

Architecture  
at Chicago

# Graduate Programs Guidebook







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# University of Illinois at Chicago

Chicago, perhaps the ur-American metropolis, provides the **ideal launching pad for urban and architectural speculation**. For students at the School of Architecture, direct access to this **model of experimentation** is coupled with the resources and opportunities generated by an especially **active community of alumni, design practices, and architectural institutions**. UIC is one of the country's major urban public research universities, and it is from this context that the School of Architecture extends its three-part agenda: to condition the metropolis, construct new audiences, and circulate ideas. Established in 1965, UIC is now one of the **top-200 research-funded institutions in the world**. The School of Architecture benefits from its commitment to building a dynamic and diverse collection of faculty and intellectual, aesthetic, and cultural interests.

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The university campus and the A+D Studios building circa 1968.

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**University of Illinois at Chicago  
College of Architecture, Design,  
and the Arts**

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phone 312 996 3335**

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Setting up for the first year graduate  
final review





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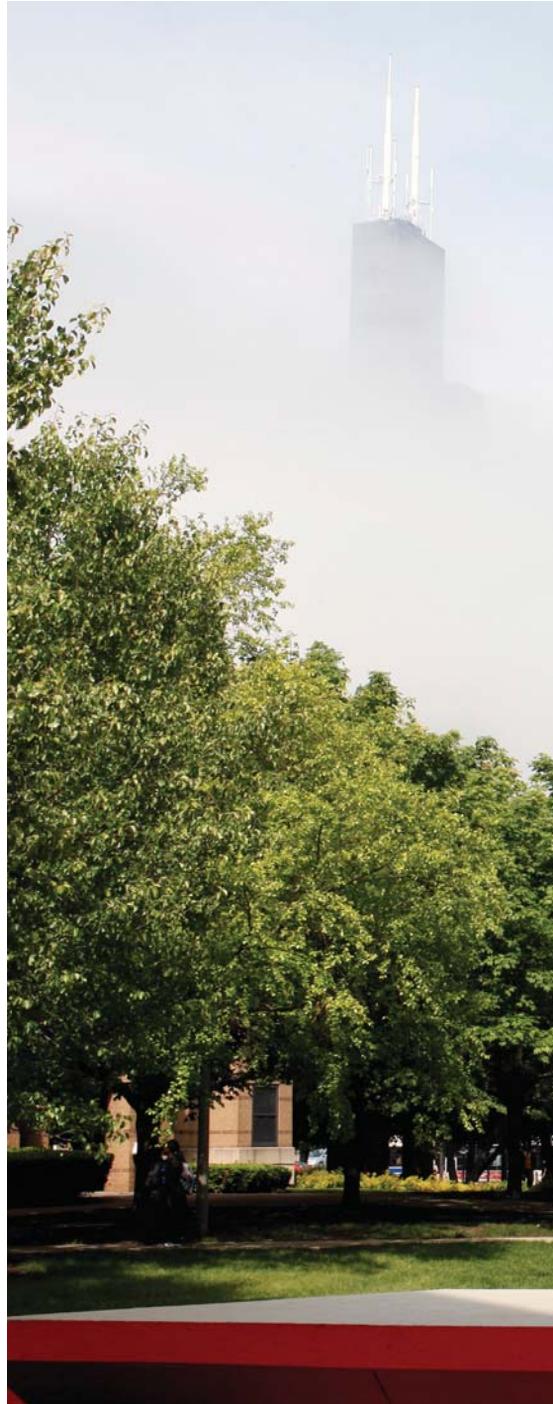
# Architecture at Chicago

The School of Architecture at UIC promotes architecture as a cultural practice of organizing information, of intelligently identifying and deploying patterns—conceptual, visual, structural, behavioral, and material—in the world. The program prepares its graduates to project all scales of these patterns through the systematic development of an aesthetic attitude, a technical confidence, and a theoretical opportunism.

When deployed creatively, architecture and urbanism are the most powerful tools to remake the world as an artifact. Informed by a contemporary and historical understanding of its discipline and location, the School of Architecture ventures to liberate and install new forms of collective association and material arrangement through all media of architectural design and research. Consistent with this commitment, the School recognizes its primary mission to prepare graduates able to think, negotiate, and collaborate through all genres of design; to direct diverse project teams; and to generate design artifacts and arguments with a contemporary cultural and disciplinary resonance.

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Pavilion designed and built by fourth year undergraduate students in Arch 465





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# Master of Architecture

The School of Architecture offers a three-year, NAAB-accredited first professional Master of Architecture (MArch) degree to students with an undergraduate degree in any field of study. The studio-centered curriculum is supported by required and elective coursework in architectural technology and theory. The typical three-year course of study proceeds through roughly the following stages:

1. Acquire the knowledge, techniques, methods, and manners of the discipline;
2. Apply disciplinary means to frame and respond to the given problems and requests of external situations;
3. Expand the discipline by conducting advanced design research that identifies and addresses concerns that have yet to be recognized.

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Arch 565 Topic Studio (Sam Jacob, Jimenez Lai, "Repetition") midterm review





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# MArch Curriculum

## **Year 1: Discipline**

The first year studio sequence introduces students to the knowledge and experience of architectural discipline. Discipline establishes identity and enables variation: the set of concepts, techniques, and modes of operating that constitute the field of architecture at any point in time, and the manners of unfolding its historical potentials and contemporary opportunities in alternative ways. Discipline is established through repetition, the source of both significance and newness in architecture. As an instigator of qualities and an organizer of quantities, the discipline is an exercise in both control and power.

## **Year 2: Conditions**

The second year subjects the disciplinary techniques and approaches of the first year to a set of external contexts and conditions of particular importance to the School: the city and technology. As a corollary to this work, one objective across the year is to develop the ability to communicate with diverse audiences, issuing instructions and specifications to contractors and collaborators (Arch 554 and Arch 555) and distilling and projecting information and identity from multiple programs and publics (Arch 553).

## **Year 3: Project**

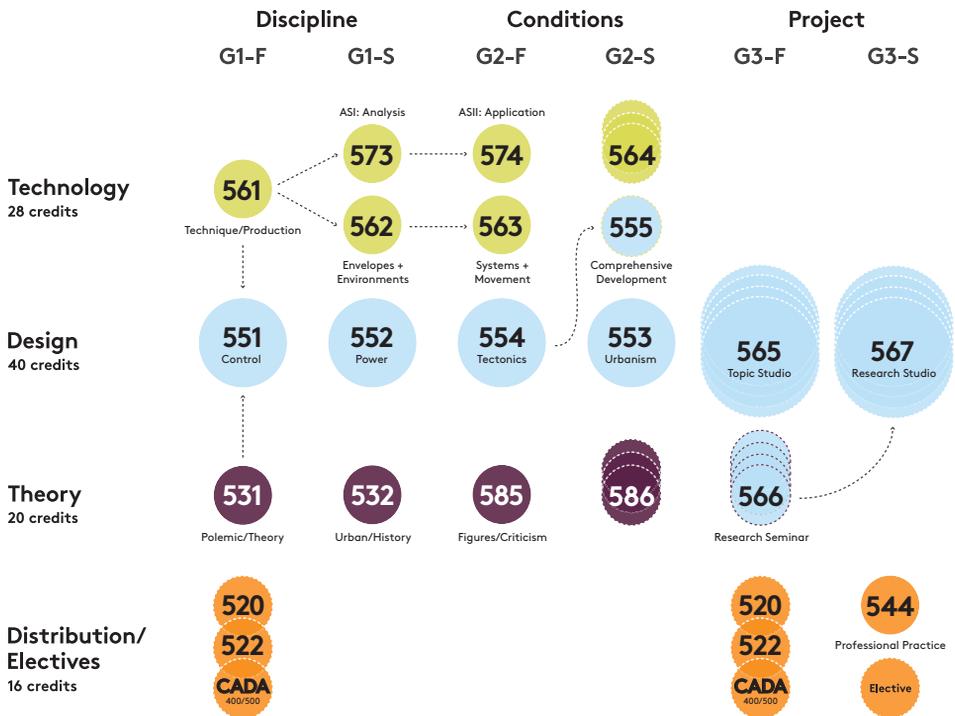
Specific design and research agendas of current significance are explored with

distinguished faculty and defined in a topic studio in the fall as well as during a year-long course of study (a fall seminar and spring studio) in a research cluster geared toward publishing its findings and proposals. Recent topic studios (Arch 565) and research studios (Arch 566/567) have been led by Paul Andersen, Penelope Dean, Sarah Dunn, Sam Jacob, Sean Lally, Clare Lyster, Luis Ortega, Paul Preissner, and Andrew Zago.

Required text from NAAB:

"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 6-year, 3-year, or 2-year term of accreditation, depending on the extent of its conformance with established educational standards.

Master's degree programs may consist of a preprofessional undergraduate degree and a professional graduate degree that, when earned sequentially, constitute an accredited professional education. However, the preprofessional degree is not, by itself, recognized as an accredited degree."



