

Berkeley Architecture

# **MASTER OF ADVANCED ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN (M.AAD) PROGRAM HANDBOOK**

**Department of Architecture**

College of Environmental Design

University of California Berkeley

2023–2024

For students enrolling to University of California Berkeley Fall 2023 or later

## **PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

The goal 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

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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 Master of Advanced Architectural Design (MAAD) is a one-year, post-professional, non-accredited design program intended for those who have a professional (accredited B.Arch or M.Arch) degree and who wish to continue to explore current design issues in a stimulating, rigorous, and experimental studio setting. A year-long studio is at the core of the program, integrated with seminars and lectures in design theory, history, digital applications, and building technology. Students also have the opportunity to enroll in other elective classes in CED and throughout the campus. The studio director is joined by a team of faculty from the department, CED and visitors.

## **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 their 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.

## **PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS**

### **Master of Advanced Architectural Design (MAAD) One-Year Post-Professional Program**

#### **Year One Fall**

ARCH 205A: Studio One Fall (5)

ARCHITECTURE ELECTIVE

#### **Year One Spring**

ARCH 205B: Studio One Spring (5)

ARCHITECTURE ELECTIVE

Total Architecture Units Required: 24

### **23–24 PROGRAM DESCRIPTION: EARTH ARCHITECTURE**

Soil, a mixture of geological and biological ingredients, is also humankind’s oldest, and most widely used building material. In this year-long research studio, students will explore earth as an ancient, traditional, contemporary, and future material for the creation of buildings, particularly through computational design and additive manufacturing. Participants in the course will explore the fundamental tools for the manipulation of clay based materials and develop workflows that employ parametric modeling techniques in Grasshopper to speculate on how the humble material beneath our feet can result in surprisingly novel forms of architectural innovation. California is the ideal testbed for this experimental studio as there is a long tradition of building with earth in the state, as well as the larger region. Field studies will allow students to engage directly with examples of the forces that have shaped earthen architecture as well as the forces that have instigated its decline in the past century. The primary objective of the studio is to explore how earth can reassert itself as a material that responds to contemporary issues and technologies today.

#### **NOTE**

In parallel with your studio, Professor Rael is recommending that you consider ARCH 252 - Form and Structure. We have many other exciting electives this fall, and brief descriptions can be found on the

CED web, Fall 2023 Courses:

<https://ced.berkeley.edu/arch/courses/fall-2023-courses>

The following courses should not be taken by MAAD Students: ARCH 240, ARCH 250, ARCH 260, ARCH 270

## **THESIS**

MAAD students are required to produce a Departmental Thesis to satisfy their final degree requirements. While our department calls the final project a “thesis,” by Graduate Division terms you are completing a Plan II capstone, project or report as part of the degree goal. The work from ARCH 205A and ARCH 205B lead to the completion of a thesis.. \*Graduate Division: Plan II - Capstone: Students in Plan II program must complete a capstone, project, or report as defined by the major as part of the degree goal

Thesis Members:

Instructor of ARCH 205A/B #1

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), for doctoral students who have completed all requirements for the degree except for filing the dissertation (Plans A and B) and presenting the Final Defense (Plan A).

It is also available to master’s students with no requirements remaining except for filing the thesis (Plan I) or taking the final comprehensive examination (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.

### Electives

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

### 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.AAD 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.AAD 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 that 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 with design courses. First semester M.AAD 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>. 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> for written detail.

### **GENERAL**

Please review the UC Berkeley graduate student handbook for campus wide information

[https://grad.berkeley.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020-graduate-student-handbook\\_FINAL-1.pdf](https://grad.berkeley.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020-graduate-student-handbook_FINAL-1.pdf)

### **WAYS TO GET INVOLVED**

For a full list of Student organizations, please visit <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>. 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/>.

**Graduate Student 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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

## GRADUATE ADVISING

### Faculty Advisors

Department of Architecture  
Chair and Professor of Architecture  
232 Bauer Wurster Hall  
Lisa Iwamoto  
[archchair@berkeley.edu](mailto:archchair@berkeley.edu)

Department of Architecture, Equity Advisor

Greg Castillo  
484 Bauer Wurster Hall  
[gregcastillo@berkeley.edu](mailto:gregcastillo@berkeley.edu)  
Neyran Turan  
351 Bauer Wurster Hall  
[neyranturan@berkeley.edu](mailto:neyranturan@berkeley.edu)

M.AAD Director  
Ronald Rael  
337 Wurster Hall  
[rrael@berkeley.edu](mailto:rrael@berkeley.edu)

### Staff Academic Advisors

Office of Graduate Student Advising  
232 Bauer Wurster Hall  
Phone: (510) 642-5577  
[archgrad@berkeley.edu](mailto:archgrad@berkeley.edu)

Graduate Student Affairs Officers

Kayli Minear and Ari Baird  
232 Bauer Wurster Hall  
[kayli@berkeley.edu](mailto:kayli@berkeley.edu)  
[aribaird@berkeley.edu](mailto:aribaird@berkeley.edu)