MASTER OF ARCHITECTURE
PROGRAM HANDBOOK

Department of Architecture
College of Environmental Design
University of California Berkeley

2021-2022
For students enrolling to University of California Berkeley Fall 2021 or later
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Revised 6.26.21
PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Description

The mission of the Department of Architecture is to use the intellectual creativity of building and design to transform environments for social benefits. Our purpose in teaching and research is to critically explore the formation of environments as situated in a continuum of histories, societies, economies, materials, systems and scales. Our objective is to instruct a generation of leaders that will shape better environmental futures. We prepare our students with analytic, technical and generative skills, and we embed them in the breadth and depth of history and critical theories. In this way, they learn to discern significance and how to act upon it. We offer multiple intellectual foci, encouraging exploration and action in disciplinary, multi-disciplinary, and professional modes. Our department transforms the discipline by insisting on knowing international, cultural and cross-cultural canons and innovates based on the differences between places. The department encourages thinking with architecture as a mode of activism which focuses on improving the quality of peoples’ everyday lives, recognizing the diversity of voices, and providing for accessibility.

The Master of Architecture curriculum is developed to prepare our graduates to become leaders in the design and transformation of the environment. We want them to be critical practitioners, grounded in a breadth of historical, social and cultural understanding of people in places, empowered with technical knowledge, and synthetic abilities to address a multitude of complex questions and demands that sit at the intersection of ecology, politics, economy and aesthetics. Some key strengths of the M.Arch program include conceptual and analytic thinking, digital and non-digital representation and modeling, innovative building systems, and sustainable city building.

The M.Arch program consists of three years of study for students with degrees in fields other than architecture or limited architectural education (Option Three) with the possibility of one year of advanced standing for select students with an undergraduate degree in architecture (Option Two). This follows what is referred to as the “4+2” model adopted by the National Architectural Accreditation Board (NAAB) with a four-year undergraduate degree in architecture (B.S or B.A) and an additional two years of graduate study for an accredited degree.
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Commitment to equity, inclusion, and diversity is a key part of the department’s mission. If we are to maintain our global leadership in architecture, it is critical that we welcome and retain the best students, faculty, and staff. Doing so requires that we create a culture that benefits all those associated with the department by making central a uniform expectation of adherence to the values of excellence, equity, inclusion, and diversity. No student, faculty member, or staff member should be held in less esteem, be less influential, or be less able to pursue his or her goals due to characteristics such as his or her race, gender, sexual orientation, religion, and more.

Department of Architecture Equity Initiatives

- Increase representation of minoritized identities at all scales- Advance diversity among community members, including students, faculty, staff, visiting lecturers, visiting critics, and colloquium speakers by re-imagining and investing in diversity efforts in outreach, admissions, and recruiting.

- Provide sustained and targeted support for all students- Develop an infrastructure of wellness, health and equity that supports BIPOC students from the time they consider college until long after they graduate.

- Facilitate authentic engagement with social justice movements across scales- Develop the habit of looking for opportunities within the Department, College, and University, in our neighborhoods, and in our broader communities that contribute our skills and energy to projects that further the pursuits of diversity, equity, and justice. It is the goal of the architecture department to allow students to engage with these issues and enter the profession as sensitive and considerate practitioners and community members.

- Improve the ways we teach- Expand literacy in spatial equity and justice in architectural design, architectural humanities and architectural sciences.
Accreditation and Licensing

In the United States, most state registration boards require a degree from an accredited professional degree program as a prerequisite for licensure. The National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB), which is the sole agency authorized to accredit U.S. professional degree programs in architecture, recognizes three types of degrees: the Bachelor of Architecture, the Master of Architecture, and the Doctor of Architecture. A program may be granted a 8-year, 3-year, or 2-year term of accreditation, depending on the extent of its conformance with established educational standards. Doctor of Architecture and Master of Architecture degree programs may require a pre-professional undergraduate degree in architecture for admission. However, the pre-professional degree is not, by itself, recognized as an accredited degree.