The three-year MArch requires 104 credit hours for program completion. Students are required to take three distribution electives, including one each from: Theory + History (Arch 520), Technology (Arch 522), an approved 400/500-level elective offered in the College of Architecture, Design, and the Arts.

Courses by semester:

#### 1F (Fall)

- Arch 531 Theory + History I
- Arch 551 Design I
- Arch 561 Technology I
- Distribution Elective

#### 1S (Spring)

- Arch 532 Theory + History II
- Arch 552 Design II
- Arch 562 Technology II
- Arch 573 Structures I

#### 2F (Fall)

- Arch 553 Design III
- Arch 563 Technology III
- Arch 574 Structures II
- Arch 585 Theory + History III

#### 2S (Spring)

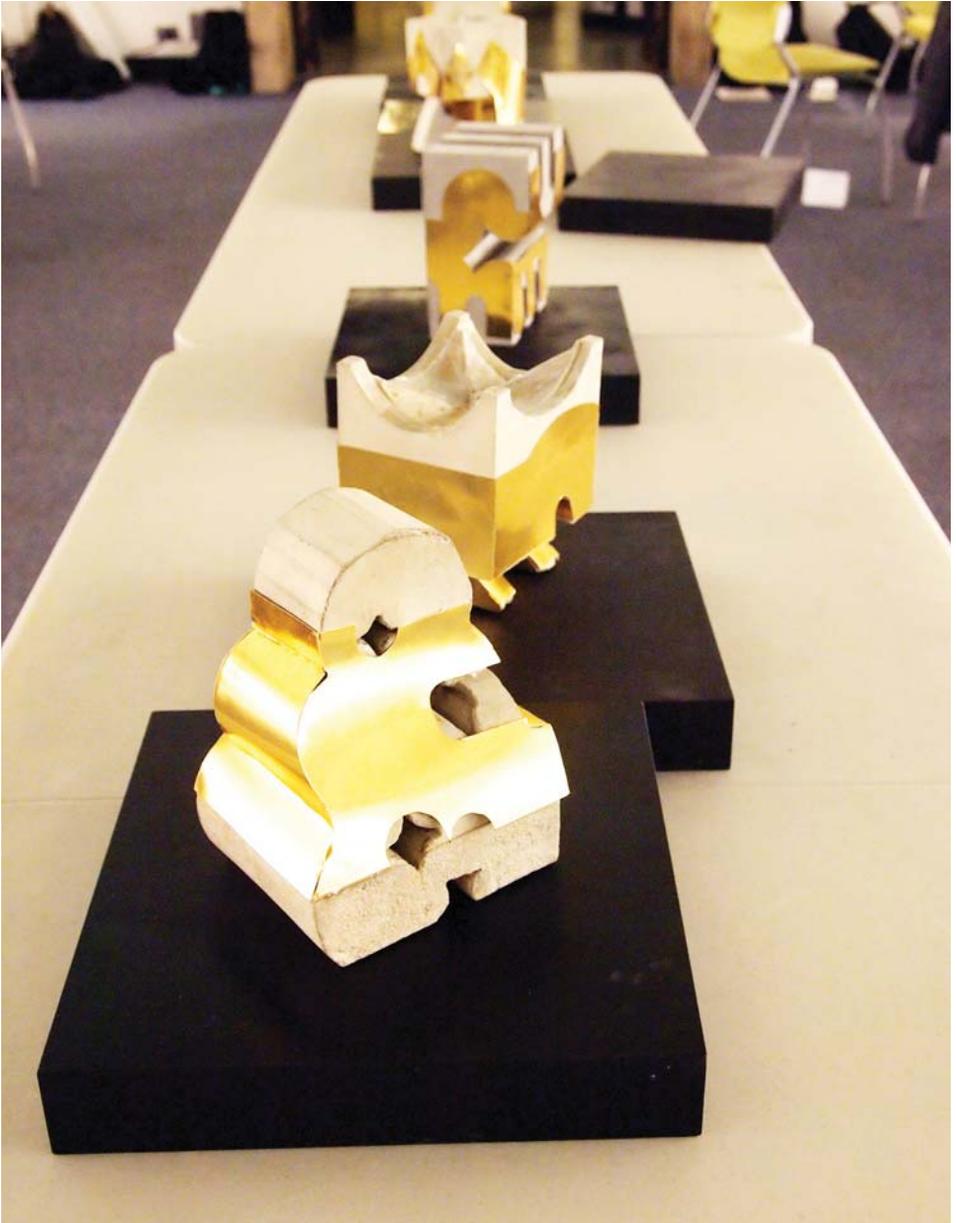
- Arch 554 Design IV
- Arch 555 Design Development
- Arch 564 Technology IV
- Arch 586 Theory + History IV

#### 3F (Fall)

- Arch 565 Topic Studio
- Arch 566 Research Seminar
- Distribution Elective

#### 3S (Spring)

- Arch 544 Professional Practice
- Arch 567 Research Studio
- Open Elective



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**First Year: Power**

Arch 552 (Stewart Hicks) final review models

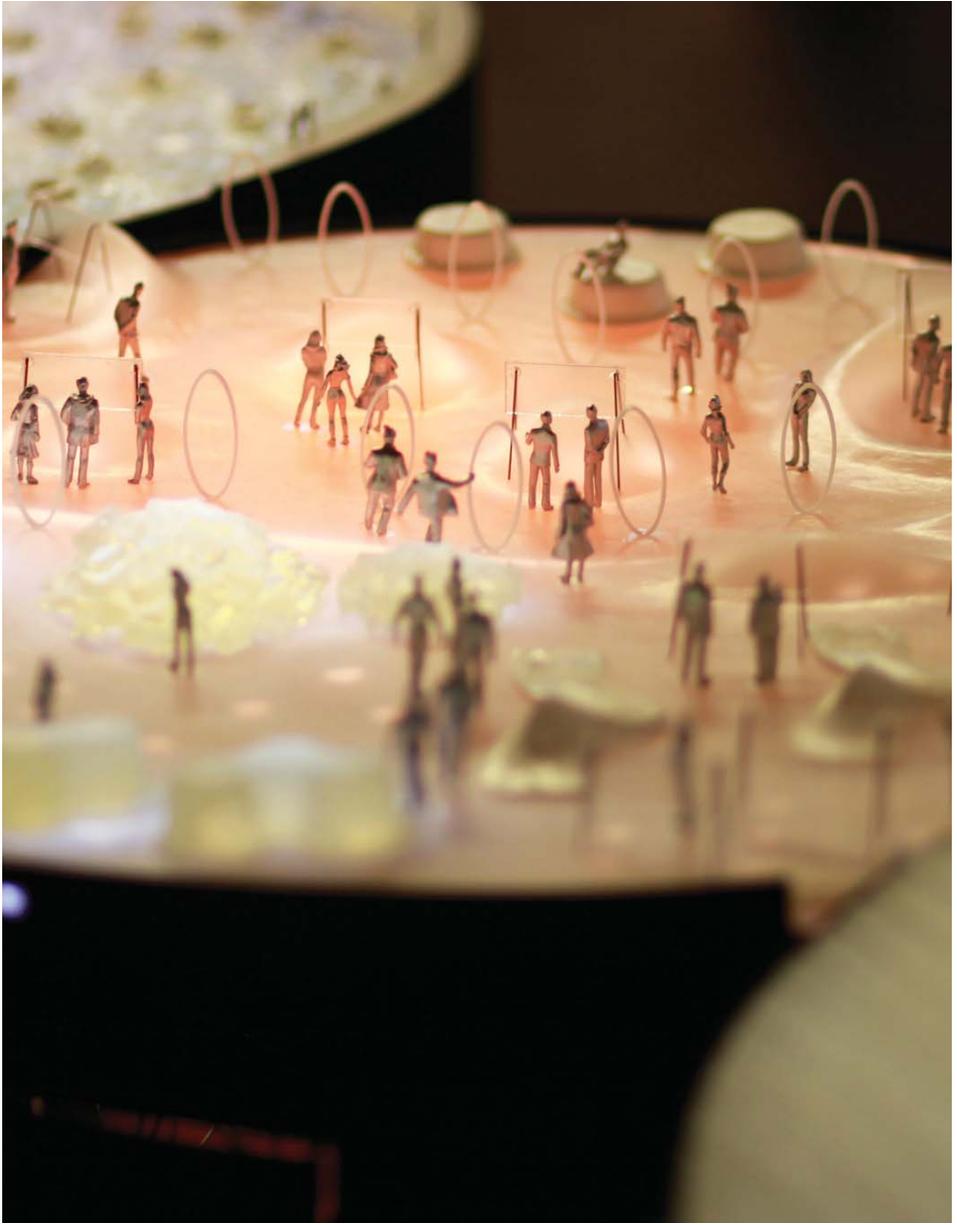


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**Second Year: Housing**

Arch 553 (Penelope Dean, Grant Gibson)

review models



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**Third Year: Topic Studio**

Arch 565 (Sean Lally, "These Go To Eleven")  
final review models



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**Third Year: Research Studio**

Arch 567 (Paul Andersen, "New Swerves on Regular Curves") final review model

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# Master of Arts in Design Criticism

The Master of Arts in Design Criticism (MAD-Crit) is a two-year program that develops textual and visual argumentation in the areas of architecture, urbanism, landscape, and allied design practices. Revolving around intensive writing seminars and publication workshops, the ambition of the program is unabashedly operative: i.e., it is driven by the practice of writing and the demand to inject argument immediately into diverse media of communication.

