Architecture at Chicago

Guide to Undergraduate Programs

UIC

University of Illinois at Chicago

Established in 1965, the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) is a major urban public research university with one of the most diverse student bodies in the United States. It is from this vibrant intellectual and social context that the School of Architecture prepares its graduates to become the **next generation of strategic thinkers, team leaders, and cultural producers** in Chicago and the world.

Within the university, the School of Architecture is part of the College of Architecture, Design, and the Arts (CADA). CADA offers many opportunities for architecture students to interact and take classes with students from other creative disciplines.
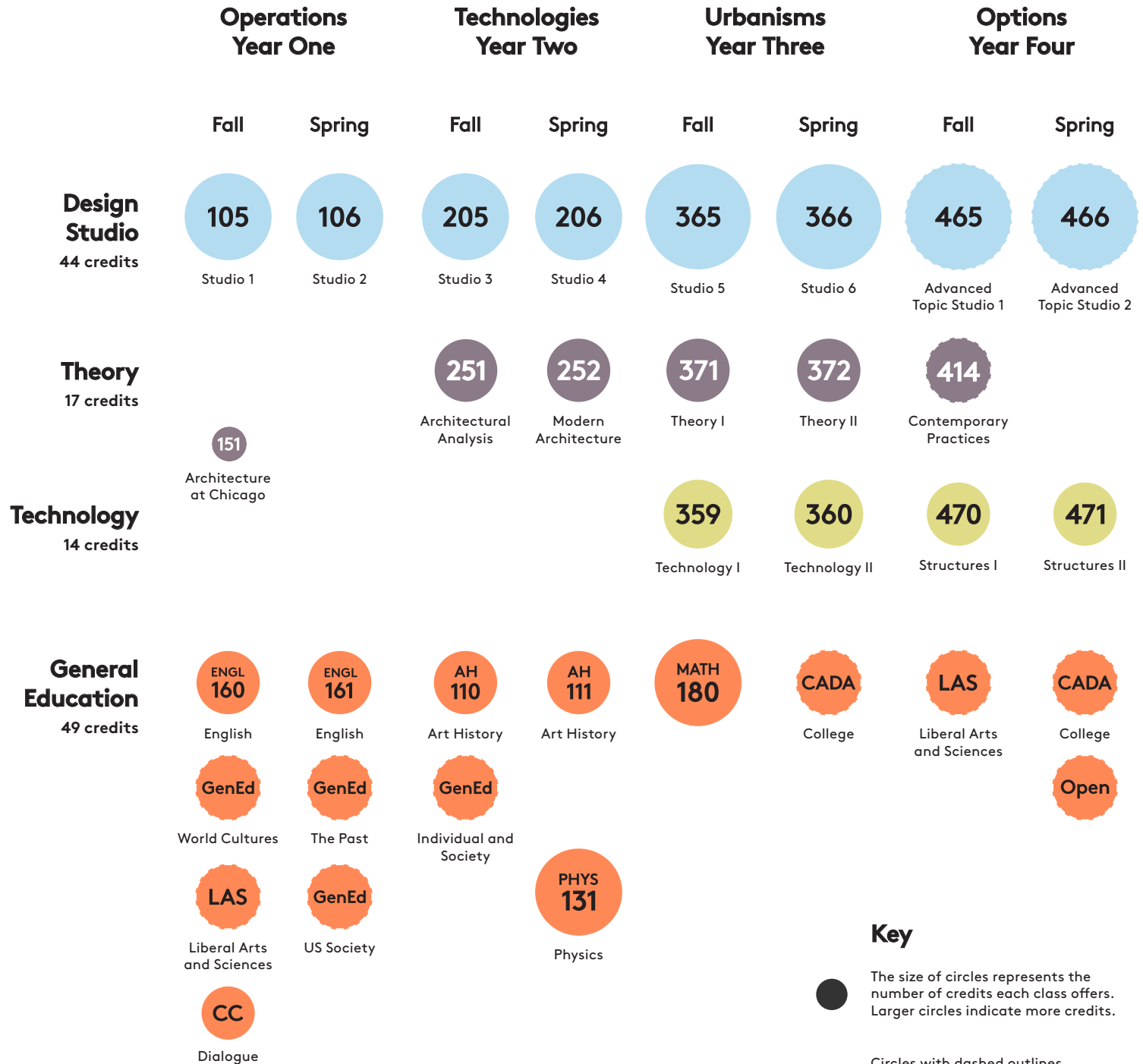
3

UIC and the Chicago skyline, including the Architecture + Design Studios building.

Bachelor of Science in Architecture

The four-year Bachelor of Science in Architecture (BSArch) program is a comprehensive pre-professional education in architecture within the broader context of liberal arts study provided by the university. Consisting of an eight-semester studio sequence in architecture and urbanism supported by coursework in technology and theory, the program provides an intensive introduction to the discipline of architecture.

Architecture at UIC provides students with the design skills, critical and creative tools, and analytical abilities that enable them to follow a variety of career paths. While many graduates continue their education in a professional Master of Architecture degree program, others pursue work or graduate study in fields such as law, graphic design, real estate management, urban design and planning, and business.

The BSArch curriculum.