The University of California Berkeley, College of Environmental Design, Department of Architecture, offers the following NAAB-accredited degree programs:

- M.Arch Option 3 (72 graduate credits)
- M.Arch Option 2 (120 credits + 48 graduate credits)

Please click here for the 2020 NAAB Conditions for Accreditation
Please click here for the 2015 NAAB Procedures for Accreditation
Please click here for the most recent Architectural Registration Examination Pass Rates

The most recent NAAB accreditation visit for both programs was 2016. Next visit will be in 2024. Please see the California Architects Board website for more information about experience equivalents as well as NCARB for National Registration.
PROGRAM OPTIONS - Available program options are as follows:

Master of Architecture (M.Arch) (Option 3)
Master of Architecture (M.Arch) with Advanced Standing (Option 2)

Concurrent Programs
○ Master of Architecture and Master of Landscape Architecture (M.Arch/MLA)
○ Master of Architecture and Master of City and Regional Planning (M.Arch/MCP)
○ Master of Architecture and Master of Science in Engineering (M.Arch/MS)

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Master of Architecture (M.Arch) Three-Year Professional Program

Year One Fall
ARCH 200A: Introduction to Architecture Studio (5)
ARCH 200C: Representational Practices in Architectural Design (3)
ARCH 270: History of Modern Architecture (3)
ARCH 207A: CED Lectures Colloquium (1)

Year Two Fall
ARCH 201: Architecture & Urbanism Studio (5)
ARCH 207B: Architecture + Urbanism Colloquium (1)
ARCH 260: Introduction to Construction - Graduate Level (3)*
ELECTIVES

Year Three Fall
ARCH 203: Integrated Design Studio (5)
ARCH 207C: Professional Practice Colloquium (1)
ARCH 204A: Final Thesis Seminar (3)
ELECTIVES

Year One Spring
ARCH 200B: Introduction to Architecture Studio II (5)
ARCH 200D (209 in S21): Representational Practices in Architectural Design (2)
ARCH 230: Advd Architectural Design Theory & Criticism (3)*
ARCH 250: Introduction to Structures (3)*

Year Two Spring
ARCH 202: Graduate Option Studio (5)
ARCH 207D: The Cultures of Practice (3)*
ARCH 240: Advanced Study of Energy & Environment (3)*
ELECTIVES

Year Three Spring
ARCH 204B: Final Thesis Studio (5)
ELECTIVES

Total Units: 72
Min Elective Units: 12

NOTE: Minimum units each semester is 12. Only course numbers in 100s and 200s count toward the degree.

* WAIVERS for this requirement must be submitted at the beginning of the Fall semester of your first year of enrollment. If a required course is waived, you must still take an advanced course in the same area (with the exception of ARCH 207D) ADVANCED COURSE OPTIONS (OPTION)
Master of Architecture (M.Arch) Two-Year Professional Program

Year One Fall
ARCH 201: Architecture & Urbanism Studio (5)
ARCH 207B: Architecture + Urbanism Colloquium (1)
ARCH 260: Intro to Construction - Graduate Level (3)*
ARCH 270: History of Modern Architecture (3)*
ELECTIVES

Year Two Fall
ARCH 203: Integrated Design Studio (5)
ARCH 207C: Professional Practice Colloquium (1)
ARCH 204A: Final Thesis Seminar (3)
ELECTIVES

Year One Spring
ARCH 202: Graduate Option Studio (5)
ARCH 230: Advd Arcl Design Theory & Criticism (3)*
ARCH 240: Advanced Study of Energy & Environment (3)*
ARCH 250: Introduction to Structures (3)*
ARCH 207D: The Cultures of Practice (3)*
ELECTIVES

Year Two Spring
ARCH 204B: Final Thesis Studio (5)
ELECTIVES

Total Units: 48
Min Elective Units: 5

NOTE: Minimum units each semester is 12. Only course numbers in 100s and 200s count toward the degree.

* WAIVERs for this requirement must be submitted at the beginning of the Fall semester of your first year of enrollment. If a required course is waived, you must still take an advanced course in the same area (with the exception of ARCH 207D) ADVANCED
COURSE OPTIONS (OPTION 2)
Concurrent Program:
Master of Architecture and Master of City and Regional Planning (M.Arch/MCP) 4 Year Program

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year One Fall</th>
<th>Year Two Fall</th>
<th>Year One Spring</th>
<th>Year Two Spring</th>
<th>Year Three Fall</th>
<th>Year Three Spring</th>
<th>Year Four Fall</th>
<th>Year Four Spring</th>
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ARCH Units - 59  
DCRP Units - 36 (Min)  
Total Units - 95  

**If students are taking ARCH 204A, the student can request a waiver of this requirement from M.C.P Committee, with the approval of their PR/CR/Thesis DCRP chair and the MCP Program Chair.  

