

USC School of Architecture
ARCH 505a
Graduate Architecture Design I
Fall 2017
6 units

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RUDIMENTS

+3 PROGRAM / CORE STUDIO 1

INTRODUCTION / SEMESTER OVERVIEW

The first semester studio at USC is designed to lay critical foundations for your path through your graduate education in architecture. These foundations take form in several related areas:

- understanding and utilizing fundamental design principles
- developing your critical faculties
- mastering skills for representation and communication
- becoming proficient in using – and breaking – architectural conventions

Making architecture is a complex undertaking with several important outcomes: aesthetic, social, economic, philosophical, political, historical. To be good at it – and thus to be able to do the most good – requires the ability to best understand the tools and techniques of the discipline, and the ways in which they can be effectively wielded. This will remain a consistent thread throughout the semester.

SEMESTER STRUCTURE

Several somewhat independent themes will be developed through multiple projects over the course of the first two-thirds of the semester. Touching on fundamental architectural design principles, they will provide opportunity for exploration, consideration and mastery of both the “content” of design decisions and the “form” by which those decisions are rendered. Excurses, side projects and alternative connections will expand the central themes.

A longer project will promote the integration of concepts and skills acquired in the previous weeks, as you learn that one of the hallmarks of architectural thinking is the ability to synthesize various, often competing goals.

project 1:	translations from building to drawing	2 weeks
project 2:	1D → 3D operations	2.5 weeks
project 3:	scale, occupancy, movement	3 weeks
project 4:	complexity + multivalence in architecture	2.5 weeks
project 5:	integrate / evaluate / decide	4 weeks

The studio sections will break and re-mix at points during the semester to encourage cross-studio discussions and learning. These will take the form of all-studio charrette projects at two separate occasions, where teams will compete to design and present a superior proposal.

CALENDAR

WEEK	DATE	ACTIVITY	PROJECT
1	M 08/21	studio introduced	project 1
	W 08/23		
	F 08/25		
2	M 08/28	my faves 1	
	W 08/30		
	F 09/01	review project 1	project 2
3	M 09/04	holiday Labor Day	
	W 09/06		
	F 09/08	<i>last day to drop without W</i>	
4	M 09/11	my faves 2	
	W 09/13		
	F 09/15		field trip weekend, 9/15-17
5	M 09/18	my faves 3	
	W 09/20	review project 2	
	F 09/22		interstudio charrette 1
6	M 09/25	jury charrette 1	project 3
	W 09/27		
	F 09/29		
7	M 10/02	my faves 4	
	W 10/04		
	F 10/06		
8	M 10/9	my faves 5	
	W 10/11		
	F 10/13	midterm reviews project 3	
9	M 10/16		project 4
	W 10/18		
	F 10/20		
10	M 10/23		
	W 10/25		
	F 10/27		
11	M 10/30	review project 4	
	W 11/01		interstudio charrette 2
	F 11/03	jury charrette 2	
12	M 11/06		project 5
	W 11/08		
	F 11/10	<i>last day to drop with W</i>	
13	M 11/13		
	W 11/15		
	F 11/17		
14	M 11/20		
	W 11/22	holiday Thanksgiving	
	F 11/24	holiday Thanksgiving	
15	M 11/27		
	W 11/29		
	F 12/01	last day of classes	
16	M 12/04		
	W 12/06	exam week begins	
	F 12/08	final reviews project 5	
17	M 12/11		
	W 12/13	portfolio due 12:00pm; studio cleanout 12:00-1:00pm	

calendar subject to change

GENERAL INFORMATION

ORGANIZATION AND PARTICIPATION

Studio meeting hours are Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 2:00PM to 5:50PM. Be on time. Anticipate needing to stay late, and avoid planning other activities following studio.

All-studio lectures will occur most Mondays during studio hours. You are strongly encouraged to attend the School of Architecture lectures on Wednesday evenings, as well as interesting lectures at other nearby institutions.

Studio participation is critical to both individual and collective success. When not actively engaged with your instructor, be working in studio and available for spontaneous discussions and feedback.

Documentation is critical as a record of your process and a demonstration of your graphic and written communication skills. You will produce a portfolio that documents the work of this studio, to be submitted following final presentations for evaluation by the studio faculty.

You are required to submit a digital portfolio archive at both midterm and the end of the semester. Review with your instructor a selection of the best images / drawings / photos, and carefully follow all naming and formatting protocols. This is the official USC School of Architecture archive of your work, which also offers the opportunity to have your work considered for future school publications.