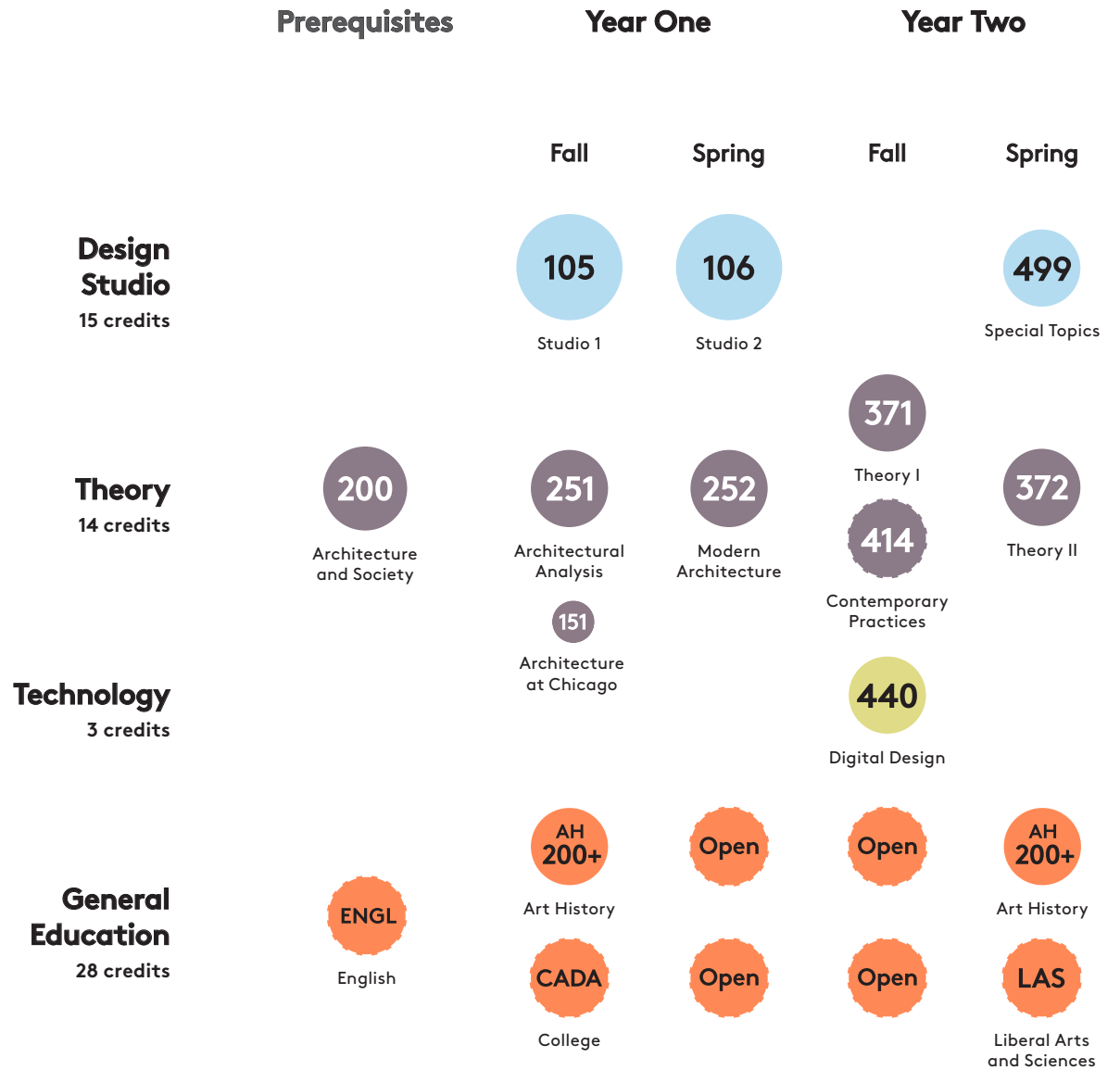|	Operations Year One		Technologies Year Two		Urbanisms Year Three		Options Year Four	
	Fall	Spring	Fall	Spring	Fall	Spring	Fall	Spring
Design Studio 44 credits	105 Studio 1	106 Studio 2	205 Studio 3	206 Studio 4	365 Studio 5	366 Studio 6	465 Advanced Topic Studio 1	466 Advanced Topic Studio 2
Theory 17 credits			251 Architectural Analysis	252 Modern Architecture	371 Theory I	372 Theory II	414 Contemporary Practices	
Technology 14 credits	151 Architecture at Chicago				359 Technology I	360 Technology II	470 Structures I	471 Structures II
General Education 49 credits	ENGL 160 English / GenEd World Cultures / LAS Liberal Arts and Sciences / CC Dialogue	ENGL 161 English / GenEd The Past / GenEd US Society	AH 110 Art History / GenEd Individual and Society	AH 111 Art History / PHYS 131 Physics	MATH 180	CADA College	LAS Liberal Arts and Sciences	CADA College / Open

Key

The size of circles represents the number of credits each class offers. Larger circles indicate more credits.

Circles with dashed outlines indicate courses where a student can choose among multple options.

Bachelor of Arts in Architectural Studies

The Bachelor of Arts in Architectural Studies is an upper-level undergraduate major that uses architecture and related design practices as a lens through which to understand the history of ideas and cultural invention. The program also exposes students to the synthetic environment of the design studio, providing an introductory experience that some students may wish to pursue later in graduate education.

Beyond prerequisite coursework, the program involves classes taken across junior and senior years. The BA admits undergraduate students who have completed two years of college, either at UIC or at other institutions. The major also includes electives from other departments at UIC, enabling students to pursue and potentially minor in other areas of interest.

The BA in Architectural Studies curriculum.