Today, architecture and its corollary design fields have become increasingly compelled toward academic and professional specialization. While producing important scholarly and technical advances, this context has undermined if not obliterated the potential role for those invested in design culture as public intellectual. The MAD-Crit program aims to recover this generalist role. Moreover, as the products of design competitions are increasingly gravitating to books and arguments, the program understands criticism broadly to include proactive design propositions. At UIC, criticism serves as an invitation for new practices rather than a calling out of existing ones; it is a platform for future production. The MAD-Crit program is committed to empowering a new

generation of idea activists for the discipline. This operative orientation is accelerated by being situated within a School of Architecture focused on contemporary design, through the program's overlapping coursework with the School's Master of Architecture program, and close affiliation with the UIC School of Design. The program also takes advantage of the remarkable number of faculty in both the School and College who are internationally recognized practitioners in contemporary criticism, design theory, and publication production.

The program is intended for students, including postgraduate and mid-career professionals, who are interested in re-focusing on research, writing and publication. In addition to those with architectural backgrounds, the program is also suitable for those from other fields who are already practicing as critics, journalists, or curators but who want to develop expertise in the design areas considered, or those who would like a terminal graduate degree in order to pursue an academic career.

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Lecture by Mirko Zardini,  
Director and Chief Curator of the Canadian  
Centre for Architecture, Montreal



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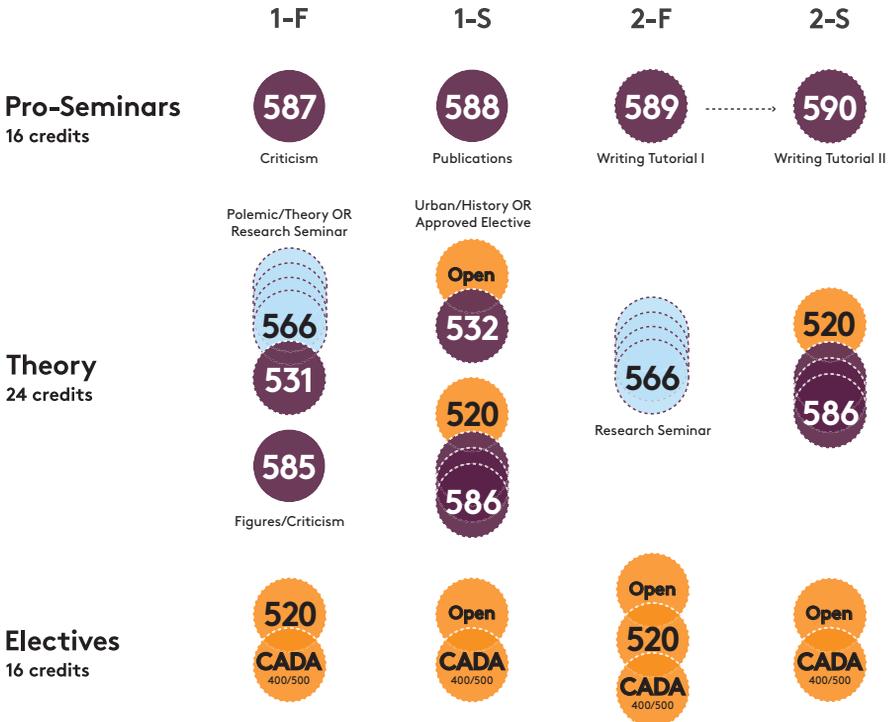
# MAD-Crit Curriculum

## **Year 1**

The first year of the MAD-Crit curriculum introduces students to the discipline of architecture and its theory and history through required courses and electives taken with MArch students. The MAD-Crit Pro-Seminars immerse students in a variety of modes of design criticism and the dissemination of architectural ideas.

## **Year 2**

In the second year, students take a research seminar with MArch students in the fall and continue with other electives in the fall and spring. At the same time, they undertake a year-long independent research and writing project, addressing a topic of their choice across multiple writing genres and for various audiences.



The Master of Arts in Design Criticism program requires at least 56 semester credit hours for completion. At least 44 hours must be at the 500 level in architecture.

Courses by semester:

#### 1F (Fall)

Arch 587 Pro-Seminar I  
 Arch 531 Theory + History I  
 OR Arch 566 Research Seminar  
 Arch 585 Theory + History III  
 Arch 520 Topics in Theory + History  
 OR AH 400/500 (Art History Elective)

#### 1S (Spring)

Arch 588 Pro-Seminar II  
 Arch 532 Theory + History II  
 OR Approved Elective  
 Arch 520 Topics in Theory + History  
 OR Arch 586 Theory + History IV

AH400/500 (Art History Elective)  
 OR Approved Elective

#### 2F (Fall)

Arch 589 Writing Tutorial I  
 Arch 566 Research Seminar  
 Arch 520 Topics Theory + History  
 OR AH 400/500 (Art History Elective)

#### 2S (Spring)

Arch 590 Writing Tutorial II  
 Arch 520 Topics in Theory + History  
 OR Arch 586 Theory + History IV  
 AH400/500 (Art History Elective)  
 OR Approved Elective

*NB: Diagram not to scale with MArch curriculum chart.*



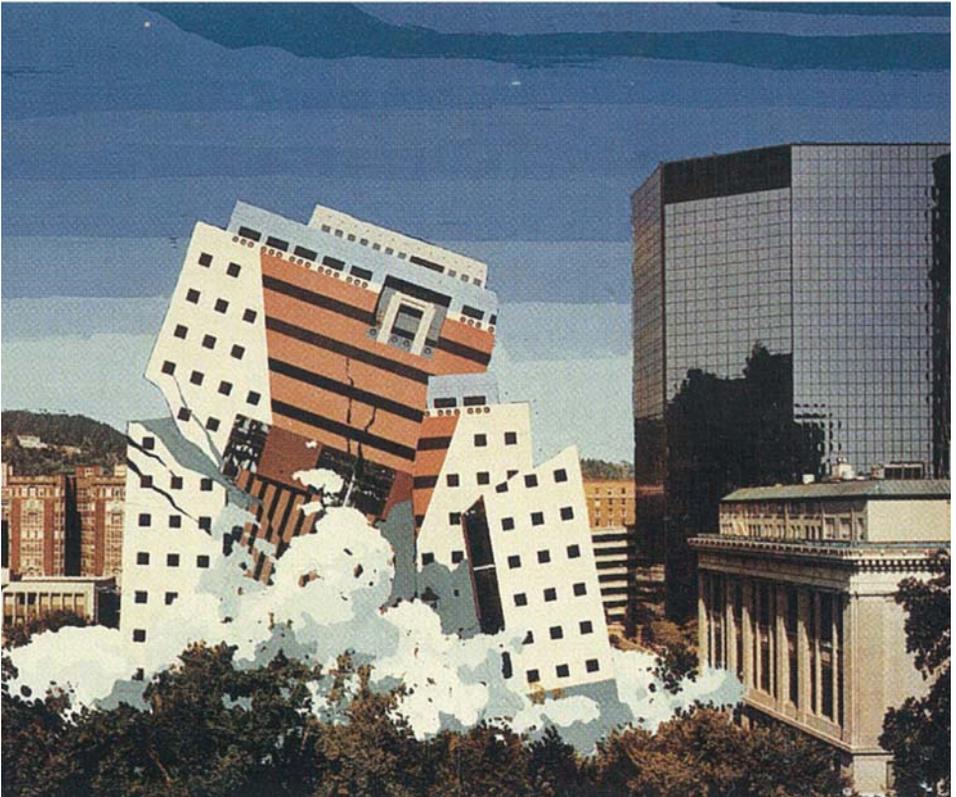
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### First Year: Seminars

Super Décor seminar publication edited by  
MAD-Crit students; Arch 532 *Visionary Chicago*  
exhibition review



The stylistic influence of the Graves Office Building is extensive. It figured prominently in the Portland Contemporary Craft Gallery's annual bake-off.



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## Second Year: Writing Tutorial

Image collection to accompany essay written  
for Arch 590 Writing Tutorial

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# Course Descriptions

All graduate courses in the School have an average student to faculty ratio of 10:1. The School possesses a strong faculty presence that engages students in and outside of the classroom. Open discussions are frequent and assume a range of formats (debates, mini-conferences, desk crits, and presentations). Public reviews often occur for theory and technology classes as well as studios.

