

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Accreditation Manager

FROM: Architecture Department  
College of Environmental Design  
University of California Berkeley  
Tom J. Buresh  
Professor and Chair of Architecture

DATE: November 30, 2012

RE: University of California Berkeley Architecture Department 2012 Annual Report

The architecture department was visited and reviewed by NAAB in Spring 2010. We have addressed the deficiencies and causes for concern to date. The following is our response to the NAAB response to our Nov. 30, 2011 Annual Report.

**13.16 Program Preparation**

*Ability to prepare a comprehensive program for an architectural project, including assessment of client and user needs, a critical review of appropriate precedents, an inventory of space and equipment requirements, an analysis of site conditions, a review of the relevant laws and standards and assessment of their implication for the project, and a definition of site selection and design assessment criteria.*

“The program is clearly working to address this deficiency as demonstrated by substantial revisions to the Comprehensive Studios and the Thesis Seminar. The program is advised to report on its assessment of the results.”

In A201 Comprehensive Studio students receive a basic program from which to begin. This year the program choices were a cultural center, a community center or winery located in an urban context. Over the course of the semester students are required to develop a more robust program that situates the project in its site as well as culturally and experientially. Faculty members feel these results have been improving incrementally each year.

In A203 Thesis Seminar students develop individual programs that include specific activities, size and proximity as well as contextual, cultural, disciplinary and theoretical dimensions. The semester concludes with a pamphlet that guides the work of the subsequent thesis studio. Faculty members have stated that the work in this area has greatly improved over previous semesters and feel that the thesis year is headed in a positive direction.

**13.22 Building Service Systems**

*Understanding of the basic principles and appropriate application and performance of plumbing, electrical, vertical transportation, communication, security, and fire protection systems*

“The program is clearly working to address this deficiency as demonstrated by revisions to A201 and A260. The program will evaluate the results and report on its assessment in the 2012 annual report.”

Responding to this SPC remains a challenge. A260 Construction specifically addresses building service systems although the course tends to foreground more basic construction systems, building materials and envelope design. As a result A201 Comprehensive Studio projects have yet to illustrate these systems. Further work is needed in this area.

### **13.23 Building Systems Integration**

*Ability to assess, select, and conceptually integrate structural systems, building envelope systems, environmental systems, life-safety systems, and building service systems into building design*

" A201 and A260 have been revised to specifically address this SPC. The program will evaluate the results and report on its assessment in the 2012 annual report.

Faculty members feel that A201 Comprehensive Studio and A260 adequately address structure and envelope systems. A140, the required Building Science course introduces students to environmental systems. Faculty discussions regarding the integration of building systems into building design will require further development of A201.

### **13.25 Construction Cost Control**

*Understanding of the fundamentals of building cost, life-cycle cost, and construction estimating.*

“A207d has been added as a required class to address this SPC. Please provide an assessment of learning outcomes in the 2012 annual report.”

A207d Culture of Practice devotes class-time and an assignment to construction cost, estimating and control. Faculty members report that students exhibited knowledge of the importance construction costs and the role they play in the design, bidding and construction process.

### **13.28 Comprehensive Design**

*Ability to produce a comprehensive architectural project based on a building program and site that includes development of programmed spaces demonstrating an understanding of structural and environmental systems, building envelope systems, life-safety provisions, wall sections and building assemblies, and the principles of sustainability*

“Revisions to the comprehensive studio are ongoing in an effort to fine-tune the course to address this SPC. Please provide an assessment of the outcomes in the 2012 annual report.’

A201 Comprehensive Studio is just now in its second revised offering. To date, issues of program, site, structure, envelope systems, emergency exiting and building assembly appear to be well developed in student work. The integration of environmental systems, with the exception natural ventilation, requires additional attention. Principles of sustainability while evident in some projects will also require additional focus.

## **Causes of Concern:**

### **Practice-related criteria**

“The program included the syllabus for A207d Cultures of Practice in the annual report. The course is now a required course.”

### **Life safety**

“Please provide an assessment of whether life-safety concerns are consistently demonstrated in student work.”

Life Safety concerns specifically as they relate to exiting in emergency situations is consistently demonstrated in student work at the A200B and A201 (2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> studios in the sequence). When the subject of later studios, including thesis, result in building proposals they likewise attend to and satisfy life safety concerns.

### **Studio Culture**

“The program notes that “it will continue to explore ways to address this issue in a more formal way.” Please continue to report on these efforts.”

The department chair continues to regularly meet with students in informal ways. This has led to a much stronger relationship between students faculty and the administration. Additionally, we have instituted two new 1-credit seminars for students in the first year of the 3 year M.Arch program to attend public lectures and discuss the ideas presented by the speaker. As a result a more robust and engaged student voice is emerging. Attempts to create a formal set of meetings with students have yet to be successful.

### **Freehand Drawing**

“Please report on the assessment of the results of A200c.”

A200c made vast improvements in students’ ability to visualize their ideas and develop their design projects. Attention to the skills and advantages of drawing with a free hand continues to lag drawing with instruments or with a computer. Discussions continue on how best to deliver on the promise and necessity of free hand drawing in A200c.

There are no changes to the M.Arch Program.