	Prerequisites	Year One		Year Two	
		Fall	Spring	Fall	Spring
Design Studio 15 credits		**105** Studio 1	**106** Studio 2		**499** Special Topics
Theory 14 credits	**200** Architecture and Society	**251** Architectural Analysis / **151** Architecture at Chicago	**252** Modern Architecture	**371** Theory I / **414** Contemporary Practices	**372** Theory II
Technology 3 credits				**440** Digital Design	
General Education 28 credits	**ENGL** English	**AH 200+** Art History / **CADA** College	**Open** / **Open**	**Open** / **Open**	**AH 200+** Art History / **LAS** Liberal Arts and Sciences

Key

The size of circles represents the number of credits each class offers. Larger circles indicate more credits.

Circles with dashed outlines indicate courses where a student can choose among multiple options.

Studio Culture

The design studio is the central place where the curriculum comes together. Students enrolled in studio courses are granted an individual studio space where they can store work and supplies. The School of Architecture relies on its studio environment to contribute to its culture of curiosity, rigor, enthusiasm, and ambition. Studios are secure and respectful spaces that enable risk-taking, continuous conversation, and intensive collaboration.

Faculty member Aura Venckunaite discusses first-year work during a group desk critique, or "crit."

Students and faculty review drawings and models individually and collectively in the early stages of a design project.

Students take part in an informal presentation of their models during studio time in faculty member Thomas Kelley's studio.

Final Reviews

At the end of each semester, all students present their final studio projects to their classmates and faculty. The school also invites guest critics from other architecture schools and local firms to offer feedback.

Students in both undergraduate programs are invited to attend the final reviews of all studios as a way to learn more about the work happening across the school and support the work of other students. For students in the first, second, and third years of the Bachelor of Science in Architecture program, reviews also provide a preview of what to expect in semesters ahead.

A third-year undergraduate studio final review, Fall 2019.

Facilities and Labs

Studios
All students enrolled in studio courses are assigned a desk for working in studio and storing supplies each year. Undergraduate studios are located throughout the Architecture + Design Studios (A+D Studios) building, which the School of Architecture shares with the School of Design. Studios are located in open spaces to encourage discussion and collaboration.

Project Lab
All students in the School of Architecture have access to a staffed and well-equipped wood- and metal-working shop within the building. The lab offers orientation and special topic workshops for students each semester.

Fabrication Lab
The School of Architecture and the School of Design jointly operate a fabrication lab, nicknamed the Fab Lab, on the first floor of the A+D Studios building. The facility includes several laser cutters and 3D printers as well as a CNC milling machine. After completing training, BS in Architecture students have access to these machines in the third and fourth years of the program.

Print Lab
The Print Lab is open only to School of Architecture students and houses multiple plotters, or large-format printers, as well as color copiers. Students can download software drivers to print to these machines over the school's wireless network. Tutorials and lab assistants are available to help with technical issues.

Building access
The A+D Studios building is open to the public from 6:30am until 8pm Monday through Friday and closed on weekends and holidays. All students are given 24/7 keycard access to the building.


A student working in the Project Lab.

Students in the Fabrication Lab.

15

Student Work

The work shown on the following pages represents all four years of the studio sequence, from the introductions to architectural techniques and thinking of the first year to the various options available to BSArch students in their fourth year.