● MArch   ● MAD-Crit

## Architectural Design

### 6–8 Hours

#### Arch 551: Design I ●

Introduction to the architectural design discipline as an instigator of qualities and a function of technique and geometry. Exercises address issues of scale, proportion, intricacy, and formal organizing systems through analog and digital media. Recent instructors: Kelly Bair, Paul Preissner

#### Arch 552: Design II ●

Introduction to the architectural design discipline as an organizer of quantities and as a function of argument and scenario. Exercises confront issues of size, number, expediency, and activity through diagramming, modeling, and graphic techniques. Recent instructors: Penelope Dean, Sarah Dunn, Grant Gibson, Andrew Moddrell, Andrew Zago

#### Arch 553: Design III ●

Comprehensive housing design studio using codes, structural and mechanical systems, material life cycles, and furniture design as generative parameters to attain the scale of detail development and the level of construction documents. Recent instructors: Penelope Dean, Grant Gibson, Sean Lally, Xavier Vendrell

#### Arch 554: Design IV ●

Addresses contemporary collective space through the development of a large, mixed-use complex on an urban site and communication with diverse audiences by synthesizing information and identity from multiple programs and publics. Recent instructors: David Brown, Sarah Dunn, Alexander Eisenschmidt, Stewart Hicks, Marina Nicollier

#### Arch 565 Topic Studios ●

Advanced studio that pursues specific design

and research agendas of current significance. Students choose by lottery from options that are offered by permanent and distinguished visiting faculty. Recent topics and instructors:

#### *Commune-ity*

Sarah Dunn

This studio explored the programmatic possibilities of the designed community by studying a variety of subversive living arrangements and then employing techniques of blurring, mixing, and stirring to develop a convincing community.

#### *Repetition*

Sam Jacob and Jimenez Lai

This studio took on the repetitive mode in architecture and the fundamental principles embedded in its economy, technology, and culture. Experimentation and investigation in different methods of repetition unlocked possibilities for new spatial and formal applications.

#### *These Go to Eleven*

Sean Lally

This studio challenged the assumption that architecture exists as solid entities. Instead, it defined architecture as the amplification and design of the material energies (electromagnetic, thermodynamic, acoustic, and chemical) that course around us.

#### **Arch 566/567: Research Seminar and Research**

● ● (566 only)

Collaborative and individual design-research, in multiple genres, that addresses concerns at the edge of the contemporary discipline and results from a year-long course of study. Recent topics and instructors:

#### *New Swerves on Regular Curves*

Paul Andersen

This seminar and studio proposed the next

instantiation of the fillet, a particular kind of curve, in terms of its formal logic and its cultural affiliations. Projects brought contemporary aspects of variation and continuity to regular curvature in the context of a large-scale suburban development.

#### *Towards a Suprarural Architecture*

Lluís Ortega

This seminar and studio explored alternative relationships between the urban and the natural. The notion of the "suprarural" sought to unveil, reframe, systematize, and empower the unexplored architectural forces latent in rural organizations.

#### *Architecture considered in relation to...*

Andrew Zago

This seminar and studio took as their assumption that the shape or form of a building is a political act, and that the application of advanced architectural techniques to a project may generate novel and progressive political outcomes.

### **Architectural Theory + History** ● ●

#### **4 Hours**

#### **Arch 531: Theory + History I**

Discusses a diversity of critical and generative approaches to twentieth-century architecture and theory, with an emphasis on how architects invent and instrumentalize history. Recent instructors: Alexander Eisenschmidt, Robert Somol

#### **Arch 532: Theory + History II** ● ●

The emergence of the metropolis beginning in the mid-nineteenth century is examined through a survey of the forces that produced it, and the ideologies and practices that have attempted to

organize, control, and simulate it.  
Recent instructors: Penelope Dean,  
Alexander Eisenschmidt

**Arch 585: Theory + History III** ● ●  
Focuses on contemporary practices through close attention to the distinct design concepts, theoretical and formal argumentation, built production, critical reception, and legacies and genealogies that those practices have sponsored.  
Recent instructors: John McMorrough,  
Robert Somol

**Arch 586: Theory + History IV** ● ●  
An advanced seminar in architectural and urban criticism, theory, and history; students choose by lottery into one of several sections with diverse content.  
Recent topics and instructors:

*Commodity and Delight*

Judith De Jong  
This seminar investigated the influence that democratization of leisure and consumption have on architecture and the city. It argued that the new collectives, spaces, and forms that emerge provide lessons and possibilities for architecture and urbanism.

*Super Décor II*

Penelope Dean  
This seminar situated the relationship between architecture and the interior in an attempt to figure out the gains and losses of architecture's engagement with interior design, as well as to reimagine the possibilities of an interior architecture—or super décor.

**Architectural Technology**

**4 Hours**

**Arch 561: Technology I** ●  
Introduction to building construction processes, terminology, conventions, standards, materials, principles of structural behavior, application of components and assemblies, and communication and specifications. Recent instructor: Lluís Ortega

**Arch 562: Technology II** ●  
Focuses on the relationship between architecture and the environment, including the high performance, material specification, adaptive behavior, and assembly systems at their primary interface: the building's envelope. Recent instructor: Sean Lally

**Arch 563: Technology III** ●  
Focuses on the relationship between architecture and its occupant, through an analysis and integration of building and core systems: HVAC, electrical, plumbing, ADA and universal design, vertical transport, egress, and life safety systems. Recent instructors: Grant Gibson, Andrew Moddrell, Dan Wheeler

**Arch 564: Technology IV** ●  
An advanced seminar/lab in architectural technologies, structures, new materials, and fabrication techniques; students choose by lottery into one of several sections with diverse content. Recent instructors: Chris Frye, Ryan Palider, Dan Wheeler

**Arch 555: Design Development** ●  
An advanced course in comprehensive design development in which standard and non-standard details are applied toward the technical resolution of an existing design project.

**Arch 573: Structures I** ●  
Introduction to structural analysis by

quantitative and graphical means; introduction to historical and contemporary structural precedents. Recent instructor: Gene Mojekwu

### **Arch 574: Structures II** ●

Introduction to the design of structural elements and systems in steel, concrete, and wood, including the application of computer-aided engineering software and approximate methods. Recent instructor: Gene Mojekwu

## **Distribution Requirements and Electives**

### **4 Hours**

#### **Arch 520: Topics in Theory + History** ● ●

Seminar on a current topic in the criticism, theory, or history of architecture and urbanism. Recent topics and instructors:

#### *Magazine Cultures*

Penelope Dean

This seminar examined the roles that ten notable architecture magazines and journals have played in the conceptualization, dissemination, and communication of architectural culture over the past twenty-five years.

#### *Designing Criticism*

Sam Jacob

This seminar explored the potential roles of criticism within architecture and design. Students addressed forms and subjects of criticism, considering the ways criticism can be communicated and how it can develop audiences.

#### **Arch 522: Topics in Technology** ● ●

Seminar on a current topic in technology, structures, or digital fabrication and new media. Recent topics and instructors:

#### *Double or Nothing*

Sarah Blankenbaker

This seminar explored the possibilities of the overdetermined ground both for its own sake and as a reflection on its opposite, the ambiguous outline.

#### *Pouff Daddy*

Molly Hunker

This seminar aimed to explore soft form and featuring through the lens of traditional upholstery craft.

#### **Arch 544: Professional Practice** ●

An introduction to the law and business of architecture, with an emphasis on alternative models for contemporary professional practice. Recent instructor: Michael Hanahan

#### **Arch 587: Pro-Seminar I** ●

Introduction to the methods and styles of design criticism, with specific attention to architectural, urban, landscape, and environmental design disciplines. Recent instructor: Robert Somol

#### **Arch 588: Pro-Seminar II** ●

Revisits the archive of publications on design to liberate strategies and tactics for use in the present day, as well as to encourage the invention of new forms of evidence through diagramming and projective graphics. Recent instructor: Penelope Dean

#### **Arch 589/590: Writing Tutorial I/II** ●

Independent research and writing across a variety of genres on a topic of the student's choice, pursued under the direction of a primary advisor within the MAD-Crit program.

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# Faculty Bios

In recent years, the School has staked out a unique position within the contemporary landscape of architectural education by focusing relentlessly on the political and cultural possibilities offered by the discipline of architecture itself. These significant changes, led by Robert Somol since his appointment as Director in 2007, are also reflected in the School's personnel; fully sixty-five percent of grad faculty and staff have joined the School within the last six years. There are thirty-one full-time faculty members and twelve adjunct faculty. Some faculty members are from the Chicago area, while others have come to Chicago, from locations like Los Angeles, New York, Denver, France, the United Kingdom, Spain, Germany, New Zealand, Australia, Argentina, and Poland. They have established firms in and outside of the city.

**Paul Andersen**  
Clinical Assistant Professor  
Indie Architecture  
indiearchitecture.com



Paul Andersen is the founder and Director of Indie Architecture, a Denver-based office that designs buildings, books, and exhibitions worldwide. He has previously taught at the DITalella University, the Harvard Graduate School of Design, and Cornell University. Paul is the author of *The Architecture of Patterns* (W.W. Norton, 2010) and a forthcoming book, *The Monuments Power the Cars* (Actar, 2014). "City Loop," a joint project by Indie Architecture and fellow UIC faculty Andrew Moddrell's firm, PORT A+U, recently won the competition to redesign Denver's City Park.