***MCP students are allowed to have a MAXIMUM of 6 units of 299 and 3 units of 295/297 independent study applied towards their MCP degree.
Concurrent Program:
Master of Architecture and Master of City and Regional Planning (M.Arch/MCP) 3 Year Program

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year One Fall</th>
<th>Year One Spring</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ARCH 201: Architecture &amp; Urbanism Studio (5)</td>
<td>ARCH 202: Graduate Option Studio (5)</td>
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<tr>
<td>ARCH 207B: Architecture + Urbanism Colloquium (1)</td>
<td>ARCH 207D: The Cultures of Practice (3)*</td>
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<tr>
<td>ARCH 260: Introduction to Construction - Graduate Level (3)*</td>
<td>ARCH 240: Advanced Study of Energy &amp; Environment (3)*</td>
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<tr>
<td>ARCH 270: History of Modern Architecture (3)*</td>
<td>ARCH 230: Advanced Architectural Design Theory &amp; Criticism (3)*</td>
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<td>Year Two Fall</td>
<td>Year Two Spring</td>
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<tr>
<td>CYPLAN 200: History of City Planning (4)</td>
<td>CYPLAN: Planning Methods Gateway Part II (4)</td>
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<tr>
<td>CYPLAN 201A: Planning Methods Gateway - Part I (4)</td>
<td>CYPLAN: Planning Studio (4-5)</td>
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<tr>
<td>CYPLAN: Urban Economics Requirement (3) or CYPLAN: Planning Law Requirement (3)</td>
<td>CYPLAN: Urban Economics Requirement (3) or CYPLAN: Planning Law Requirement (3)</td>
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<tr>
<td>CYPLAN: Concentration Requirement I</td>
<td>CYPLAN: Concentration Requirement II</td>
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<tr>
<th>Year Three Fall</th>
<th>Year Three Spring</th>
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<tr>
<td>ARCH 203: Integrated Design Studio (5)</td>
<td>ARCH 204B: Thesis Studio (5)</td>
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<tr>
<td>ARCH 204A: Final Thesis Seminar (3)</td>
<td>ARCH 207C: Prof. Practice Colloquium (1)*</td>
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<td>CYPLAN 290A: PR/CR/Thesis Workshop (1)**</td>
<td>CYPLAN: Independent Study (1-9)***</td>
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<td>CYPLAN: Independent Study (1-9)***</td>
<td>Elective</td>
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ARCH Units - 43
DCRP Units - 36 (Min)
Total Units - 79

***MCP students are allowed to have a MAXIMUM of 6 units of 299 and 3 units of 295/297 independent study applied towards their degree.
PROGRAM POLICIES

Waiver and Substitution Process

Waivers and substitutions for required courses are possible after consultation with the GSAO, Faculty Advisor and successful completion and submission of the Waive Substitution Petition Form. Please note that students will need to replace waived or substituted courses with an advanced level of the same course unless otherwise stated.

* Waivers for Arch 260 will need to be coordinated with the instructor of the course

Process

Step 1: Identify the course you would like to substitute.
Step 2: Fill out the waiver form PDF
Step 3: Upload all forms to Waiver Collection Google Form (As a single PDF, you will need to upload you waiver form PDF, course description, syllabi, and transcript from your previous course)

Thesis

M.Arch students are required to produce a Departmental Thesis to satisfy their final degree requirements. The thesis course work is completed over two semesters in your final year. In the fall semester, you will enroll in ARCH 204A: Final Thesis Seminar (3 units). And in the spring semester, you will enroll in ARCH 204B: Final Thesis Studio (5 units).

* While the department refers to a thesis, graduate division refers to this requirement as a capstone project or report (Plan II) as defined by the major as part of the degree goal.