An installation of student work at the Year End Show, May 2018.
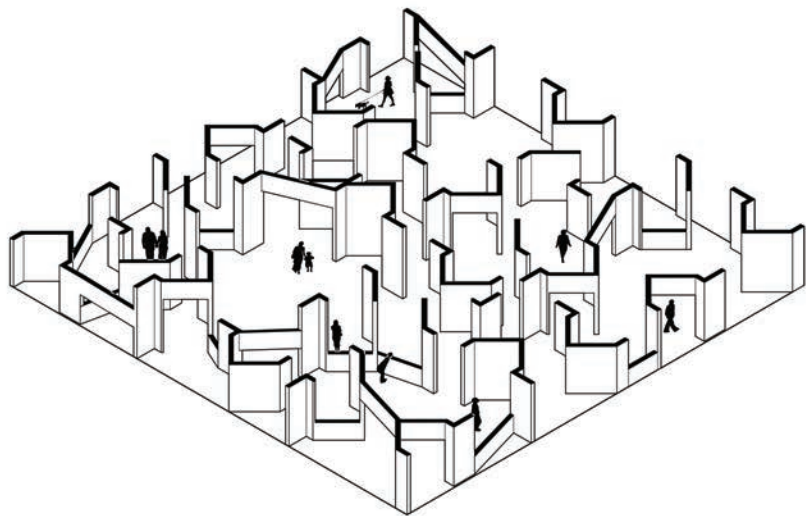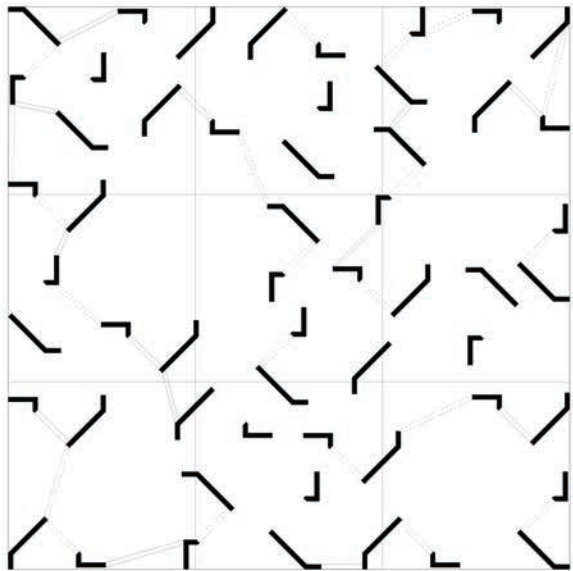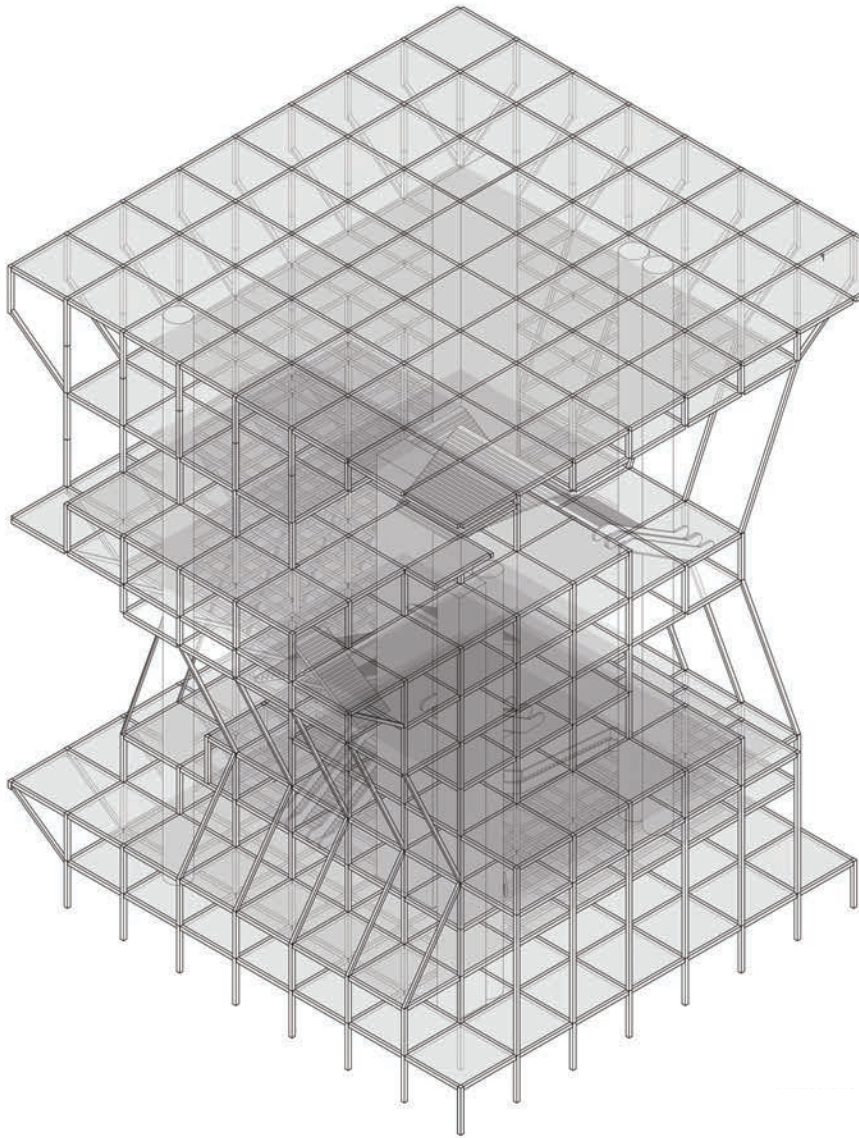
Year 1: Operations
The first-year studio curriculum introduces various techniques in drawing, model building, and digital production as organizers and generators of architectural form (fall) and urban form (spring). Above: Plan and axonometric drawings, Arch 105, Fall 2018.

Models of urban proposals, Arch 106, Spring 2019.