**Kelly Bair**  
Assistant Professor  
Central Standard Office of Design  
centralstandardoffice.com



Kelly Bair is principal of the Chicago-based Central Standard Office of Design (CSOD). Bair previously taught at SCI-Arc, UCLA, and Woodbury University. She has received numerous awards, including First Place in the Luvo International Design Competition, was named a finalist in the Moonfish Building Competition in Manchester, England, and was the recipient of the Maxine Frankel Award for Research in 2011. Her work "Rustication Never Sleeps" was recently exhibited in Los Angeles (*Mock-Ups*, WUHO Gallery).

**Penelope Dean**  
Associate Professor



Penelope Dean was editor of the Berlage Institute's journal *hunch* between 2003 and

2007 and served as editorial consultant for *Crib Sheets*, *Content*, and *KM3*. Dean previously taught design and theory at OSU, the Bauhaus Dessau, and the Rietveld Academy. She is founding editor of *Flat Out*, a forthcoming architecture and design magazine emanating from the Midwest, and recently completed a book manuscript titled *Choice By Design*, which locates and projects the disciplinary implications of the increased quantity and transformed quality of design since 1980.

**Sarah Dunn**  
**Associate Professor**  
UrbanLab  
urbanlab.com



Sarah Dunn and Martin Felsen founded UrbanLab in 2000. UrbanLab was recently named a finalist in the MoMA PS1 competition, and, with !melk and HOK, a finalist in the Navy Pier Pierscape competition. Their urban proposal "Grow Energy/Water" was awarded the 2009 Latrobe Prize. Prior to founding UrbanLab, Dunn worked as a project architect/leader for OMA in Rotterdam on projects including the McCormick Tribune Campus Center and the master plan and headquarters for Universal Studios Hollywood.

**Alexander Eisenschmidt**  
**Assistant Professor**  
AEisenschmidt.com



Alexander Eisenschmidt is an architect and writer whose research investigates the productive tension between the modern city and architectural form. His writings have appeared in *Architectural Research Quarterly*, *Zeitschrift für Zeithistorische Forschungen*,

*The Architectural Newspaper New York*, and the *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians*. Eisenschmidt was recently the curator for the *Team Chicago: City Works* exhibit at the 2012 Venice Biennale, and the guest editor of *City Catalyst*, an issue of *Architectural Design* magazine (2012).

**Stewart Hicks**  
**Assistant Professor**  
Design With Company  
designwith.co



Stewart Hicks is founding partner of the Chicago-based firm Design With Company (with fellow UIC faculty Allison Newmeyer). Prior to UIC, he held positions at UIUC and the University of Michigan. Hicks has received numerous national and international awards including the Architectural Record Design Vanguard Award and the Young Architect's Forum Award (as Mitnick Roddier Hicks). His collaborative designs and writings have been widely exhibited and published in venues such as *Log*, *bracket*, *MONU*, *Abitare*, *Architectural Record*, and *MARK*.

**Sam Jacob**  
**Clinical Professor**  
Sam Jacob Studio  
samjacob.com



Sam Jacob is the founding director of FAT, where he was responsible for award-winning projects in the UK and abroad including the Heerlijkheid Hoogvliet (NL), Islington Square (UK), and the Sint Lucas Art Academy (NL). Jacob's writings have been widely published in the international architecture and art press,

and he currently writes a regular opinion column for the online magazine Dezeen. He teaches at the AA in London and has also taught at Yale. With FAT and the critic Charles Jencks, he recently guest-coedited *Radical Post Modernism*, an issue of *Architectural Design* (2011). Jacob was co-curator of the British pavilion, *Clockwork Jerusalem*, at the 14th Venice Architecture Biennale.

**Sean Lally**  
**Assistant Professor**  
WEATHERS  
weathers.cc



Sean Lally founded WEATHERS in 2005. Recent projects include the proposal for the Academy of Arts in Tallinn, Estonia and an urban redevelopment of Reykjavik, Iceland. Lally is co-editor and contributor to *SOFTSPACE* and guest edited the *Architectural Design* issue *Energies: New Material Boundaries*. He is also the author of the book *The Air from Other Planets* (Lars Müller, 2013). Lally is the recipient of the 2011–2012 Rome Prize in Landscape Architecture from the American Academy in Rome and one of six winners of the 2012 Architectural League Prize for Young Architects.

**Lluís Ortega**  
**Assistant Professor**  
Sio2 Architecture  
sio2arch.com



Lluís Ortega co-founded F451arquitectura, an internationally awarded and published collaborative practice based in Barcelona, in 1999. Ortega has taught at the Harvard Graduate School of Design, ETSAB, and

the University of Alicante. He has worked as editor of several architectural publications, including *Quaderns* from 2003 to 2005; *2G n14* (Gustavo Gili); *Saques de Esquina in Pretextos* (Moisés Puente); *Digitalización toma el mando* (Gustavo Gili); and *Platform 2008* (Actar).

**José Oubrierie**  
**Visiting Professor**



José Oubrierie is a Professor Emeritus of Architecture at Ohio State University's Knowlton School and previously served as Dean of the University of Kentucky College of Design. From an early training in painting, he went on to study architecture at the École des Beaux-Arts in Paris before working in Le Corbusier's office from 1957 to 1965. His collaborations with Le Corbusier include the Brazil Pavilion, Hotel d'Orsay, Strasbourg Convention Center, Olivetti Offices and Factories in Milan, Venice Hospital, Zurichhorn Pavilion, and Firminy Church, which he completed in 2006. Commissions for his own firm include rebuilding the Esprit Nouveau Pavilion in Bologna and a Computer and Research Center in Fontainebleau. His work has received many awards and has been published internationally, most recently in the book *Architecture With and Without Le Corbusier* (ORO Publishers, 2013), documenting his Miller House in Lexington and the Firminy Church.

**Paul Preissner**  
**Associate Professor**  
Paul Preissner Architects  
paulpreissner.com



Paul Preissner, AIA, is an architect and

educator and founder of Paul Preissner Architects. His work has been included in the International Architecture Biennale Rotterdam and the Buenos Aires International Biennial of Architecture and collected by the Art Institute of Chicago. Preissner has taught at SCI-Arc, held the Hyde Chair at the University of Nebraska, and been a visiting artist at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

**Robert Somol**  
Director, Professor



Robert Somol was appointed Director of the School of Architecture in 2007. An internationally recognized design theorist, Somol has also acted as Professor in the Knowlton School of Architecture at OSU and Visiting Professor at Princeton, and taught design and theory at UCLA from 1997 to 2005. Somol is the editor of *Autonomy and Ideology* (Monacelli Press, 1997) and has served on the editorial boards of *ANY* and *Log*. His writings have appeared in publications ranging from *Assemblage* to *Wired* and his collection of essays, *Nothing to Declare*, is forthcoming from ANY Books and the MIT Press.

**Xavier Vendrell**  
Professor  
Xavier Vendrell Studio  
xaviervendrellstudio.com



Xavier Vendrell founded Xavier Vendrell Studio Chicago/Barcelona, a collaborative practice of architecture, landscape, and design, in 1999. In 2002, the Graham Foundation presented his work in the exhibition *Xavier Vendrell: Retrospective Thoughts on Work in Progress*. In 2005, his work was included in

*Chicago Architecture: Ten Visions* at the Art Institute of Chicago. In 2012, Xavier Vendrell Studio led one of five teams shortlisted in the Navy Pier Pierscape competition.