Thesis Members include:

● ARCH Faculty #1: Instructor of 204A/B
● ARCH Faculty #2

The Following Items need to be completed by the time of Graduation:

● Presentation of Work at Thesis Review
● Complete Written Thesis
● Send Completed Thesis to Committee for Review and Signatures of Approval
● Submit Final Thesis (PDF format) and Signatures of Approval to the Graduate Student Affairs Officer (GSAO)
**Filing Fee**

The Filing Fee is a reduced fee, one-half of the Student Services Fee (formerly the University Registration fee), which is available to master’s students with no requirements remaining except for filing the thesis (Plan I or Plan II). Filing Fee is available for the fall and spring semesters only.

**REGISTRATION AND ENROLLMENT**

All Architecture graduate students are required to enroll in a minimum of 12 units each semester. Registering at Berkeley consists of two steps:

1. **Enrolling in classes.**
2. **Paying your bill.** (Note: You need to pay at least 20% of your bill by the Friday before the first week of class. For more information, read the Cancel for Non Payment Policy. You may view what tuition and fees you owe within the My Finances section of CalCentral.)

To be officially registered at UC Berkeley you must meet three criteria:

1. You must be enrolled in at least one class.
2. Your tuition and fees must be paid either in full or the first installment of the Fee Payment Plan.
3. You must not have holds against your registration.

Please note that you must be officially registered to access campus services such as library privileges, the Recreational Sports Facility, University Health Services, etc.

Use CalCentral to review your academic record and enroll in classes. Please see deadlines available in the Student Enrollment Calendar.

- For graduates, the limit for Phase 1 is 12 units, and for Phase 2 it is 20.5 units. This is a hard cap enforcement.
- Students have from the start of their appointment time until the end of the given phase to add, drop, or swap classes, change grading options, change discussion sections, and make variable unit updates.

**COURSE WORK AND GRADING**

**Grading**

ARCH 200A, ARCH 207A, ARCH 207B, ARCH 207C must be taken as satisfactory/unsatisfactory (S/U). All other required Core Courses in Degree requirements must be taken as a letter grade. Please note that no more than one-third of total units may be taken on a (S/U) basis.
Incompletes
Students should always consult their academic advisor when considering an Incomplete grade. GSAO’s are able to help students understand how incompletes may affect their future class schedules and progress towards graduation. Incomplete grades will only be assigned to a student by the instructor if a student's work in a course has been of passing quality to date and the class cannot be completed due to circumstances beyond the student’s control. Graduate students do not have a specified deadline for the replacement of an I grade. The method of replacement of the I grade by a final grade is determined by the Dean of the Graduate Division and the Graduate Council. Please note, for Design Studios, students must resolve the incomplete in order to advance to the next studio.

Studio Lottery Process
Each semester, incoming 2 year program students and students in the second and third year of the M.Arch program will be given the opportunity to select which studio they would like to participate in. Faculty will give presentations on their studio opportunities and students will be required to make their selections (via google form) at a given deadline. A committee will then sort through all student preferences and match students to studios based on availability and other factors. Students will then enroll into their individual studio sections.

Electives
To fulfill the elective requirements, students may take undergraduate upper division courses (100-199) or graduate level courses (200-299).

Threshold Review of ARCH 200B
Upon the completion of ARCH 200B, the M.Arch Committee will review student work. The committee may require a student to take a summer studio to prepare for success in future years of study. The goal is to develop additional design conception, design development and design representation skills.

ARCH 299: Individual Study and Research for Master's and Doctoral Students
Individual studies including reading and individual research under the supervision of a faculty adviser and designed to reinforce the student's background in areas related to the proposed degree. To enroll, please consult with your GSAO.

Curricular Practical Training (CPT)
Curricular Practical Training is a type of off-campus work permission for F-1 international students who are currently pursuing study programs in the United States and want to gain experience in their fields of study. CPT is not available after a student completes a degree program. Please refer to the CPT Application Process: Steps to Apply.

F-1 Optional Practical Training (OPT)
Optional Practical Training (OPT) is 12-month work authorization available to F-1 international students who have been full-time students for at least two consecutive semesters and plan to seek employment in the United States in their fields of study. Because the M.Arch is a STEM program, after the first year of OPT, a student may apply for an additional 2 years of work. Please refer to Applying for OPT.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Architecture Department Fellowships
Fellowships are awarded to incoming M.Arch students by The Department of Architecture based on merit, need, and/or diversity. Many students also successfully apply for external fellowships and grants.

