphic design, digital design, industrial design, fashion design, art history, fine arts, urban planning, and urban studies.

Local architecture. The central basin and surrounding hills of Cincinnati are populated with fine examples of nineteenth- and early twentieth-century architecture, many of them brick structures erected by German immigrants in the 1840s to 1880s. Scores of individual buildings and whole districts are listed on historic registers. Local neighborhoods serve our teaching programs as excellent sites and laboratories for architectural, interior design, urban design, and historic preservation projects.

Notable architects who built in Cincinnati during that early period include Daniel Burnham, H.H. Richardson and Isaiah Rogers (whose Chamber of Commerce Building and Burnet House Hotel both burned long ago), John Russell Pope, Cass Gilbert, Ernest Flagg, as well as Cincinnati's own Samuel Hannaford and James McLaughlin. Engineer John Roebling managed to get a truss-suspension bridge constructed across the Ohio River in 1876. Nationally-known architects who have left more recent marks on the city: Zaha Hadid, Michael Graves, Cesar Pelli, Gordon Bunshaft, RTKL, SOM, Hardy Holzman Pfeiffer, and Kohn Pederson Fox. Frank Lloyd Wright designed three houses here, Philip Johnson one.

The University of Cincinnati's campus master plan designed by landscape architect George Hargreaves features new buildings and urban landscapes by Frank Gehry, Thom Mayne, Michael Graves, Gwathmey Siegel, Machado and Silvetti, David Childs with SOM, Henry Cobb with Pei Cobb Freed, Liers Weinzapfel, Cambridge Seven, Moore Rubell Yudell, and Bernard Tschumi. Peter Eisenman's internationally-acclaimed Aronoff Center for Design and Art houses the School of Architecture and Interior Design and the three other schools within the College of DAAP.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Graduates of this program have found positions in architectural education, journalism, practice, research, and consulting. Others have pursued doctoral level studies in architecture and in professional academic programs.

INFORMATION

Campus Tours

University Admissions runs tours of the UC campus at 12:00 pm and 2:00 pm Monday through Friday and at 11:00 am on Saturdays, except holiday weekends. Call 513.556.1100 to reserve.

School Information Sessions

Although a personal interview is not required, we encourage candidates to learn more about the school in an information session in conjunction with a tour of the DAAP building. Call the School office at 513.556.6426 to make an appointment.

General Information on Graduate Architectural Education

For helpful information on the modes of architectural education, graduate programs in North America, and architectural careers, see the Information for Students page at www.acsa-arch.org

ADMISSIONS

Requirements

The School bases admissions decisions on a balanced, comparative consideration of the following indicators of excellence:

A baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university.

Completion of an online application at <http://www.grad.uc.edu>.

Official transcripts from previous college coursework. Successful candidates have earned, on average, a GPA of 3.20 (based on a 4.00 scale).

A one- or two-page statement of the candidate's intentions for graduate study. This should be a concise presentation of (1) academic and career goals and (2) specific interests in architectural topics for graduate research, and the candidate's prior intellectual and professional engagement with these topics.

A portfolio and samples of writing (and, where appropriate, other creative work). Since the program emphasizes written discourse, the writing samples and statement of program intent are of special importance.

The Graduate Record Exam (GRE). Successful candidates have earned the following average scores: verbal 500; quantitative 630; analytic 4.5.

Applicants whose native language is not English should achieve a score of at least 550 and preferably 600 on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL).

Application

Apply online at www.grad.uc.edu.

International students should see the International Student Services Office web site at www.issso.uc.edu for University admissions information and requirements.

We encourage candidates to apply by February 1. The latest date we can consider applications is June 1, but if you are interested in financial aid, you should apply as soon as possible. New students are admitted in the Autumn Quarter. We will notify successful candidates by March 1 or one month following application. An offer of admission may be withdrawn if a candidate does not accept within six weeks of our offer.

In general we do not offer admission deferrals. Exceptions might be made in special circumstances.

