



Department of Architecture + Interiors

GUIDELINES FOR ARCHITECTURE THESIS PROJECTS 2012-13

THE ARCHITECTURAL THESIS PROJECT

THESIS PROPOSAL

THESIS PROGRAM

THESIS ADVISOR

GRADING

NAAB CRITERIA

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY

SCHEDULE

BIBLIOGRAPHY/RESOURCES

Course Prefix & Number: ARCH 496/ARCH 497/ARCH 498
Course Title: **Thesis I, Thesis II & Thesis III**
Term: Fall 2012/Winter 2013/Spring 2013
Quarter Credit Hours: 8 cr/quarter
Time: Mondays, 6pm – 10 pm and as announced by Thesis Advisor.
Location: 3rd and 4th Floor Architecture Studios, 3501 Market Street
Prerequisites: ARCH 363 Studio 6-3, min. grade D,
 ARCH 143, ARCH 134 or ARCH 153, ARCH 263, CIVE 263,
 All min. Grade C-
Co-requisites: None.
Curriculum Category: Design
Instructor(s): Rachel Schade (Thesis Coordinator), Joanne Aiken, Sherman Aronson,
 John Blatteau, Charles Dagit, Robert Nalls, Jahan Sheikholeslami, others
 TBA

Course Description: **Catalog Description**
 An individually structured yearlong design problem that enables students to work independently and explore complex issues in depth. Periodic individual review sessions are scheduled with faculty adviser.

Student Performance Criteria: **NAAB (National Accreditation Board) Conditions for Accreditation & Student Performance Criteria:** This course addresses student performance criteria required for professional accreditation of this architecture program. These criteria consist of specified abilities and understandings that graduating students must demonstrate. The following criteria are covered in this course:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| A1. Communication Skills | B3. Sustainability |
| A2. Design Thinking Skills | B4. Site Design |
| A3. Visual Communication Skills | B5. Life Safety |
| A4. Technical Documentation | B8. Environmental Systems |
| A5. Investigative Skills | B9. Structural Systems |
| A7. Use of Precedents | B10. Building Envelope Systems |
| A8. Ordering Systems Skills | B11. Building Service Systems |
| B1. Pre-Design | B.12 Building Materials & |
| B2. Accessibility | Assemblies |

The 2009 NAAB Conditions for Accreditation can be found on the NAAB website at <http://www.naab.org/>. The descriptions of the Student Performance Criteria, listed on all course syllabi, can be found in this document. This link to the NAAB website is also posted on the Department of Architecture + Interiors website listed in the “Resources” link under “Education”:
<http://drexel.edu/westphal/undergraduate/ARCH/Resources/>

THESIS PROPOSAL

The purpose of Thesis is to allow the student to pursue an independent line of study for an extended period in considerable depth bringing together various skills from studio and classroom which have been acquired over the previous five or six years. It is an in-depth study of a topic of interest to the student. The Thesis is also a comprehensive summary of what has been learned to date, so technical competence must be exhibited in all aspects of a Thesis project. Thesis projects will not only be judged on the quality of work presented, but also on the processes used to produce it.

A Thesis should include research, program analysis and development, site analysis and selection, schematic building design, and preliminary building design as its basic scope. The expected effort must be commensurate with the time commitment - a yearlong project - and the level of expertise required of a thesis student. The acceptability of a Proposal will be partly determined by the level of investigation required. In a large and complex project, for example, all of the items above might not be included in the work program. In a relatively simple project, however, detailed investigations in all the above categories would be expected.

In general, the project should be larger than a single-family house. Modest projects, similar to programs attempted in Studio 2 or 3, for example, must include investigations at both Intermediate and Final Reviews that go well beyond those contained in a basic architectural presentation of plans, sections, and elevations.

A Thesis project, which concentrates on issues of large-scale development, must include architectural content that demonstrates the relationship of the project to built form. The clarity of the problem statement, the relative complexity of the problem, and a judgment of the ability of the student to deal with the problem will determine acceptability. Projects which are poorly defined or which are too open-ended to permit the clear understanding of the limits of the problem will not be accepted. The appropriate architectural content for a large scale Thesis will be determined in discussion with the student's Thesis Advisor during the initial meeting prior to the first night of class.

All Thesis projects must demonstrate the ability to independently conduct research and design investigation, create architectural form and resolve relevant issues of site, structure and construction. New construction should form the basis of a Thesis project. Issues of renovation can be included only as a secondary theme.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

The project selected should not be a real commission for the student, or have the clear potential of becoming one. Although it usually takes the form of a real project, the Thesis is an academic exercise and students must follow academic advice in reaching an acceptable and successful result. Nor should the project selected be a project, which is currently being undertaken in the student's office or any other office. It is possible, however, to "redo" a recent project that the student feels strongly could have been done better. In any case, the student is responsible for independent programming as a significant component of the Thesis.

The Proposal is meant to be a brief document (two pages maximum), and must follow the outline on the next page.

The Proposal should be emailed as an attachment to architecture@drexel.edu, in a Word document or PDF labeled with your last name – “ Smith, Thesis Proposal.”

The Thesis Advisors will review proposal submissions. Approximately four weeks after the submission due date students can expect to be contacted by email by their assigned Thesis Advisor who will report that your Proposal has been either Approved, Rejected, or needs Revision or Clarification. A Rejection or a Request for Revision or Clarification will be explained by the Thesis Advisor along with a timetable for resubmission. When the Proposal is approved the student begins the preparation of the Program with the advice of their Thesis Advisor.