**Andrew Zago**  
Clinical Professor  
Zago Architecture  
zagoarchitecture.com

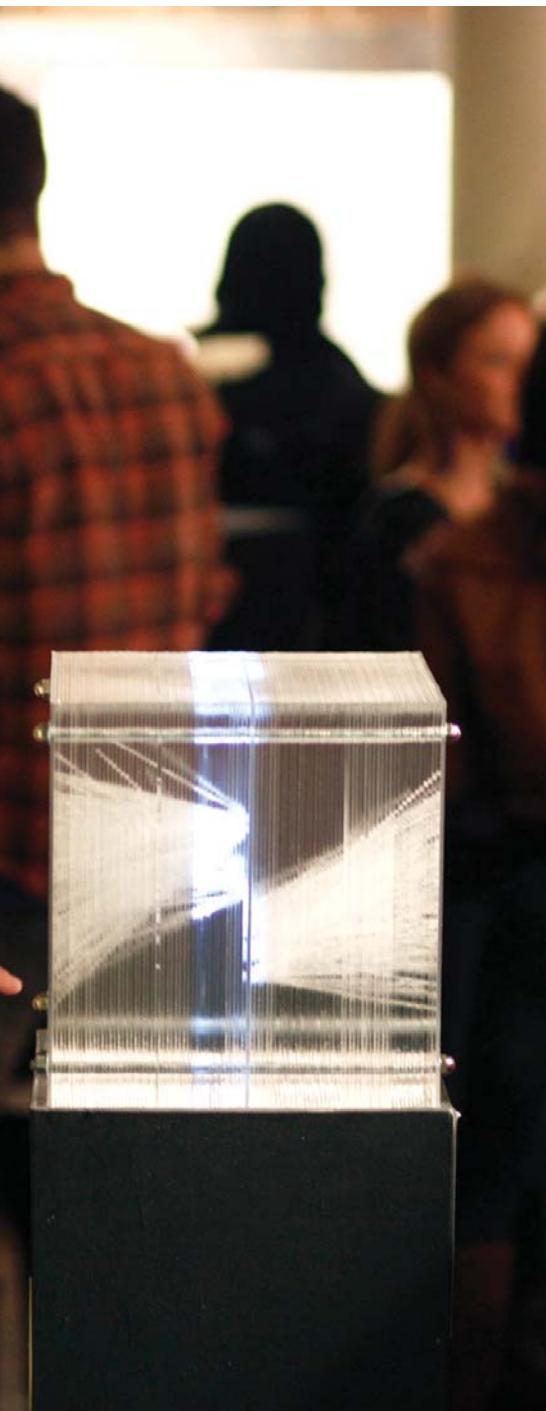


Andrew Zago, principal of Zago Architecture, has completed projects in the US and Korea and has been featured internationally in books, professional journals, and reviews. Notable among the firm's projects are the Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit and a design studio facility for Cornell University's Sibley School of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering. Zago is currently a Faculty of Merit at SCI-Arc, and has previously taught at the City College of New York, Cornell University, the University of Michigan, UCLA, and OSU. In 2011, Zago Architecture was one of five firms selected by the Museum of Modern Art to participate in the workshop and exhibition *Foreclosed: Rehousing the American Dream*.

Additional graduate architecture faculty include Sarah Blankenbaker, David Brown, Judith De Jong, Chris Frye, Grant Gibson, Sarah Herda, Thomas Kelley, Clare Lyster, Andrew Moddrell, Ryan Palider, and Dan Wheeler.

For more information on School of Architecture faculty, visit the Faculty section of [arch.uic.edu](http://arch.uic.edu).





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# School Culture

Revolving around an intensive design and studio culture, the School of Architecture is energized by an environment that enjoys animated polemics and debate, characterized by extreme rigor, frequent irreverence, contagious curiosity, and calculated optimism.

All spaces within A+D Studios operate in support of the School's mission to serve as a platform for discussion and debate. The Ribbon, Octagon, and Ramp Galleries regularly exhibit student and faculty work and have been the sites for *Primitive Delights*, *Visionary Cities*, *Tales from the Crypt*, *Forgeries and Counterfeits*, and the *Six of One, Half-Dozen of Another* exhibition series. Gallery 1100 hosts lectures, debates, and reviews.

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Opening event for *Primitive Delights* faculty exhibition

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# School Culture Events

## Lecture Series

The School's lecture series features between four and eight prominent designers and theorists each semester. Recent lecturers include Jeff Day, Florian Idenburg, Mark Linder, An Te Liu, Michael Webb, and Farshid Moussavi.

## Wednesday|Episodes

Wednesday|Episodes are a curated collection of lively, informal events—screenings, panels, presentations, or debates—for students and faculty that take place mid-week before studio.

## Exhibitions

The School's exhibition program explores architectural concepts and history across a range of media and scales in order to advance the design and curatorial projects of students, faculty, and invited guests. In-progress and final student work is regularly exhibited throughout A+D Studios.

## Conferences

The School of Architecture has hosted several significant conferences and symposia in recent years, including Flip Your Field (the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture West Central Fall Conference), Comic Projections, and the Garofalo Symposium.

## Portfolio Day

As part of the graduate program, students must submit a portfolio of design work completed at UIC. Portfolios are evaluated and rated for content and graphic quality. The best portfolios are chosen for display at Portfolio Day in early February, where they have the chance to receive awards from School of Architecture faculty and alumni. To view student portfolios please visit: <http://www.arch.uic.edu/work.php>

## Career Fair

The Career Fair is held in March of each year. It provides current students with the opportunity to interact and network with the profession and to practice presentation and interview skills. The School invites local and regional firms that are seeking candidates for summer internships and positions after graduation. In advance of the event, the School hosts workshops to help students prepare resumes, websites, and other materials for prospective employers.

## Year End Show

The Year End Show, the School's biggest celebration, takes place on the last Friday of the spring semester. The year's best studio work from all levels of the School's programs is exhibited and awarded by an invited jury of prominent designers and critics. The show also features installations and displays from research seminars and academic and extracurricular groups.

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From top: Alumni voting during Portfolio Day; *Figure* faculty exhibition opening; lecture by Michael Webb of Archigram; *Myth* exhibition opening by 2013–2014 Garofalo Fellow Molly Hunker.





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# School Culture Extracurricular Activities

## National Organizations

The School has active chapters of many national organizations, including the American Institute of Architecture Students (AIAS), the National Organization of Minority Architecture Students (NOMAS), and Arquitectos. Each of these three student groups focuses on establishing a relationship with the professional architecture community and creating social experiences for architecture students.

## Big Dots, Little Dots

Big Dots, Little Dots Student Mentoring Program was established in 2013 to foster dialog between undergraduate and graduate students. The program has several social events, including dinners and movie showings, throughout the school year to encourage students to engage with other students outside of their studio.

## Fresh Meat

*Fresh Meat* is a publication produced and designed by UIC School of Architecture students. In July 2013, the journal won its second consecutive Douglas Haskell award from the Center for Architecture Foundation in New York, an award established to encourage student journalism in architecture.

## Student Advisory Board (SAB)

The SAB provides a regular line of communication among the various classes and between the students and

administration, consulting with the School Director on matters of mutual interest and concern. Each studio year elects two representatives to the Student Advisory Board at the beginning of the fall semester. Recent SAB activities include organizing *Cropped*, an open exhibition of student-selected work that took place in December 2012.

## Studio Berlin

Studio Berlin is a five-week summer design build study abroad program for graduate and undergraduate students in Berlin, Germany. In addition to the design and execution of an installation in the city, participants tour sites of architectural and cultural significance. Students are eligible to receive elective credit upon completion of the workshop.

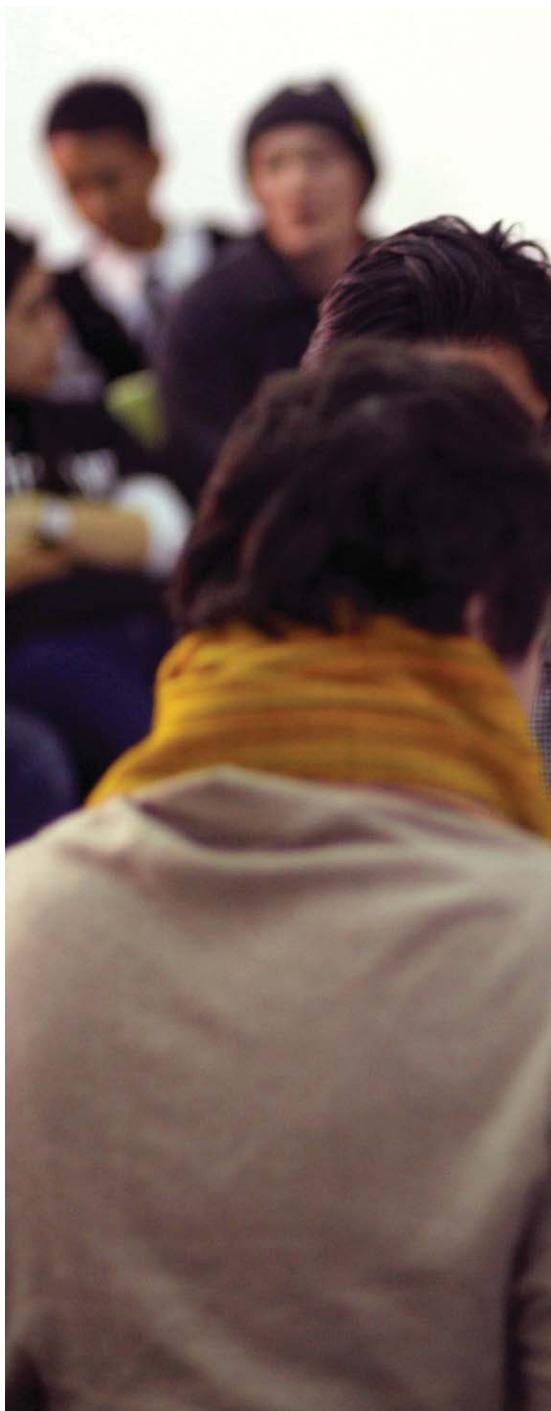
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From top: Annual SAB *Cropped* exhibition; Studio Berlin installation in progress

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# Resources

UIC is home to a dynamic and diverse student body of 27,000 in the midst of a vibrant urban setting. The university aims to provide a supportive and stimulating environment that fosters learning opportunities and development. From educational to recreational programs, UIC offers student services, activities, and programs that enhance learning, helping students transition into graduate school and succeed throughout their studies.



