tectonic, land ethic, integration, urban, interdisciplinary, design-build, + advanced computation studios

master of architecture
honored in the desert
cutting-edge material + environmental research
The School of Architecture at the University of Arizona is devoted to professional education of architects and combines a place-based design approach, honed in the extreme climate and exquisite landscape of the Sonoran desert, with cutting-edge material and environmental research and hands-on learning.

The School values architecture as the intertwining of sensible, technical, historical, intellectual and aesthetic activities. Architecture to this end is a research based creative practice. While inflected by place, material circumstances, and expressive of the ethos of our time and place, Master of Architecture students develop a portable global sensibility, empowering them to develop critical modes of practice in our region and around the globe.

- **m.arch III**  
  3+ year: non-architecture baccalaureate degree

- **m.arch II**  
  2+ year: pre-professional, undergraduate architecture degree

- **m.arch I**  
  1+ year: NAAB-Accredited Bachelor of Architecture degree.

The 1-3 year Master of Architecture curriculum is formed around a carefully orchestrated series of design studios and synthesized support topics that allow for the mastery of fundamentals and advanced processes with the experimentation required for critical practice. The curriculum culminates in a master’s project that includes future oriented research and a design project.

While at the UA, architecture students have opportunities to participate in interdisciplinary studios with master of landscape architecture and planning students and may pursue double degrees in Landscape Architecture (MLA) or Planning (MSP), in the Master of Science in Architecture program (MS.Arch), or earn a Certificate in Heritage Conservation.
The design studio is the heart of architectural education.

All students participate in a summer immersion studio to become familiar with Tucson, campus, CAPLA's resources, and to develop fundamental design thinking and making abilities.

M.Arch III students continue into the foundation year, introducing them to design practices, to structural, environmental, and material properties and principles, site and program, and contemporary issues and theories related to the built environment.

The second year of the program, when M.Arch II students join in, builds upon these foundations with more advanced courses with the aim of students integrating their understanding into the design of comprehensive projects of medium to large scale public buildings.

The final year is an opportunity for students to tune their studio experience and education towards individual areas of research. During the fall semester students select from a spectrum of “vertical” design studio options around topics and methods such as design-build, advanced digital technology applications, interdisciplinary and community engaged projects, and urban scale issues. Over the year students also develop their Masters Project, with preparatory research in the fall and dedicated design studio in the spring.
Throughout the Master of Architecture curriculum students also take courses in theories and history of architecture, develop design communication abilities, and an understanding of the many facets of the professional practice of architecture.

Central to teaching at CAPLA are the laboratories. The Materials Lab is world class—with CNC laser cutting, 3D printing and milling capacity, vacuum forming, and separate shop areas for metals, wood, casting, and working with glass, ceramics and plastics in addition to traditional materials.

The Energy Lab, including a wind tunnel, heliodon, and overcast sky simulator, is integral to the fundamentals of the environment course and it supports studio work as well as being home to the MS.Arch in Energy Conservation Program, with several courses in the Energy Lab being open to Master of Architecture students.

Each semester studio is complimented by parallel courses in technology (structures, materials and methods, and environmental controls), in design communications, history, and "theory, and professional practice. Our structures teaching is unique in its focus on physical modeling, testing and breaking of structures. Materials and methods teaching pairs hands on exploration of materials with hand and digital drawing and modeling explorations of assemblies. Similarly in environmental controls courses, we both test physical models in the energy lab while simulating environmental conditions digitally.

Particularly in environmental controls and the materials and methods courses students gain familiarity with sustainable practices in relation to the region’s climate and traditional material practices while experimenting with and testing new materials and methods in the design of a “well-tempered” architecture.
Faculty Research Areas

- Critical Practice
- Regional Architecture
- Pedagogy of Practice Education related to Design-Build
- Design + Energy Conservation
- Advanced Material Technologies
- Advanced Computation + Design Methodologies
- File to CNC Fabrication Processes
- History + Theory of Architecture
- Housing, Campus architecture + other building typologies
- Experimental + Lightweight Structures
- Future Cities / Desert Cities
- Design for resiliency in relation to Climate Change
- Urban Issues of Borderlands
- Art + Urban Activism
- Theater + Performance Space Design + Theory
- Place + Wellbeing

Graduate Architecture Faculty

Dr. Nader Chalfour, Prof., MS.Arch
Christopher Domin, Assoc. Prof.
Jason Griffiths, lecturer
Darci Hazelbaker, lecturer
Michael Kothke, lecturer
Valerie Lane, lecturer
Brad Lang, lecturer
Chris Lasch, lecturer
Bill Mackey, lecturer
Wil Peterson, lecturer
Paul Reimer, lecturer
Dr. Clare Robinson, Asst. Prof.
Teresa Rosano, lecturer
Dr. Lisa Shrenk, Assoc. Prof.
Dr. Shane Smith, Asst. Prof., MS.Arch
Beth Weinstein, Assoc. Prof., Chair
m.arch III