CED Prizes + Awards
Scholarships, fellowships, internships, and travel opportunities are available for all CED Students. For more information please visit: http://prizes-awards.ced.berkeley.edu/

Berkeley Graduate Division Fellowships and Awards
Application based aid is open to all graduate students. For more information, please visit: https://grad.berkeley.edu/financial/fellowships/

Financial Aid & Scholarships
Graduate students who are US citizens or Permanent Residents, may apply for need-based loans and work-study through the Financial Aid & Scholarships Office. The programs are based on demonstrated financial need and require completion of a separate Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). International Graduate students can refer to the Financial Aid for International Students through the Berkeley International Office (BIO).

Graduate Student Instructor - GSI Appointments
Architecture offers around twenty-five GSI appointments per semester in undergraduate and graduate level courses. Applications are announced in mid-semester for the following semester, and students in CED apply via the CED job site: https://ced.berkeley.edu/about-ced/jobs-at-ced/. Qualified candidates must acquaint themselves with UC policies on GSI appointments. For GSI appointments in the Department of Architecture, Ph.D. students receive priority appointments in the area they are researching. M.Arch students will receive priority appointments primarily in design courses. First semester M.Arch students are typically not hired as GSIs.
**International Student Taxes**

When any kind of award, stipend, or money from the University is received, international students are required to submit the Initial GLACIER Information Form. Depending on the home country, additional forms may be required. These are available at [https://controller.berkeley.edu/payroll/glacier-tax-compliance-system](https://controller.berkeley.edu/payroll/glacier-tax-compliance-system). These forms must be on file before any of the money will be released. In order to avoid the taxes and forms, the Department will try to apply any awards directly as fees whenever possible.

**Establishing Residency**

If you are a US citizen, but not a California resident, you can save money by establishing residency in California. For information about residency matters, visit [http://registrar.berkeley.edu/residency.html](http://registrar.berkeley.edu/residency.html) for written detail.

**GENERAL**


**WAYS TO GET INVOLVED**

For a full list of Student organizations, please visit [https://ced.berkeley.edu/students/student-organizations/](https://ced.berkeley.edu/students/student-organizations/)

**Graduate Architecture Student Union**  The CED Graduate Architecture Student Union (affectionately shortened to GASU) was founded in 2018 as a resource for Graduate Architecture students. We seek to facilitate communication between students and the department in order for students’ opinions, values and concerns to be heard. These days, we're paying special attention to students' needs in this time of remote instruction while working toward goals outlined in our Letter to the Architecture Department on Antiracism, which can be found here: [https://tiny.cc/acalltoaction](https://tiny.cc/acalltoaction). We organize Happy Hours, Town Halls, Panels, and anything else that can help to support and foster community in and beyond Wurster. We understand that schedules vary each week, but if you are ever free and feel like getting involved or have any ideas/questions/concerns you want to bring up or just want to hang, come on by our bi-weekly meetings, email us at [ced.gasu@berkeley.edu](mailto:ced.gasu@berkeley.edu), or check out our website: [https://www.ocf.berkeley.edu/~cedgasu/](https://www.ocf.berkeley.edu/~cedgasu/).

**Graduate Student Council**  The mission of the CED graduate Student Council is to represent the graduate student body within the College; address the needs of graduate peers through service; provide representation on College committees; and advocate for the Undergraduate student population in CED to faculty and administration. To get involved, please send us an email at [archgrad@berkeley.edu](mailto:archgrad@berkeley.edu)

**College of Environmental Design Students of Color (CEDSOC)**  CED Students of Color aims to develop and expand the academic and social support, mentorship, career networking, and advocacy efforts for students of color and other underrepresented students within the College of Environmental Design. Students of color include those who identify themselves as African-American, Native American, Asian American, Latina/o, and Pacific Islander, however CED-SOC is
inclusive and embraces all forms of diversity including LGBTQ students, low-income students, and allies who value and work for equity and justice within low-income communities and communities of color. To get involved, please send us an email at archgrad@berkeley.edu