Year 2: Technologies
In second-year studios, students speculate on high-rises and explore relationships between parts, details, and wholes in a building, with an emphasis on understanding technologies in architecture.
Above: Isometric drawing of tower, Arch 205, Fall 2018.
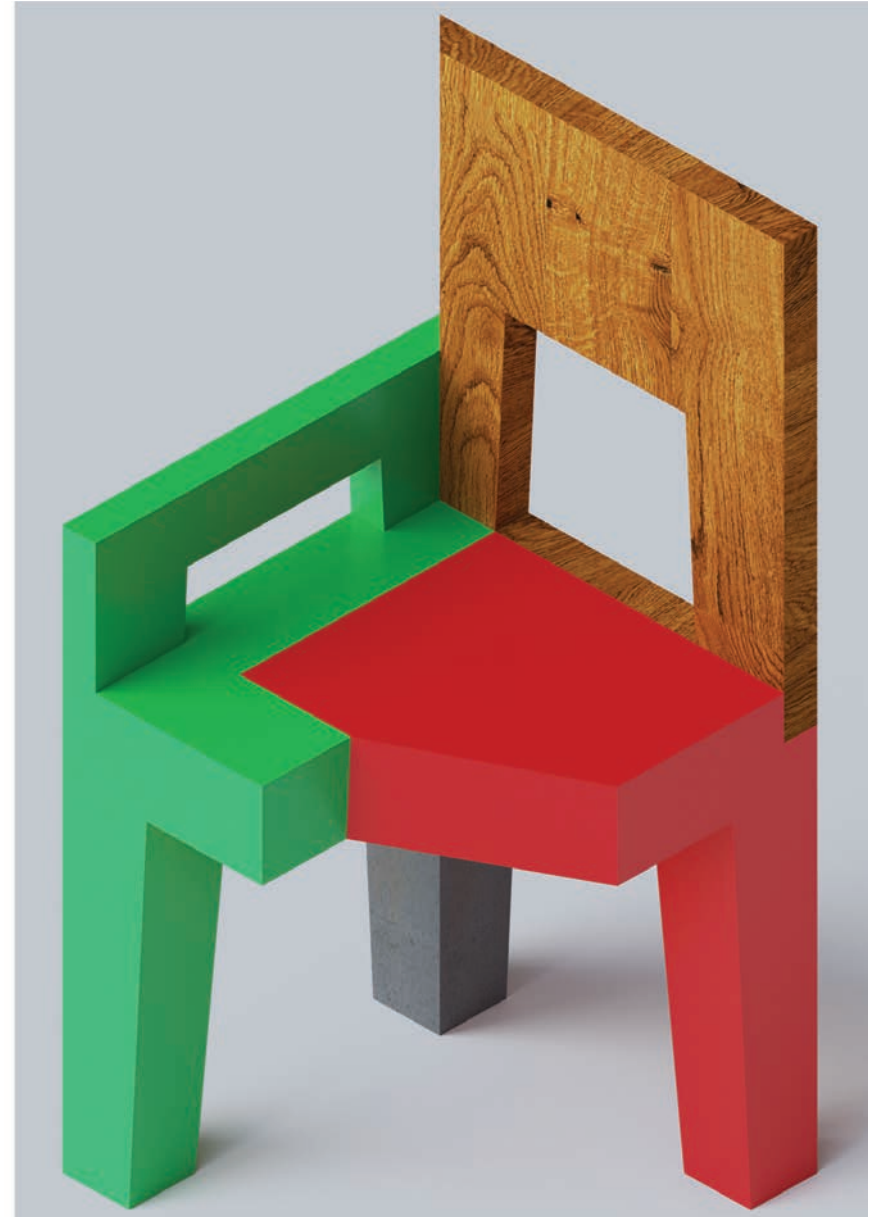
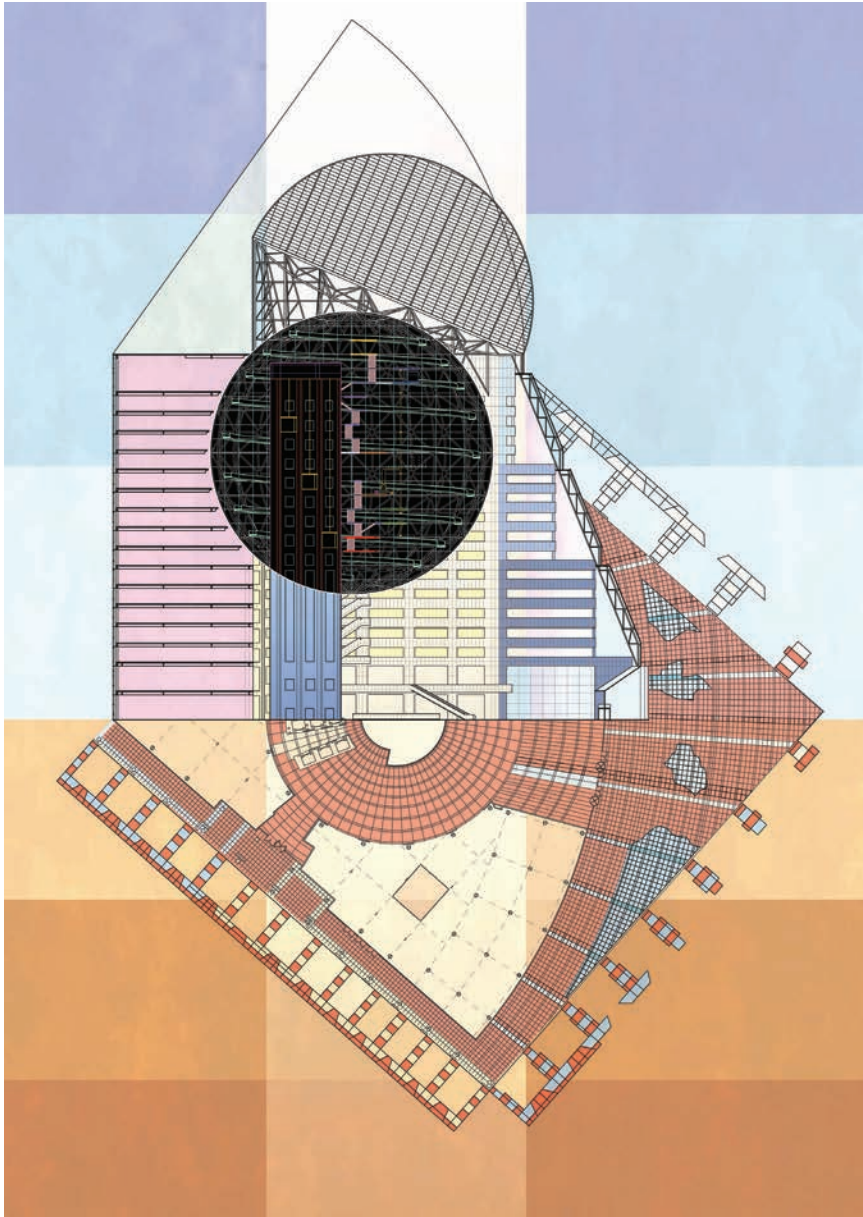Rendering of chair designed to match a famous architectural interior, Arch 206, Spring 2018.