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Faculty discuss their contributions to the *Primitive Delights* exhibition at a Wednesday|Episode



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# Resources Facilities

## **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, allowing them full off-hours access.

## **Graduate Studios**

Graduate studios are located on the third and fourth floors of A+D Studios. Students are assigned a desk space for working and storing supplies. Studios are located in an open space to encourage discussion and a collaborative studio environment. MAD-Crit students are also assigned a desk space within the graduate studios to promote interaction with MArch and MSArch students.

## **Fab Lab**

The School of Architecture and the School of Design recently opened a new Fab Lab, housed within the A+D Studios Building. The facility includes four laser cutters: one Universal Laser System X-660, two Universal Laser Systems VLS 6.60, and a Trotec Speedy 400. The new lab also houses a 3D Systems ZPrinter 450 (composite), a Stratasys Dimension u-Print Plus (ABS), and a Stratasys Objet 30 Pro (UV-cured resin). Additional resources include a Roland LPX600DS Scanner, CNC mill, vinyl cutter, and Zing paper cutters.

## **Print Lab**

The School of Architecture's Print Lab houses eight HP T7100 plotters and three Canon Color ImageRunner copiers capable of scanning and printing on both letter and tabloid size paper. Students are provided with drivers to print to these machines from their laptops over the School's wireless network. Tutorials and lab attendants are available to assist with technical issues.

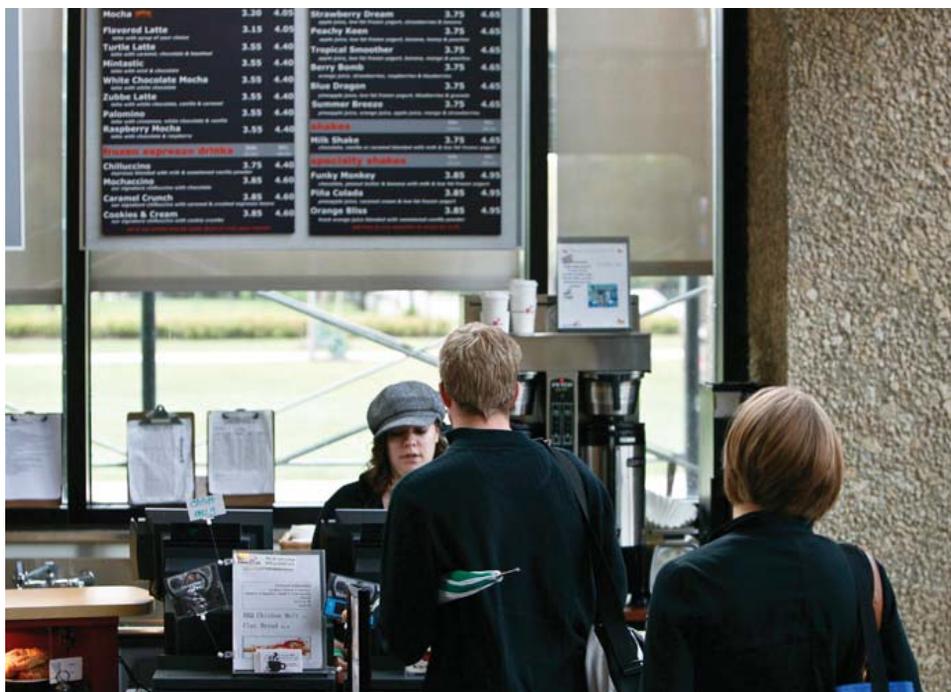
## **Project Lab**

All students in the School of Architecture have access to a staffed and well-equipped Project Lab within the A+D Studios building that contains a full complement of woodworking and metal-working machinery. The Project Lab offers orientation and special topic workshops for students each semester.

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From top: A+D Studios, Fab Lab





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# Resources On Campus

## **Student Recreation Center**

[recreation.uic.edu](http://recreation.uic.edu)

UIC Campus Recreation offers enrolled students state-of-the-art facilities including two pools, two indoor running tracks, a climbing wall, two fitness centers, a bowling alley, hardwood sports courts, spinning, yoga, and more. The Student Recreation Facility is located just across Halsted Street from A+D Studios.

## **Career Development**

[uic.edu/depts/ocs](http://uic.edu/depts/ocs)

The Office of Career Services offers guidance in career development, job search advising, resources, and advice on resume writing and interviewing.

## **Office of International Services**

[ois.uic.edu](http://ois.uic.edu)

OIS coordinates resources for international students and faculty, including immigration and visas, CPT and OPT, and information about university and government policies.

## **Study Abroad Office**

[uic.edu/depts/spec\\_prog/studyabroad](http://uic.edu/depts/spec_prog/studyabroad)

The Study Abroad Office coordinates some faculty-led summer programs; it may be possible to earn credit as an open elective for a program approved by the Director of Graduate Studies.

## **Richard J. Daley Library**

[library.uic.edu](http://library.uic.edu)

The UIC University Library supports, enhances,

and collaborates in the education, research, and service activities of the University. Students have access to more than 2.2 million volumes and 30,000 current journal titles, more than half of which are electronic. The School of Architecture also maintains a library of architecture-specific books and periodicals that students may scan from at no charge.

## **Computer Labs**

[acc.uic.edu](http://acc.uic.edu)

Campus computer labs are available to UIC students, staff, faculty, and authorized guests. There are many labs across campus that are open 24 hours per day, 7 days per week.

## **U-PASS**

[uic.edu/depts/idcenter/upass.shtml](http://uic.edu/depts/idcenter/upass.shtml)

The CTA U-PASS is provided to eligible students with full-time status during enrolled terms. The U-PASS provides unlimited use of CTA trains and buses and is issued at the start of each semester, and expires at the end of each semester.

## **Campus Care**

[uic.edu/hsc/campuscare/](http://uic.edu/hsc/campuscare/)

Campus Care is the insurance plan and provider for currently enrolled students. Students who already have health insurance are able to opt out of this program. Medical care is provided at the on-campus medical offices. The University Village pharmacy takes UIC prescriptions and is located at 722 South Maxwell Street. Refer to the Campus Care website for details.

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From top: Port Center café, autumn just outside A+D Studios

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# Resources In the City

## The School and Its Surroundings

The UIC campus is situated at the crossroads of two major traffic arteries. The CTA Blue Line (which runs to O'Hare Airport and through the Loop) deposits students one hundred yards away from A+D Studios, while several buses stop just outside the building doors. Convenient transportation and a central location make it easy for School students to acclimate themselves to this friendly, easy-to-adopt city. Chicago offers the perfect balance of the opportunities inherent in a big city and the quality of life found living in a small neighborhood.

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## Arts and Culture in the City

Chicago is home to a variety of museums and cultural institutions, many of which are connected to UIC through the activities of faculty, alumni, and students.

### Graham Foundation

#### 4 West Burton Place

Founded in 1956, the Graham Foundation for Advanced Studies in the Fine Arts makes project-based grants to individuals and organizations and produces public programs to foster the development and exchange of ideas about architecture and its role in the arts, culture, and society.

**Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago**  
220 East Chicago Avenue



The Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago (MCA) offers exhibitions of the most thought-provoking art created since 1945. The MCA documents contemporary visual culture through painting, sculpture, photography, video and film, and performance.

### **The Art Institute of Chicago** **111 South Michigan Avenue**

The Art Institute, founded in 1879, has approximately 300,000 works of art in its permanent collection stewarded by eleven curatorial departments and nearly five hundred employees. This collection is housed in eight buildings—nearly one million square feet—at the heart of Chicago’s downtown

### **Chicago Architecture Foundation** **224 South Michigan Avenue**

Located within close proximity to Millennium Park and the Art Institute, the Chicago Architecture Foundation (CAF) attracts both tourists and locals alike. CAF is dedicated to advancing public interest and education in architecture and design through a program of tours, exhibitions, lectures, and special events.

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### **Where to Go and Where to Live**

housing.uic.edu

UIC offers housing for single graduate students on West Campus, which is accessible by UIC shuttles and CTA buses.

Since UIC’s campus is easily accessible via public transportation, most graduate students choose to live off campus in one of Chicago’s many distinctive neighborhoods.

### **West Loop and West Town**

Transit: Green line Morgan/Canal, Blue line to LaSalle/Clinton, #8 Halsted, #126 Jackson  
Close to the Loop and UIC, and includes

Greektown. Many restaurants, bars, and grocery stores.

### **Wicker Park, Bucktown, Logan Square**

Transit: Blue Line to Division, Damen, or Logan Square; #55 Milwaukee  
The vanguard of music, nightlife, and fashion in Chicago. Housing favors multiple residents, few grocery stores.

