MASTER OF ARCHITECTURE PROGRAM

In Colorado's only graduate architecture program, we prepare students for entry into the profession and licensure. Our mission is to lead in the discovery, communication and application of knowledge in the discipline of architecture by integrating theory and practice. In this collaborative educational model, environmental, economic, social, cultural, aesthetic and ethical concerns are fundamental.

Our program responds and aligns with the evolving nature of professional practice. Collaborative work environments prize the critical thinkers, problem-solving team players, builders and leaders with excellent communication skills that we graduate. Recognizing that the practice of architecture is now global, we provide students with international perspectives and experiences giving them a competitive edge when they enter the profession.

Students whose undergraduate degree was not a design degree will take about 3 years to complete; those who have an undergraduate design degree will likely receive credit for courses previously taken and can complete typically in about two years. The program provides the skills and bodies of knowledge nationally specified for graduate study in architecture and is fully accredited by the National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB).

M ARCH

Maryam Amrollohi sits below "Purple Patterns and Alternative Ceiling Grids," student work she created with Kristin Bevis, Jenn Leech, William Otte and Guo Xiaoju in Intro to Digital Fabrication, Fall 2012. Photograph by Clark Thenhaus.
CAREER PATHS OF GRADUATES

Most MArch students enroll in the program intending to become licensed architects. Many recent graduates are now intern architects or designers, completing the “experience” requirement for licensure. They stay in Denver at local firms or work at other firms across the country.

Many at mid-career hold the titles of architect, senior architect, senior designer or project manager. Some are presidents of their own small firms. One leads a non-profit organization that works on green building development and sustainable production methods in developing countries. Many of our alumni are now principals at award-winning firms with local and international practices.

Graduates also have taken jobs related to architecture at the Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, and at real estate investment, construction, civil engineering and land development, and campus planning firms. Some graduates choose teaching, in architecture and design programs here and around the country.

SPECIAL OPPORTUNITIES

Leading technologies: digital tools and state-of-the-art design fabrication shop, LIDAR 3-D laser scanning technology to document structures, and a Visual Resource Center. We teach both digital and manual graphics skills, with courses in sketching, drawing and ink wash as well as the latest parametric and digital fabrication design technologies.

Sustainability areas: courses in Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED) training and new approaches such as the 2030 Challenge.

International study opportunities:
- Collaborative design studios with Dar Al-Hekma University in Saudi Arabia, discovering new ways to preserve cultures and enhance global initiatives in sustainable urban design.
- Opportunities to develop international partnerships with our diverse body of international and domestic students.
- Travel study courses to Rome, Finland, Turkey, Thailand or India.

Design-Build Certificate: our award-winning program has taken students to sites including Colorado communities, the Navajo Nation, Guatemala, and on local non-profit projects.

Classical Architecture special topic area: courses qualify students to apply for the Certificate in Classical Architecture from the Institute of Classical Architecture & Art in New York.

Aspen Workshop: students work with noted architects in their offices on weekly sketch vignettes for a project unique to each office and on a site within walking distance of the venue.

Extensive civic engagement options: paid internships at the college’s Colorado Center for Community Development.

Research assistantships: project and field-based opportunities at the college’s Center of Preservation Research.

Recognition of outstanding student work: via Studio Awards, Design Excellence Awards, and AIA Denver’s Young Architects Awards Gala.
LOCATION IN DOWNTOWN DENVER

There is no better place to study architecture than in Denver. CU Denver is part of the Auraria Campus, home to one fifth of all higher education students in Colorado. Our newly renovated building is located across Cherry Creek near the heart of campus. We are situated in Denver’s lower downtown (LoDo), a historic district of brick buildings filled with apartments, vibrant shops, restaurants, and galleries. The Cherry Creek recreation trail connects to almost 850 miles of paved bike paths throughout the metro area. Denver is one of the first cities in the United States to launch a European-style bike-sharing program with 80+ automated stations around town. Many students ride to school, or use the Eco-Pass on the bus and light-rail network.

Denver is the largest urban center in a 500-mile radius, and serves as the cultural, intellectual and economic capital of the expansive Rocky Mountain region. It has the largest city park system in the United States; including the Denver Mountain Parks its total park acreage would cover Manhattan Island in New York. Denver benefits from a legacy of civic investment and progressive planning, and is seen as a national model for innovation in contemporary planning and design. Professional designers and planners participate in our program, bringing relevant professional experience directly into our design studios and seminar classes. These professional firms and agencies provide opportunities for internships and employment.

Denver supports great design. Some of the biggest national and international names in the field, including Michael Graves, Daniel Libeskind, I.M. Pei, Philip Johnson, David Adjaye and Brad Cloepfil, have designed important buildings for the city. Gio Ponti’s only building in North America is the Denver Art Museum.

Denver sits at the eastern edge of the Rocky Mountains, one of the most spectacular natural settings in the world. The mountains provide valuable natural and strategic resources, and abundant recreational amenities including some of the world’s top ski resorts. The Rockies also present interesting challenges for designers and planners working in this region, who have to manage continued population growth while protecting the fragile eco-system.
ADMISSIONS
The College of Architecture and Planning welcomes applications to our graduate programs from students with a variety of professional and educational backgrounds. The goal for faculty is to admit students who are likely to succeed in completing the requirements for the degree and whose interests fit with its educational capacities. All of the required application materials help us to evaluate your potential for graduate study and to pair your interests with our strengths. No one component (such as a GRE score, if required) ensures admission nor precludes it; we make a judgment based on the entire application. Students are admitted to begin classes in fall semester only. Please see our website for deadlines as they may change.

Required materials for application to the Master of Architecture:
☐ Online application
☐ Application Fee ($50 for U.S. students, $75 for International students)
☐ Statement of purpose
☐ Three letters of recommendation
☐ Transcripts from all undergraduate institutions (except study abroad experiences)
☐ Proof of English language proficiency (International students, only)
☐ GRE (not required, but recommended if undergraduate GPA is below 3.0)
☐ Portfolio that showcases your best work. Students with a degree in architecture are expected to include studio work. Students with no background in architecture should demonstrate their creative abilities through whatever media they are comfortable. Please see our website for detailed instructions for portfolio submission.

For more information, see http://cap.ucdenver.edu>MARCH>Admissions.