3+ year: for students with non-architecture baccalaureate degrees / international students not participating in the summer immersion

m.arch II

2+ year: for students with pre-professional / international undergraduate architecture degree
CAPLA offers a 5-week summer program in Orvieto, Italy, that the School of Architecture is now developing into a full semester program. The 2014 Orvieto summer session focused on structural innovations in Italian architecture, in addition to a summer living in an Italian hill town, with excursions to visit Renaissance masterworks by Brunelleschi in Florence, ancient and Baroque structures in Rome, to works by Veneto architect Carlo Scarpa, and the Venice Biennale. In 2014 a second summer session in Chile focused on South American modern architecture and urbanism, with travels from Santiago to the Atacama Desert. The summer session in 2015 will travel to Scandinavia, with an emphasis on high-performance and sustainable architecture. For more about those trips see #caplastudyabroad.

The School of Architecture also partners with several schools of architecture in Australia, plus Auckland, Copenhagen, Liverpool, and others for semester long exchanges programs.

In addition to these extended travels, courses regularly include research trips within the region and to contrasting natural and urban environments such as New York, Chicago, Seattle, and Mexico City.
CAPLA Lecture Series

The College’s Lecture Series offers an opportunity for our students, the very people who will impact our professions in the future, to listen, learn and dialogue with some of the most sought-after people related to our professions.

The 2014–2015 LECTURE SERIES: Critical Practice focuses on contemporary critical practices in architecture, landscape architecture, and planning. Our speakers present their approaches to architectural theory and practice—to advanced topics, methodologies, and agenda pertinent to today and our future—first hand.

M.Arch Master Classes

Each year several guest speakers participating in the CAPLA lecture series offer a master class or seminar for students in the Master of Architecture Program.

This tradition initiated in the spring of 2012 with a series of seminars with Finish Architect, professor and author of The Eyes of the Skin, Juhani Pallasmaa. The tradition has continued with a seminar around the topic of urban interventions and activism with Professor Dana Cuff (UCLA) and on the topic of Comparative Critical Analysis with Professor Kenneth Frampton, author of the forthcoming Genealogy of Modern Architecture: A Comparative Critical Analysis of Built Form (Columbia University GSAPP).

Architect Steve Christer (Studio Granda, Reykjavik) led a sketch design problem around the absence and presence of water. Most recently Tod Williams and Billie Tsien (TWBTA, New York) had students and faculty return to the unpredictable practice of drawing by hand, probing invisible spaces with mind and pencil.
opportunities for leadership and contribution through student organizations

• **Student Council**: represents students to the college administration.

• **AIAS**: The School’s very active AIAS chapter is both a social club and a service organization. It has more than 45 members. Regular events sponsored by AIAS include:
  - Photography Competition
  - Portfolio Charrette (two seminars with local professionals)
  - Faculty Dinner Auctions (fund raiser)
  - Tucson and Phoenix Firm Crawls (jointly sponsored w/ AIAS at ASU)
  - Beaux Arts Ball
  - Canstruction (an AIA-Southern Arizona community event)
  - First Year/Fourth Year Mentorship Program
  - Architecture + Firm Tours, including: Rob Paulus Architects, Rick Joy Architects, DUST Design Build, and Richard + Bauer

• **Freedom by Design**: a AIAS community service program that utilizes the talents of architecture students to impact the lives of people in the community through modest design and construction solutions.

• **USGBC**: in collaboration with the University’s Office of Sustainability, the UA chapter of the U.S. Green Building Council meets biweekly and its current projects include:
  - The Lutron Lighting Upgrade Program
  - Engagement with Habitat for Humanity
Adrian Smith Gordon Gill
Perkins and Will (Chicago),
Lake|Flato (Austin), Gluck+ (New York),
Architecture International (San Francisco), SRG (Portland), Tate Snyder Kimsey (Reno),
MulvannyG2 architecture (Bellevue, WA), KG + D Architecture (D.C.),
Boulder Associates (Sacramento), Construction Zone (Phoenix),
Seaver Franks, Repp McLain Design and Construction, SEI Design Group,
Line and Space, and Rob Paulus Architects (Tucson).

Several are continuing at the UA to earn a second degree: Master of Landscape Architecture or Master of Science in Planning.

Others have begun their own design-build practices and have broken ground on several projects.