### **Lincoln Park**

Transit: Red, Brown, or Purple Line to Fullerton, #8 Halsted  
Includes North Avenue Beach and Lincoln Park Zoo; a popular neighborhood with upscale retailers with a wide selection of restaurants and bars. Housing for both single and multiple residents, grocery stores within easy walking distance.

### **Pilsen**

Transit: Pink Line to 18th, #8 Halsted  
Known for its large Latino community and authentic Mexican restaurants with a recent influx of art galleries. Housing includes some new construction tailored to students.

### **South Loop**

Transit: Red Line to Harrison, Orange/Green/Red to Roosevelt, #12 Roosevelt, #18 18th, #29 State  
A relatively new residential neighborhood; housing is mainly towers. Shopping, theaters, groceries nearby; close to campus, the lake, and the Loop.

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From top: *Cecil Balmond: Solid Void*, *Graham Foundation*; *Chicagoisms*, *The Art Institute of Chicago*; *Ronan and Erwan Bouroullec: Bivouac*, *MCA Chicago*

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# Where are they now?

The architecture programs at UIC are structured to produce graduates able to think, negotiate, and collaborate through all media of design; to direct diverse project teams; and to generate design artifacts and arguments with a contemporary cultural and disciplinary resonance. UIC graduates go on to work in architecture and design firms around the country and around the world.

ADEPT	Koo and Associates
AECOM	NJIT
architecture RED	Perimeter
Art Institute of Chicago	Architects
Bestor Architects	Perkins + Will
BIG	Port A+U
bKL Architecture	Ralph Lauren
Birstool+Lynch	Rex
Bruce Mau Design	SAIC
Bureau Spectular	SHop Architects
Cannon Design	Smith+Gill
CCA	Skidmore, Owings & Merrill
Cornell University	Stevenson + Wilkinson
FCL ETH	Studio Gang
Gehry Partners	Universidad Nacional de Rosario
Gensler	UrbanLab
Graham Foundation	Wallin/Gomez
GREC Architects	Walt Disney
IIT	Wheeler Kearns
JGMA	Work AC
Johnston/Mark Lee	Worn Jerabek
Jordan Mozer and Associates	

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# Alumni Profiles



## Maren Allen

MArch, 2013

BA in Comparative Literature, University of Chicago, 2008

Maren studied comparative literature at the University of Chicago and spent a year abroad in Paris. After taking a year off between undergraduate and graduate studies, she started the MArch at UIC, where she received awards including the AIA Henry Adams Award of Merit and the Year End Show Director's Prize. Maren has worked for Bjarke Ingles Group in Copenhagen and recently began work at Gehry Partners in Los Angeles.

"I applied to graduate school from a background outside of architecture and when it came to selecting programs, I was a bit at a loss as to what I was looking for. UIC was a place where students were clearly producing work with an agenda, and that work had an exuberance to it that I was really drawn to."



## Dirk van der Meij

MArch Exchange Student, 2014

BArch, Technical University Delft, 2012

As a student of UIC's exchange program

with the Technical University of Delft, Dirk attended UIC during the Spring 2014 semester. While at UIC, Dirk studied with the second-year students and interned with Assistant Professor Jimenez Lai at Bureau Spectacular.

"UIC is unique to me for its conceptual, out of the box design thinking. I think the totally different approach is a valuable addition to my academic experience. Next year I am graduating back at the TU Delft in the Netherlands and I hope to combine the different approaches in my graduation project."



**Jayne Kelley**

MAD-Crit, 2011

BA in Art History and Economics, Georgetown University, 2007

Jayne enrolled in the MAD-Crit program while working as the Editor and Staff Associate for the School of Architecture. At UIC, Jayne co-managed and designed all school publications, and coordinated public events, exhibitions, lecture series, and continuing education programs. One of Jayne's essays, "The Portland Building (True Hollywood Story)," presented at the MAD-Crit final review was published in the *Journal of Architectural Education*. After working as a Curatorial Intern Jayne is now Editor of publications at the Canadian Centre for Architecture (CCA) in Montreal.

"For me, the transition from UIC to the CCA was a natural one—I've been able to apply the kind of work and thinking I was doing at UIC very directly to the exhibition, publication, and research activities I've pursued here

in Montreal. The MAD-Crit honed my ability to formulate arguments and communicate them in multiple formats, whether in writing or graphically."



**Evgeniya Plotnikova**

MArch, 2013

BArch, Novosibirsk State Academy of Architecture and Fine Arts, Russia, 2010

Originally from Russia, Evgeniya came to UIC and participated in *Fresh Meat* and the Department of Urban Speculation. Evgeniya's *WaterPulse* project was selected as the Frank Szilvasy Best in Show Award at the UIC 2013 Year End Show and received the 2013 Schiff Foundation Fellowship. *WaterPulse* is now part of the permanent collection of architectural drawings at The Art Institute of Chicago. While at UIC, Evgeniya worked with both Associate Professor Sarah Dunn (UrbanLab) and Assistant Professor Sean Lally (Weathers/Sean Lally) on numerous projects and competitions.

"UIC has an incredible selection of faculty that promotes different opinions and approaches. Since many of the professors are practicing architects, students have a great opportunity to receive academic knowledge and be involved with the actual projects in the field. This collaboration and close relationship between faculty and students has many great benefits for any design education."



**Taka Shinomoto**

MArch, 2011

Bachelor of Engineering in  
Architecture, Meijo University, 2008

Originally from Nagoya, Japan, Taka took to Chicago immediately. While at UIC, he was named a finalist in Portfolio Day and participated in the Studio Berlin summer study abroad program. Currently, Taka is working in Tokyo for AXS SATOW, a firm with over three hundred employees across five branches in Japan and China.

"UIC helped me to get diverse ways of thinking—Jimenez Lai, Sean Lally, [and 2010 Greenwald Visiting Critic] Jeff Kipnis influenced me a lot. Their styles are quite different from Japanese architects' ways. Now my interest is to import their ideas to Japan. In the future, I want to be a teacher in Japan, and I would like to make a collaborative studio with UIC."



**Jared Macken**

MArch, 2011

BFA in Graphic Design,  
Wichita State University, 2002

Jared worked as a graphic designer before pursuing his MArch. While at UIC, Jared was a member of the Department of Urban Speculation and *Fresh Meat*, and received numerous teaching assistantships. Jared is currently pursuing

his PhD at the ETH Zürich. With fellow alumni and former UIC faculty member Alex Lehnerer, he recently completed a book, *The Western Town: A Theory of Aggregation*, which received a grant from the Graham Foundation.

"It is really the community of professors and students that make UIC the perfect place to learn. The professors are interested in students' work and ideas. They invest just as much as the students."



**Mark Rowntree &  
Julia Sedlock**

MArch, 2012

BA in Ceramic Design, Glasgow School of Art,  
2000 (Mark)

MArch, 2010, MADCrit, 2012

BA in Earth & Environmental Sciences,  
Wesleyan University, 2001 (Julia)

Admitted to the two-year advance standing MArch program, Julia was a founding member of *Fresh Meat*. Following the MArch, Julia was admitted to the MAD-Crit program and also taught in the freshman studio. Before pursuing an MArch at UIC, Mark was a practicing ceramic artist. Together at UIC, Mark and Julia worked on Associate Professor David Brown's project, "Available City," for the 2012 Venice Biennale. Immediately after UIC, Mark and Julia founded Cosmo Design Factory and their practice is currently based out of Hillsdale, in upstate New York.

"I'd say the single most important thing that we took from UIC was the ability to take a position. We had an opportunity to start our own design firm immediately after graduating from UIC. The only reason we had

the confidence to seize that opportunity was because we had spent our time at UIC learning how to define and defend an architectural territory on our own terms."



**Sowmya Sudarsanam**

MSArch, 2013

BArch, Anna University, Chennai, India, 2010

Prior to enrolling in the one-year post-professional MSArch program at UIC, Sowmya worked in architecture offices in Chennai and Bangalore. She participated in the AA/UIC Global School and was the recipient of several scholarships and assistantships, including a position in the Dean's office of the College of Architecture, Design, and the Arts.

"UIC has encouraged me to think very critically about my designs and most importantly, motivated me to go beyond the realms of existing and 'practical' constraints, giving me the freedom to imagine new concepts."



**Kevin Meyer**

MArch, 2012

BA in Art History and Criticism,  
University of Nebraska, 2004

At UIC, Kevin was an active member of *Fresh Meat* and on the Student Advisory Board. Kevin also worked as a lab technician and a teaching assistant. He began interning at the Chicago-based firm JGMA while at UIC and became a full-time Project Designer after graduating. As a member at JGMA, Kevin returns to UIC every

spring for the architecture career fair and is an active member of A3, the UIC School of Architecture alumni association.

"UIC's connections to practice in Chicago, and internationally, are very strong. I would not be at JGMA without the UIC Career Fair or the appreciation and respect that I know offices have for the level of architectural thought and practice that happens at UIC."



## Architecture at Chicago

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