

ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN 8 COURSE SYLLABUS

Course Information

Course Number: ARC 4323
Course Title: Architectural Design 8
Term: Fall 2024
Section Number: Varies by Section
Credits 6
Meeting times: Monday / Wednesday / Friday 1:55 PM to 4:55 PM
Professors: Varies by Section
Faculty Office: Varies by Section

Course Description and Role within the Sequence

Design 8 is the second of two options studios following the required studio sequence of Design 1-6. Along with Design 7 the studio expands on the fundamentals of Design 1-6 to develop work based on highly diverse subjects that vary by section. This variety allows students to employ and build upon the skills developed in the previous 7 studios of the curriculum to explore contemporary issues in architecture, and . As with Design 7, Design 8 may be thought of as a research studio in which students, individually and collectively investigate topics with the guidance of their faculty with an aim to advance the field of architecture. The scope of advanced research may be understood as a precursor and window into work conducted in advanced master's programs and the professional field more generally.

Sources and Influences

The materials brought to this course by both the faculty and the students can have a significant impact on the direction the course will take. In addition to the references faculty introduce to the class, students will be expected to proactively research and analyze texts, projects, and other cultural and technical material in order to advance their work.

Sequence and Schedule

Varies by Section

Program Goals and Objectives:

1. To develop the skills and knowledge of an architectural research agenda.
2. To address contemporary issues in architecture and the built environment with vision and innovation.
3. To produce architectural documents that communicate with clarity the ideas that the student brings to the work.

The Studio System

The structure of studio courses is substantially different from a lecture format, more closely approximating a lab class or workshop. The basic assumption is that the student learns as much from fellow students as from professors. Exercises and discussions will involve your active participation both in and outside of the structured class time. The process is a communal one, involving redundant sequences of doing, looking, articulating, clarifying, and doing again. You must learn to trust one another, and value each other's input in the development of your work. Research, both individual and in groups will be fundamental to success in the class.

Critiques

From time to time at the end of a project, or at a critical moment of the work Reviews and/or Critiques are scheduled. These are public presentations of the work and provide a forum for its discussion. Usually an external critic --- or several --- are brought in to provide a fresh viewpoint and to stimulate discussion. These sessions are usually more formal than other studio sessions and should be taken quite seriously. Critics come in on their own time and expend a serious level of energy in trying to understand your endeavors and give you good feedback. You should think of your presentation not as a moment of judgment, but as an opportunity to get input on implications and possible directions for development. The critiques of your fellow students will also be essential to your education as a designer.

Room Use

Since many students are working in the same room it is essential that you work quietly and unobtrusively, that you respect your fellow student's work, and that you clean up after you are finished.

Safety

Please use every precaution in the studio to ensure your own safety and the safety of others who are using the space. Please note that power tools are prohibited in the studio.

Policy on Retaining Work

Please note that the University of Florida College of Design, Construction and Planning policies state that students' work may be retained indefinitely for academic purposes. You should be prepared for the instructor to ask that it be exhibited and/or photographed during or after the term. Having your work retained for photography and/or exhibition is evidence of its quality and value to the school. You will always be able to either retrieve your original work or retrieve it temporarily to make copies/photograph it for your own personal purposes.

Attendance

Attendance and participation at all studio sessions and reviews is mandatory. There is no possibility to make up a missed studio session. Notes will be useless, and although a long conversation with a fellow student will help you begin to figure out what to do to prepare for the next session, it can never make up the learning. A session with your professor may or may not be possible and cannot duplicate the collective conversation. As a result our policy on attendance is extremely strict:

ANY absence must be explained, either by 1) contacting your faculty by email, or 2) calling the office (or faculty member's VIA mobile number). THREE ABSENCES CAN CONSTITUTE AN AUTOMATIC DROP FROM THE COURSE OR A FAILING GRADE. Chronic absences and/or tardiness will have a negative impact on your grade. If you must miss class, it is up to you to get the assignments and notes from your classmates. In the event of serious illness, injury, family emergency, or personal crisis, arrangements can be made for attendance, missed exams or work. On this point, it is important for you to contact your instructor regarding your particular circumstances as soon as possible.

