capla

college of architecture + planning + landscape architecture

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

master of architecture

honied in the desert

cutting-edge material + environmental research

Arizona
The 2-3 year Master of Architecture curriculum is formed around a carefully orchestrated and synthesized series of design studios and topics that allow for the mastery of fundamentals and development of advanced processes with 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 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
- **+ mla**
- **+ msp**
- **+ ms.arch**
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 Robotic, CNC laser cutting, 3D printing and milling, 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 learning principles regarding environments; the lab 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.
Faculty Research Areas

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

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
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, Portland, Seattle, and Mexico City.

M.Arch students in their final year are eligible to participate in CAPLA’s fall semester program in Orvieto, Italy. This includes a design studio focused on urban issues and elective courses on topics such as structural innovations in Italian architecture. The semester includes 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. Students also enjoy life in an Italian hill town.

Summer programs vary each year. In 2014 students travelled to Chile to study South American modern architecture and urbanism, with travels from Santiago to the Atacama Desert. The 2015 and 2017 summers explore Scandinavian cities, with an emphasis on high-performance and sustainable architecture. The 2016 summer program took students to Japan, exploring the micro-scale of details and macro-scale of cities. For more about summer programs see #caplastudyabroad.

The School of Architecture also partners with several schools of architecture in Australia, plus Auckland [NZ], Copenhagen [DK], Liverpool [UK], and others for semester long exchanges programs.
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 LECTURE SERIES each year is topical—Critical Practice (2014-15), Craft (2015-16), Expansion (2016-17)—and focused 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, workshop 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 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. 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. Most recently students explored the potentials of GIGA-mapping with Marie Davidova (collaborative collective, Prague).
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 with AIAS at ASU)
  - Beaux Arts Ball
  - Canstruction (an AIA-Southern Arizona community event)
  - Architecture + Firm Tours

• **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

• **PUENTE**: supports Spanish-speakers and non-Spanish-speakers alike in being active participants in the school’s culture and service to the College, Tucson and border communities.
Adrian Smith + Gordon Gill
Perkins and Will (Chicago),
Lake|Flato (Austin), Gluck+ (New York),
Perkins + Eastman (Palo Alto), Studios Architecture (San Francisco),
SERA Architects and SRG (Portland), MulvannyG2 architecture (Bellevue, WA),
Boulder Associates (Sacramento), Studio PBA (Denver), KG + D Architecture (D.C.),
Chen+Suchart (Phoenix), AIA Southern Arizona Chapter (Tucson)
Seaver Franks, Repp Mclain Design and Construction, SEI Design Group,
Concept Lighting Lab, 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.

Where are our grads working?

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