

# Architecture

## Course 4

The Department of Architecture provides both a deep and broad education in the field of architecture within the context of a leading school of science and technology. Situated in MIT's rich and intense educational environment, the program emphasizes the interconnected relationship between architectural design; building technology; computation; history, theory, and criticism; and art. The department's extensive offerings reflect the program's commitment to the cultural, social, political, technological, and ecological issues of the built environment. By utilizing a rigorous and interdisciplinary approach throughout the program, our students are challenged to be creative, innovative, and responsible leaders in the field.

### Architecture at MIT

The Bachelor of Science in Architecture (BSA) curriculum is carefully structured to establish an intellectual context for students to develop an understanding of architecture as a form of contemporary cultural production tied to larger social, economic, and political issues. The range of studios, lectures, workshops, and seminars provides an active learning environment in which individual creativity can be nurtured. The program is continually evolving to engage new ways of thinking about architecture and architectural education.

Architectural design students have the opportunity to study abroad at the Technical University at Delft or Hong Kong University in the fall term of their senior year. Design students are encouraged — and students in all other discipline fields within the department are required — to produce a senior thesis comprised of original research.

Approximately more than 300 students register in the department each year, including about 50 are undergraduates. The department offers over 120 courses annually, taught by 35 permanent faculty members.

### Undergraduate Program

The department offers two degree programs for undergraduates — the Bachelor of Science in

Architecture (BSA) and the Bachelor of Science in Architecture Studies (BSAS). The BSA includes five different disciplinary streams: Architecture Design; Design and Computation; Building Technology; Art, Culture and Technology; and the History, Theory and Criticism of Architecture and Art. The majority of students in the department choose architecture design, and many go to graduate school to earn a Master of Architecture.

Most states require that an individual intending to become an architect hold an accredited degree. There are two types of degrees that are accredited by the National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB): the Bachelor of Architecture, which requires a minimum of five years of study; and the Master of Architecture, which requires a minimum of three years of study following an unrelated bachelor's degree, or two years following a related pre-professional bachelor's degree. These professional degrees are structured to educate those who aspire to licensure as architects.

The four-year, pre-professional degree (BSA with a concentration in architectural design) is not accredited by NAAB. The pre-professional degree is useful for those desiring a strong foundation in the field of architecture as preparation for either continued education in a professional degree program or for employment options in design- or architecture-related areas such as landscape architecture, urban planning, visual arts, media arts and architecture, or art history.

### Research

Architecture students can take advantage of a number of special facilities at MIT, such as the Media Laboratory, the Energy Lab, and the Department of Urban Studies and Planning.

Every January during the Independent Activities Period, the department organizes an internship program through which juniors, seniors, and first-year graduate students

work in local architectural offices. This experience provides students with valuable hands-on training.

### **Post-Baccalaureate Opportunities**

Approximately 75 percent of undergraduates in the department go on to graduate school to earn a Master of Architecture degree. Some students, however, have entered directly into the professional field after earning a bachelor's degree. Others enter into advanced degree programs in other areas of design, building technology, urban design, or architecture and art history.

### **Contact Information**

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The MIT Course Catalog contains further information on the Institute, including all graduate and undergraduate courses and programs. For details on ordering the course catalogue, please visit the MIT Press Bookstore website at <http://web.mit.edu/bookstore/www/bulletin.html>.

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