It is never permissible to miss a Critique, nor is it permissible to be late or to leave early. It will be considered a direct insult to your fellow classmates and the invited critics.

Performance + Grading

There are no tests in Design. There are also no right or wrong answers per se. You will not be taking in information over the course of the term and regurgitating it in another form. You will begin as you will go on --- by making things over and over and over. Each time you will take on new questions or the same questions at another level of sophistication. Therefore, there is no single answer for which we are looking. We will give you feedback on the directions you have taken, suggestions for further work, and assess the architectural implications of your projects.

Our goals for you are:

- 1) To have at your fingertips a thousand fruitful ways to approach any problem.
- 2) To learn to critique yourselves effectively.

What we ask from you is a concerted effort, an innovative take on the problem, constructions that raise architectural issues, and, most importantly, for you to challenge yourself and be constantly willing to continue to develop a scheme. Grades will be assigned as much on dedication and improvement as on talent --- if you enter the course gifted and sit on your skill all term, you will not get an A.

Grades will be assigned as much on dedication and improvement as on talent. We evaluate your performance in terms of the following: Quality, Completeness, Clarity, Rigor, and Contribution to the Discourse.

“Quality” should be more or less self--explanatory, as is “Completeness.” “Clarity” refers to the precision of the marks you make, the words you use, and the proximities and/or variances between the constructions and words. “Rigor” refers to serious effort, and the willingness to work through an iterative process to reach solutions. Finally, “Contribution to the Discourse” refers to your participation in the discussions in class, and in a broader sense, to your meaningful contributions to the larger field of architecture.

Based on these five measures, grades will be assessed as follows:

- A = Outstanding work. Execution of work is thoroughly complete and demonstrates a superior level of achievement overall with a clear attention to detail in the production of the final work as well as, models and other forms of representation. The student is able to synthesize the course material with new concepts and ideas in a thoughtful manner, and is able to communicate and articulate those ideas in an exemplary fashion.
- B = High quality work. Student work demonstrates a high level of craft consistency and thoroughness throughout drawing and modeling work. The student demonstrates a level of thoughtfulness in addressing concepts and ideas, and participates in group discussions. Work may demonstrate excellence but less consistently than an A student.
- C = Satisfactory work. Student work addresses all of the project and assignment objectives with few minor or major problems. Graphics and models are complete and satisfactory exhibiting minor problems in craft and detail.
- D = Less than satisfactory work. Graphic and modeling work is substandard, incomplete in significant ways and lacks craft and attention to detail.
- E = Unsatisfactory work. Work exhibits several major and minor problems with basic conceptual premise lacking both intention and resolution. Physical representation in drawing and models is severely lacking and is weak in clarity, craft, and completeness.

Every effort will be made to provide timely and appropriate feedback for your performance. If you have questions about your grade, you may schedule a conference to review your scores, attendance, and performance. Final grades will reflect the University of Florida policies for assigning grade points, which can be found at <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>. An incomplete grade may be assigned at the discretion of the instructor as an interim grade only in cases of extreme

extenuating circumstances. Note that as this is a required course, you will not be allowed to graduate without completing the course with a passing grade.

Academic Honesty

The University of Florida maintains a student honor code regarding cheating and use of copyrighted materials produced by others. Specific policies can be found at: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/honorcode.php>. All students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic integrity. Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated. Any student who submits plagiarized work will receive a failing grade for the course and be subjected to further disciplinary action as outlined in the student honor code.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation. Students must contact the professor within the first 2 weeks of the semester to discuss needed accommodations.

Counseling

Although you will be studying in Vicenza this semester, you remain a student of the University of Florida and continue to have access to all university counseling resources. For the University Counseling Center, call 352--392---1575 or go to <http://www.counsel.ufl.edu/> . For the Career Resource Center, call 352---392--1601 or go to <http://www.crc.ufl.edu/>.

Required and Recommended Textbooks

Required and recommended readings will be provided throughout the semester.