Perspective collage of a proposed park, Arch 366, Spring 2018.
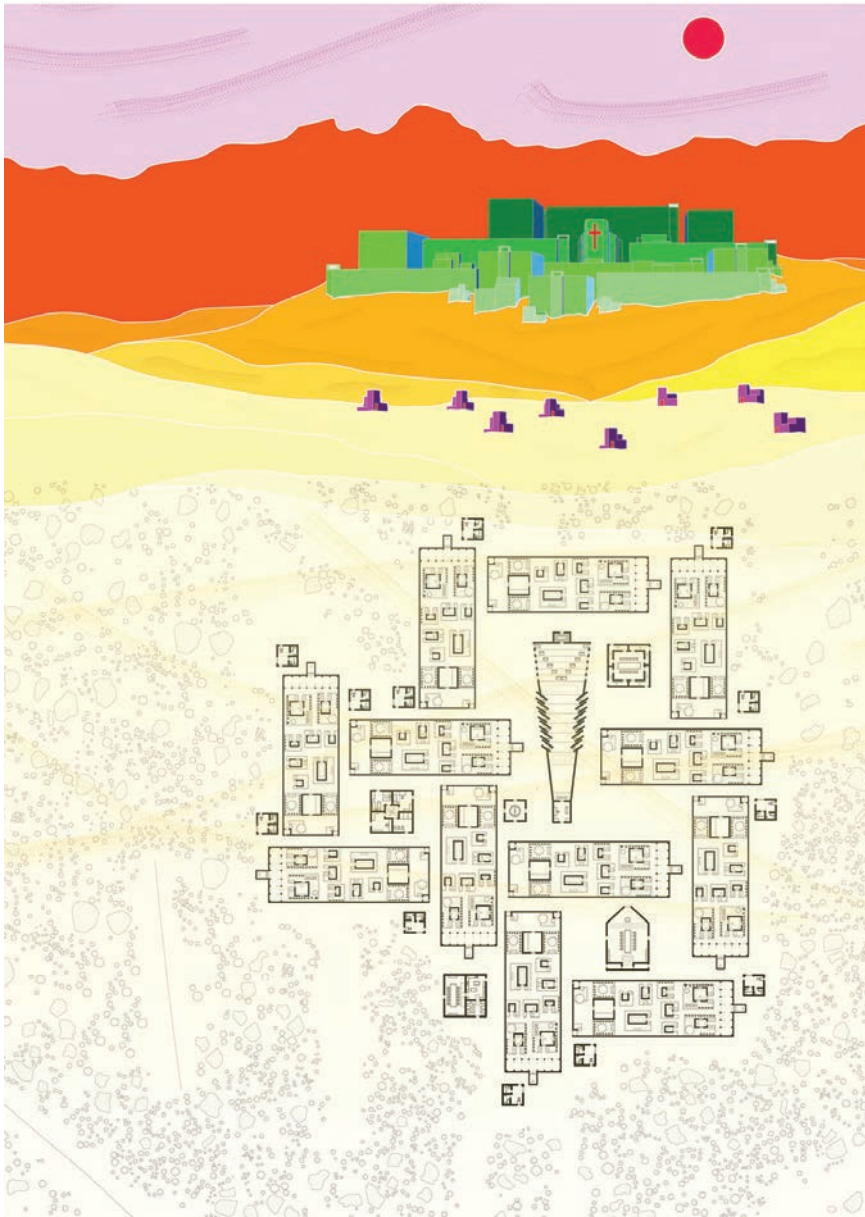
Year 3: Urbanisms
Third-year studios investigate urbanism through the design of a
complex landscape and the interior of a large, mixed-use building.
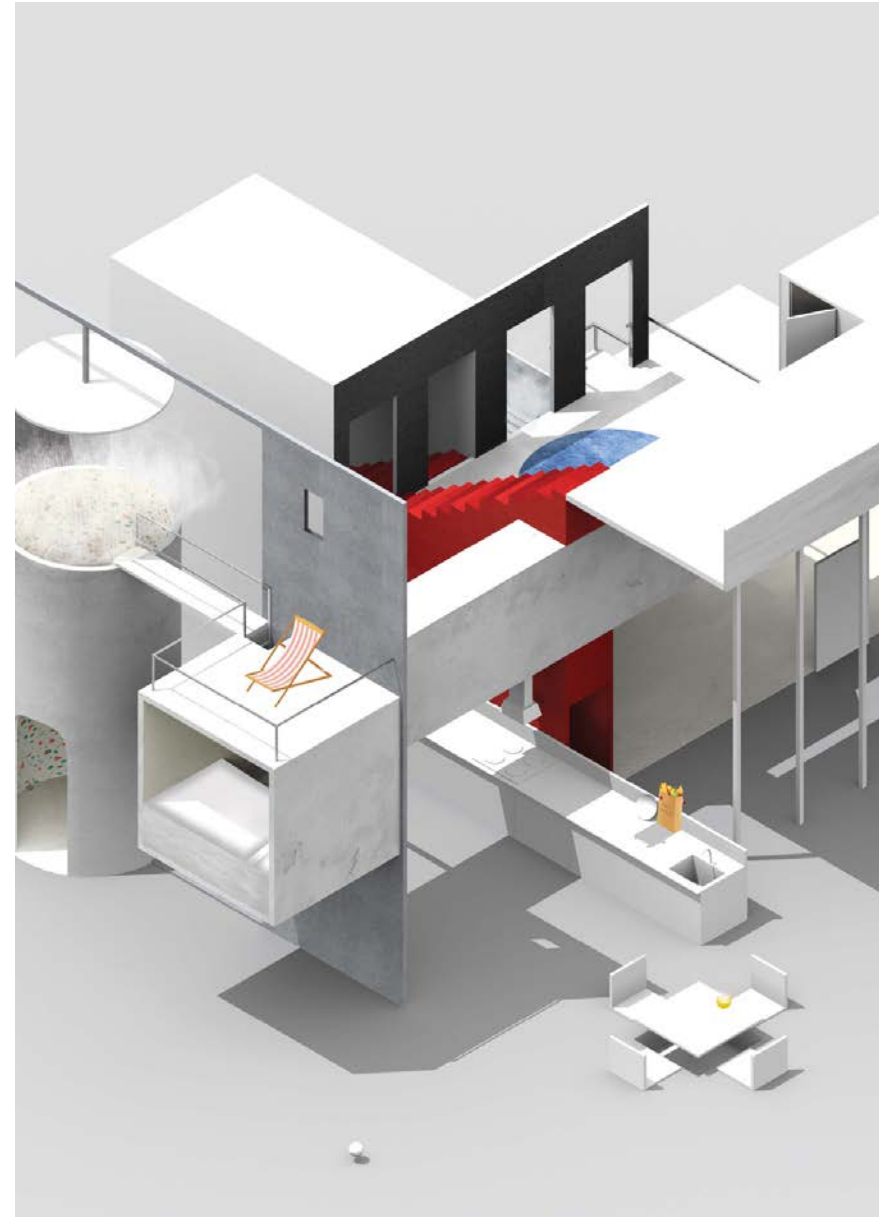Above: Drawings of a monastery, Arch 365, Fall 2018.