Graduate Student Recruitment Ambassadors The Department of Architecture is committed to promoting inclusion, social justice, and equity within the environmental design discipline. In alignment with this commitment, the mission of the Architecture Graduate Recruitment Ambassador (ARCH-GRA) program is to increase visibility of the master’s of architecture degree programs and to provide direct support to all prospective applicants and admitted students. To get involved, please send us an email at archgrad@berkeley.edu

CAMPUS AND DEPARTMENTAL POLICIES

University of California Grievance Policy

The University and Department committed to a policy against legally impermissible, arbitrary, or unreasonable discriminatory practices. All groups operating under The Regents, including administration, faculty, staff, student governments, University-owned residence halls, and programs sponsored by the University, are governed by this policy of nondiscrimination.

The University of California, in accordance with applicable federal and state law and University policy, prohibits discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, age, medical condition (cancer-related), ancestry, marital status, citizenship, sexual orientation, or status as a Vietnam-era veteran or special disabled veteran.

The purpose of this grievance procedure is to provide Berkeley students an opportunity to resolve complaints alleging discrimination based upon any of the above listed grounds. This procedure is also available for the resolution of complaints alleging inappropriate application to a student of any other rules or policies of the Berkeley campus resulting in injury to the student, except as noted in IB. below. It is the intent of this procedure that student complaints should be resolved, if at all possible, in the department or unit where they arise.

The University grievance policy: https://sa.berkeley.edu/grievance

University Code of Student Conduct

III B. Formal Architecture Department Procedures

The following procedures have been established by the Department of Architecture to deal with student grievances.

NOTE: These procedures do not apply to grades, student employment, and student discipline, which are governed by separate University Policies in the link above.

1. Informal Resolution: a student should attempt to resolve the matter informally with the person alleged to have committed the violation.

2. If the matter cannot be resolved at Step 1, a student brings the grievance to the attention of the Chair of the Grievance Committee.
3. If a satisfactory solution cannot be provided by the Grievance Committee, the Chair of the Department will make the final grievance resolution for the Department.

4. If a student still wishes to appeal, the grievance shall be referred to the Dean of the College of Environmental Design.

5. After recourse to the Dean of the College, the resources of the College will be considered to have been exhausted. Undergraduate students should file with the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs and graduate and professional school students should file with the office of the Dean of the Graduate Division.

CED RESOURCES

232 Wurster  
Departmental Office: This is the main office of the Department of Architecture. Students are encouraged to visit the office for any advising related needs.

210 Wurster  
CED Library: Most library resources used in conjunction with classes in the College can be found in the C.E.D. Library. Tours of the library are conducted at the beginning of fall semester. Consult the Reference Librarian for dates and hours.

214 Wurster  
CED Computer Facility: This is the main computer facility available to both graduate and undergraduate students and is equipped for GIS and Computer Aided Design (CAD). Equipment includes IBM PCs, slide scanners, flatbed scanners, plotters, and printers. To gain access to the computer lab, you must have a validated Cal Photo ID (Cal 1 Card). In addition, each student must be issued a computer account in order to use the college-wide network.

273 Wurster  
Fabrication Shop: The Shop is provided for your use in the completion of class projects. Students cannot use this facility unless they have completed a shop orientation.

REMOTE LEARNING RESOURCES

Student Technology Resource Tech Support  
https://studenttech.berkeley.edu/techsupport

Student Technology Services Zoom Resource  
https://studenttech.berkeley.edu/zoom

Miro: a collaborative online whiteboard platform  
https://miro.com/

BCourses: is an online learning environment with tools that support teaching and learning activities.  
http://bcourses.berkeley.edu

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GRADUATE ADVISING

Faculty Advisors
Department of Architecture
Chair and Head Graduate Advisor
Renee Chow
archchair@berkeley.edu

Department of Architecture, Equity Advisor
Greg Castillo
gregcastillo@berkeley.edu

Department of Architecture, M.Arch Director
TBD

Staff Academic Advisors
Graduate Student Affairs Officer (M.Arch & MAAD)
Asha Nathaniel
archgrad@berkeley.edu

Graduate Student Affairs Officer (M.S & Ph.D)
Lois Koch
likoch@berkeley.edu