Mail your portfolio, recommendation letters, statement of interest, transcripts, GRE and TOEFL scores to

Susan Baehr, Administrative Secretary
School of Architecture and Interior Design
University of Cincinnati
Cincinnati OH 45221-0016

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Over a period of two academic years, students take a series of required seminars in theory and research, along with electives and independent studies in their own area of investigation. A minimum of 72 graduate quarter credits is required for graduation. Students with prior master's degrees in architecture or a related field can generally finish in four quarters. The majority of effort in the second year is devoted to the preparation of a research thesis. We recommend that students take a four-course load in each term.

The curriculum is structured in four strands: theory, option, elective, and colloquium. Throughout the two years of the program, increasing amounts of time open up for the individual student to pursue elective course work, independent studies, and thesis research within one of the specialized research areas.

At the end of four quarters, students will demonstrate, in a written, take-home examination, that they are conversant with the main concepts and bibliography from all the shared required courses (theory, option, elective, and colloquium), in combination with their own specialized (thesis) bibliography. The question for each student will be written by a committee composed of the thesis advisors, the theory teachers, and the graduate director. Satisfactory completion of this exam will be a pre-requisite to continuing work on the thesis project during the final two quarters of the program.

Various faculty members serve as primary advisers to M.S. students, depending on the areas of research involved. The graduate director steers each student to the most appropriate adviser as early as possible. The students will consult with the primary adviser, sometimes along with the graduate director, on all subsequent decisions about electives, independent studies, research, and thesis work, as well as ultimate career and placement objectives.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND FINANCIAL AID

For general information go to www.financialaid.uc.edu.

The School of Architecture and Interior Design offers a small number of highly competitive graduate assistantships and full and partial tuition scholarships. Graduate Assistantships are awarded to full-time graduate students in exchange for teaching, research, and/or administrative duties. University Graduate Scholarships, which are University funded and cover all or a portion of tuition, are awarded to students with Graduate Assistantships and are available to a few other full-time students on the basis of academic merit.

A Wolfson Fellowship is awarded annually by the college to a graduate student whose undergraduate degree is from the College of DAAP. Other special assistantship awards are sometimes available in connection with individual faculty members' funded research projects.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Graduate Program Director and M.Arch. Program Coordinator

Patricia Kucker, DAAP 7210E
<mailto:patricia.kucker@uc.edu>

M.S. in Architecture Program Coordinator

David Saile, DAAP 7201
<mailto:david.saile@uc.edu>

Assistant Academic Director

Ellen Guerrettaz, DAAP 7210D
<mailto:ellen.guerrettaz@uc.edu>

Office Records Manager

Kim Lawson, DAAP 7210, 556-6426
<mailto:kim.lawson@uc.edu>

University Office of Advanced Studies

<http://www.grad.uc.edu>

International Student Services Office

<http://www.isso.uc.edu>

M. S. IN ARCHITECTURE CURRICULUM

1 AUTUMN	COURSES	CREDIT HOURS
	architectural theory (23ARCH705)	3
	colloquium: <i>methods of inquiry</i> (23ARCH891)	3
	electives	6
	TOTAL HOURS	12
<hr/>		
1 WINTER		
	architectural theory (23ARCH706)	3
	colloquium: <i>student research</i> (23ARCH892)	3
	research methods (23ARCH703)	3
	electives	3
	TOTAL HOURS	12
<hr/>		
1 SPRING		
	architectural theory (23ARCH707)	3
	pre-thesis research (23ARCH717)	3
	colloquium: <i>special topics</i> (23ARCH893)	3
	elective	3
	TOTAL HOURS	12
<hr/>		
2 AUTUMN		
	architectural theory (23ARCH805)	3
	thesis (23ARCH888)	3
	colloquium (23ARCH894)	3
	elective	3
	TOTAL HOURS	12
<hr/>		
2 WINTER		
	thesis (23ARCH888)	6
	colloquium (23ARCH895)	3
	elective	3
	TOTAL HOURS	12
<hr/>		
2 SPRING		
	thesis (23ARCH889)	9
	colloquium (23ARCH896)	3
	TOTAL HOURS	12
<hr/>		
	THEORY COURSES	12
	OPTION/THESIS COURSES	24
	COLLOQUIUM COURSES	18
	ELECTIVES	18
	TOTAL HOURS	72