Year 4: Options
Fourth-year studios pursue design and research agendas with
contemporary relevance; students choose from among multiple options.
Above: Drawing of proposed changes to Chicago's Thompson Center,
Arch 465 studio with Stewart Hicks, Fall 2018.

Above: Digital model of a single-family home, Arch 466 studio with
Ania Jaworska, Fall 2018.

Student Work

UIC School of Architecture

Student Life

Studying architecture at UIC goes beyond attending class. By joining a student organization, attending an evening lecture, or participating in internships, students have multiple opportunities to explore and extend their interests.

Student organizations
The School of Architecture has active chapters of national architecture organizations including AIAS (American Institute of Architecture Students), NOMAS (National Organization of Minority Architecture Students), and Arquitectos (the Society of Hispanic Professional Architects).

There are also student groups that are unique to the school. *Fresh Meat*, UIC's nationally recognized architecture journal, is independently produced by students. The Student Advisory Board is made up of elected class representatives and organizes student-led exhibitions and design competitions.

Professional development
The school's annual Career Fair provides an opportunity for students to meet with representatives from local and regional firms seeking candidates for summer internships and positions after graduation. The school also organizes workshops focusing on topics such as licensure and the Intern Development Program, preparing a professional portfolio, public speaking, and writing about architecture. Portfolios are featured in an annual Portfolio Day, where students receive feedback from an outside jury and have the opportunity to win awards for their work. A grant-funded co-op program provides students with paid, part-time internships at local firms during their senior year.

Lectures and exhibitions
Each semester, the school invites prominent architects and scholars to give public lectures. The school also hosts architectural exhibitions, conferences, and symposia. Each spring, students have the opportunity to participate in workshops and exhibitions with guests to the school, including with the Garofalo Fellow (an emerging designer who teaches at UIC for one year) and the Greenwald Fellow (a more established designer or scholar). The school's biggest celebration is the Year End Show, which takes place each year the evening before graduation and showcases the best studio projects of the school year.

Third-year BSArch students between studio reviews.

A student presents his contribution to the 2018 Garofalo Fellowship exhibition, organized by Fosco Lucarelli, in April 2018.

The New York–based Spanish architect Cristina Goberna delivering a lecture in April 2019.

UIC students and faculty with Pritzker Prize–winning architect Tadao Ando in the fall of 2018. The students built a new model of Ando's Modern Art Museum in Fort Worth for the inaugural exhibition at Chicago's Wrightwood 659 gallery.

Student Life

UIC School of Architecture

Student and Alumni Profiles

Camille Castillo
BSArch, 2019

Originally from the Chicago suburbs, Camille was awarded the Alpha Rho Chi Medal of Merit at graduation. She is now working at Vinci Hamp Architects in Chicago.

"I have benefited from the School of Architecture professionally by establishing strong connections with my instructors and being able to work for them outside school. The instructors here influence students to think outside the box. The program at UIC enables us to explore beyond what is given and experiment with other styles."

Nash Kennedy
BSArch, 2020

Nash grew up in the suburbs of Chicago. At UIC, he has contributed to exhibitions by school faculty at the Lisbon Architecture Triennale and the Venice Architecture Biennale.

"The school is unique because of the individuals in the program. I've met students from all over the world and been able to become friends with them because we share a common interest in architecture. I also think the professors make the school unique because they take real work experience and bring it to the classroom in a challenging but rewarding way. The program has helped pushed the limits of what I thought was possible or attainable in architecture."

Taylor Geraghty
BSArch, 2015

Originally from Chicago's south suburbs, Taylor transferred to UIC from the University of Missouri, Columbia. She is currently a brand and interior design consultant for McDonald's Corporation.