Keep your digital collections organized so references such as Blackboard downloads and research materials are easy to find. Keep your hard-copy materials organized too, preferably in a binder.

BACK UP YOUR DIGITAL FILES REGULARLY. Protect against corruption and loss, as missing digital production is not grounds for submitting late work.

CLASS ATTENDANCE

Attendance at all studio sessions, including lectures, reviews, and field trips, is required. Not being in class within the first 10 minutes is considered tardy, three of which constitute an absence. Failure to be present for the entire class session, unless approved by your instructor, may count as an absence.

A personal illness, family emergency, pre-approved academic reason, or religious observance may be excusable; notify your instructor of such situations as soon as possible and before the affected class session.

Unexcused absences from more than three classes will result in the lowering of your final grade one full letter grade for each additional absence. False representation of your attendance is a violation of the University's ethics policy.

Acceptance of late work may only be considered for excused absences, at the discretion of your instructor.

STUDIO PROTOCOL

You are strongly encouraged to make the studio your primary workspace in order to benefit from the interactive studio environment, informal discussions and the exchange of ideas with your classmates.

You are expected to work a minimum of two hours outside of class for each hour of scheduled studio time; this is a minimum of 24 hours a week in addition to the 12 hours of studio.

Project requirements will be distributed in writing. Daily or weekly assignments may be given verbally or in writing and may differ somewhat from section to section. Timely completion of all assignments is crucial to your success.

Reviews are among the most important elements of your architectural education, so be present, attentive, engaged and participating at each review.

Maintain a healthy, safe, collective working environment in studio. Respect your peers, so at a minimum:

- If you want to listen to music, use headphones - at all hours.

- Keep mobile phones turned off during studio and especially during reviews.

- Respect others' equipment, work products and workspace.

- Studio hours are not mealtimes and the studio is not a lunchroom; please eat elsewhere.

Internet use during studio is for direct studio purposes only.
Don't cut on vulnerable surfaces such as floors, desks and drawing boards. Use a cutting mat.
Don't use spray paint, spray adhesive, or other noxious products in the studio. Use such materials only in authorized areas.
Watch for unusual activities and unfamiliar faces and be mindful of your surrounding as a general precaution.
Do not prop studio doors open. If you observe any suspicious activities and/or need security personnel, contact the University's Department of Public Safety (DPS) at (213) 740-4321.

READINGS

Readings have been prepared for this course and are required reading. Materials may be distributed or posted on Blackboard throughout the semester. You are responsible for completing all readings and discussing them in class. Theoretical, historical and referential contexts are critical factors in the production of intelligent architecture.

EVALUATION AND GRADING

Each phase of the semester's production will be evaluated and graded based on the following distribution:

class participation & preparation	10%
project 1: translations from building to drawing	15%
project 2: 1D → 3D operations	15%
project 3: scale, occupancy, movement	15%
project 4: complexity + multivalence in architecture	15%
project 5: integrate / evaluate / decide	25%
portfolio	05%

All work must be submitted on time to receive full graded credit. Work not submitted on time will be graded down one full letter grade each day it is late.

As part of your process this semester, you will demonstrate your ability to integrate the following NAAB Student Performance Criteria. To pass the course, your design work must demonstrate at least a minimum level of competence in each of these areas.

You can read more about each criterion at http://www.naab.org/accreditation/2009_conditions.aspx.

A.1 Communication Skills
A.2 Design Thinking Skills
A.3 Visual Communication Skills
A.5 Investigative Skills
A.6 Fundamental Design Skills
A.7 Use of Precedents
A.8 Ordering Systems Skills
C.1 Collaboration

Unsatisfactory performance warnings will be issued when work does not meet minimum requirements. University guidelines relative to plagiarism pertain to original design work; you are expected to do all your own design and presentation work. Receiving substantial assistance, or appropriating another's design work, will be treated as plagiarism.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

USC seeks to maintain an optimal learning environment. General principles of academic honesty include the concept of respect for the intellectual property of others, the expectation that individual work will be submitted unless otherwise allowed by an instructor, and the obligations both to protect one's own academic work from misuse by others as well as to avoid using another's work as one's own. All students are expected to understand and abide by these principles. SCampus, the Student Guidebook, contains the Student Conduct Code in Section 11, while the recommended sanctions are located in Appendix A: <https://policy.usc.edu/scampus-part-b/>. Students will be referred to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs and Community Standards for further review, should there be any suspicion of academic dishonesty. The review process can be found at: <https://sjacs.usc.edu/>.

RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCES

The University recognizes the diversity of our community and the potential for conflicts involving academic activities and personal religious observation. The University provides a guide to such observances for reference and suggests that any concerns about lack of attendance or inability to participate fully in the course activity be fully aired at the start of the term. As a general principle students should be excused from class for these events if properly documented and if provisions can be made to accommodate the absence and make up the lost work. Constraints on participation that conflict with adequate participation in the course and cannot be resolved to the satisfaction of the faculty and the student need to be identified prior to the drop/add date for registration. After the drop/add date the University and the School of Architecture shall be the sole arbiter of what constitutes appropriate attendance and participation in a given course. Any student concerned about missing class for a recognized religious holiday should bring this matter up with your instructor in the first week of classes. A list of recognized religious holy days may be found at: <http://orl.usc.edu/life/calendar/>.

DISABILITY ACCOMMODATIONS

The University of Southern California is committed to full compliance with the Rehabilitation Act (Section 504) and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). As part of the implementation of this law, the University will continue to provide reasonable accommodation of academically qualified students with disabilities so those students can participate fully in the University's educational programs and activities. Although USC is not required by law to change the "fundamental nature of essential curricular components of its programs in order to accommodate the needs of disabled students," the University will provide reasonable academic accommodations. The specific responsibility of the University administration and all faculty serving in a teaching capacity is to ensure the University's compliance with this policy.

The general definition of a student with a disability is any person who has "a physical or mental impairment which substantially limits one or more of such person's major life activities," and any person who has "a history of, or is regarded as having, such an impairment." Reasonable academic and physical accommodations include but are not limited to: extended time on examinations; substitution of similar or related work for a non-fundamental program requirement; time extensions on papers and projects; special testing procedures; advance notice regarding book lists for visually impaired and some learning disabled students; use of academic aides in the classroom such as note takers and sign language interpreters; early advisement and assistance with registration; accessibility for students who use wheelchairs and those with mobility impairments; and need for special classroom furniture or special equipment in the classroom.

Obtaining Accommodations:

General: Any student requesting academic accommodations based on a disability is required to register with Disability Services and Programs (DSP) each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from DSP. Please be sure the letter is delivered to your studio instructor as early in the semester as possible. DSP is located in STU 301 and is open 8:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. The phone number for DSP is (213) 740-0776.

Physical Accommodations: DSP will work with classroom scheduling, the course instructors and their departments, and the students to arrange for reasonable accommodations.

Academic Accommodations: Students seeking academic accommodations due to a physical or learning disability should make the request to the course instructor prior to or during the first week of class attendance, as well as registering with DSP as early in the semester as possible. Course instructors will require that a student present verification of documentation when academic accommodations are being requested.

WRITING CENTER

For assistance with academic writing, students may wish to take advantage of the Writing Center maintained by USC. Evaluation of paper clarity, organization, syntax and grammar is available by appointment, free of charge. If you'd like to improve your writing and your ability to communicate your ideas, consider using this valuable resource. See their website at <http://dornsife.usc.edu/writingcenter/> for more information.

SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVE

The School of Architecture has adopted the 2010 Initiative for Sustainability, which includes the following language:

“The design should engage the environment in a way that dramatically reduces or eliminates the need for fossil fuel.”

This intention impacts our design process in a number of ways, including:

- orientation of buildings and site development to minimize negative environmental force impacts and take advantage of positive ones
- building modestly: providing the minimum space necessary to handle required programmatic needs
- maximum practical use of daylighting; careful use of orientation and provision of control/shading mechanisms to handle associated heat loads
- maximum practical use of passive solar techniques for heating and cooling
- maximum practical use of natural ventilation techniques; selection of hybrid systems for ventilation, heating and cooling which permit this

No school can lay a claim to Sustainability sensitivity that does not institute and vigorously pursue a recycling program. This recycling program is in force at all times. We pledge to provide adequate, well-marked recycling containers for each section and to provide a posted, printed recycling protocol so you know what goes where.

ACCREDITATION STATEMENT

The USC School of Architecture's five-year Bachelor of Architecture program and the two-year Master of Architecture program are accredited professional architectural degree programs. All students can access and review the NAAB Conditions of Accreditation (including the Student Performance Criteria) on the NAAB Website, http://www.naab.org/accreditation/2009_conditions.aspx.