"Even in high school, I had always known that I wanted to live in Chicago, and that I wanted to study architecture. Coming to UIC was a great opportunity to do both! The affordability was also a big selling point for me, [and] of all the schools I have attended, UIC is by far the most diverse. The campus is poured into the hustle and bustle of Chicago, an already diverse city. Everyone who comes here has a different story, and a different path. There is no one way here, and UIC is very accommodating of that."

Ryan Hernandez
BSArch, 2013

At UIC, Ryan worked in the Print Lab and graduated with departmental distinction. She later received her master's degree at the University of California, Los Angeles.

"The uniqueness of UIC comes from the energy, the work, and the sense of community. The innovative work being created is a result of talent and hard effort, but more than that: students' and professors' excitement about those possibilities. It's an atmosphere that encourages experimentation and allows students not only to be comfortable with their curiosity but to use it to ask questions and create amazing things."

Ariba Bader
BSArch, 2016

While at UIC, Ariba was active in the Student Advisory Board and Arquitectos and interned with Studio Gang Architects.

"UIC has been a great help in broadening my knowledge while encouraging me to develop strong relationships with my colleagues and professors. The school provides a professional learning atmosphere and inspires creativity and innovation. I have not only grown here as an individual but along with my fellow students, through a studio culture that has strengthened my skills with constructive feedback received on potential projects."

Mario Romero
BSArch, 2016

After high school, Mario began working for Adrian Smith + Gordon Gill Architecture. He continued working at the firm as a student, and is still a designer and technology and fabrication specialist there.

"UIC's School of Architecture was an easy choice because of its history of developing students' conceptual abilities as well as helping them step outside the norm of hypertechnical architecture typically attributed to other schools. UIC's faculty is well regarded for their high level of rigor, discipline, and craft in their own work as well as the curriculum they help to build. Through this curriculum, I've been afforded a wealth of opportunities from the skills I have honed and the connections I have made."

Where Are They Now?

In recent years, graduates of the school's undergraduate programs have pursued professional opportunities and graduate studies throughout the world.

Graduate schools
Arizona State University
Clemson University
Columbia University
Harvard University
Illinois Institute of Technology
Iowa State University
John Marshall School of Law
Massachusetts Institute of
     Technology (MIT)
New York University,
     Visual Communication
Northern Illinois University,
     Law and Business
Northwestern University,
     Engineering
Ohio State University
Parsons the New School of Design
Portland State University
Pratt Institute
Princeton University
Rhode Island School of Design
Rice University
Royal College of Art, London
School of the Art Institute of
     Chicago
Southern California Institute of
     Architecture (SCI-Arc)
Syracuse University
Tulane University

University of California,
     Los Angeles
University of Cincinnati
University of Illinois at Chicago
University of Illinois at Urbana-
     Champaign
University of Kentucky
University of Michigan
University of Pennsylvania
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
Washington University in St. Louis

Employers
Adrian Smith + Gordon Gill
Bjarke Ingels Group
Bossa Digital
Bruce Mau Design
Cannon Design
DESIGNATION Labs
FGM
FreemanXP
Gensler
The Graham Foundation
Herzog & deMeuron
HOK Architects
JGMA
Koo and Associates
McDonald's Corporation
MNML Design
Paramount Pictures
Perkins and Will
RATIO Architects
Skidmore, Owings & Merrill
Solomon Cordwell Buenz
Studio Gang Architects
UNStudio
Valerio DeWalt Train
Whitney Museum of American Art

Ways to Learn More

HiArch
HiArch is the School of Architecture's summer program for current high school students. The program introduces students to architectural ways of thinking and making through class tutorials, studio time, one-on-one desk critiques, and group discussions. HiArch participants develop both analog and digital skills, including drawing and building models by hand, digital drafting, and computer modeling. They also gain exposure to the field of architecture through guest lectures and panel discussions with school faculty and local designers. The program concludes each year with an exhibit of students' work and a reception with family and friends. For more information, visit **arch.uic.edu/hiarch**.

Fall Open House
Each fall, the School of Architecture participates in the university's Open House event, during which prospective students can visit UIC and learn more about our programs and the university as a whole. This event typically takes place in late September. More information is available at **openhouse.uic.edu**.

Admitted Student Open House
Each spring, students admitted to architecture programs and their families are invited to an open house, which typically takes place in early April. Admitted students can tour the school's facilities, hear presentations by faculty and the school's director, and see work by current students. Information about the open house is included in admissions materials.

UIC Preview Days
The UIC Office for Admissions offers Preview Days, which include campus tours and information sessions that cover academic programs, admissions procedures, financial aid, housing, student life, and other opportunities available at the university. To reserve a place, visit **admissions.uic.edu**.

College fairs
For a list of fairs and other recruiting events where the College of Architecture, Design, and the Arts will appear, please visit **cada-recruitment.uic.edu/events**.

Individual visits
We highly recommend that prospective students visit the school and the UIC campus. To schedule an information session and building tour of the School of Architecture, please contact **cadainfo@uic.edu** at least forty-eight hours in advance. Unfortunately, we are unable to accommodate drop-in visits.

A view inside a model produced by a high school student during the HiArch Pre-College Architecture Workshop, July 2019.

Architecture
at Chicago

845 West Harrison Street
1300 A+D Studios, MC 030
Chicago, Illinois 60607

arch.uic.edu

(312) 996-3335
arch@uic.edu

instagram @uicsoa
twitter @uic_soa
facebook.com/UICSchoolofArchitecture
youtube.com/uicsoa

Updated September 2020