PROPOSAL DEADLINE: MONDAY, 2 JULY 2012

THESIS PROPOSAL OUTLINE

Student Name and Drexel ID number

Email address (use Drexel address)

Date

1. Title of Thesis
 - Subtitle phrase (Referring to conceptual goal, site, and program)
2. Thesis Statement
 - a. Issues, concepts, questions, described in abstract terms
 - b. Discuss methods and types of inquiry you will use
 - c. Terms of criticism (how is the project to be judged?)
3. Program
 - a. Why did you select this topic? How is this Thesis going to help you develop the concepts and ideas?
 - b. List major program activities and uses
4. Site
 - a. Why did you select this site? How does the selection of the site support your conceptual ideas for the project?
 - b. Describe physical aspects of the site and the context
5. Technology
 - a. Discuss issues that will be explored in the integration of building systems with your design.
 - b. How will these issues be relevant to your thesis? Can specific technologies be a means to understand the Thesis issues and concepts?
 - c. Discuss methods and means of inquiry relevant to exploration of these technologies.
6. Cultural Context
 - a. Define the cultural context of the site
 - b. How does your Thesis project fit into existing culture? What other disciplines will you explore to gain a better understanding of the issues?
 - c. How does your Thesis fit into the larger issue of Architecture in today's society?
7. Resources
 - a. Identify a minimum of three sources, including non-architectural research to support your ideas
 - b. Inspiration—list a minimum of three projects that will influence the way you approach the Thesis project
8. Biographical Information
 - a. Provide information about your current employment status, what other coursework you intend to pursue during the Thesis year.

DUE MONDAY, 2 JULY 2012

TWO PAGE MAXIMUM

THESIS PROGRAM

The Program must include preliminary research dealing with the Thesis idea, case studies and the site, an assembled bibliography of your reading in support of your research, a detailed work schedule by quarter, and a detailed statement of the work to be presented at both Intermediate and Final Reviews. The statement of work to be completed can be amended during the course of the Thesis in discussions with the Thesis Advisor. Nevertheless, this statement of presentation requirements should be considered a contract that defines the Thesis. It becomes a measure of completeness for the Thesis Advisor and Jury to follow. In summary the Thesis Program must include:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT

- Assumptions/Thesis proposal/ideas
- Site selection (This should be complete by the time the program is submitted to allow time to collect the necessary background information)
- Existing Regulatory Restrictions (zoning, building code, historical, environmental, accessibility)
- Environmental impact (energy sources, sustainable practices)
- Existing topography, watershed, vegetation, wildlife, historical context, climate
- Surrounding land-use
- Access: Transportation/parking
- Description of user/client
- Space requirements (use, sizes and adjacencies)
- Precedent/Case Studies (four, minimum)

DRAFT SUBMISSION

The Draft Program submitted to your Thesis Advisor in August in printed form should demonstrate a start, at least, on all the subject headings listed above.

FINAL SUBMISSION

Three printed copies of the final Program should be prepared. By the required deadline one printed and bound copy of the completed Program should be submitted to the Architecture Department office, one bound copy should be submitted to the Thesis Advisor directly, and one copy should be retained by the student in a loose-leaf notebook. The Program submission should meet professional standards in format and appearance. It must be prepared in an 8 1/2" x 11" format. Along with the printed copy of the Program submitted to the Department a digital copy should also be included on disc or sent to architecture@drexel.edu. Please note that both versions must be received to meet the submittal requirement.

RESEARCH REQUIREMENTS

In architectural schools "thesis" assumes an investigation of architectural principles and the testing of them in the form of a design exercise. The process assumes that the students will research the critical principles that surround their topic and the characteristics of the selected building type as well. This research should form part of the summer programming phase, and will continue throughout the year. Your research should cover the Thesis Idea, Case Studies, Site Analysis, along with a complete Bibliography of the sources you have consulted and intend to consult during the Thesis Year. The results of the research should be presented in graphic form at the Fall Group Review, and at the Intermediate and Final Reviews. The student's copy of the program, in a loose-leaf binder, should be brought to each meeting with the Thesis Advisor.

Each student is required to attend a mandatory "Research Literacy" program conducted by Drexel Library staff at the Hagerty Library prior to the Fall semester. Contact Alysson Cwyk in the Architecture Office ac462@drexel.edu to schedule a session.

Monday, July 30, 5:30-7 pm
Monday, August 6, 5:30-7 pm
Tuesday, August 7, 5:30-7 pm
Thursday, August 9, 5:30-7 pm

THESIS ADVISOR

A member of the Drexel faculty will serve as your advisors for Fall, Winter and Spring semesters. Each advisor has 3 – 6 Thesis students.

MEETING WITH THE ADVISOR

All Students will meet with their Thesis Advisor on Monday evenings on the Fourth Floor of the Main Building. A Fall Group Review is scheduled in November when students from two sections will present their work to each other. As in previous Architecture studios, attendance at crit sessions with assigned work is critical to the learning process. Two absences during the course of the year is cause for a probationary warning and can result in the reduction of grade. Missed sessions for any reason can be made up only at the discretion and convenience of the Thesis Advisor. The schedule for the year is set at the first class meeting in September.

WRITTEN FEEDBACK

The Thesis Advisor will provide written feedback to the student following the Fall Group Review, and the Intermediate Review, as well as provide a summary of comments by jurors.

COMMUNICATION

Communication with Thesis students during the Thesis year will be conducted entirely by email, using the students' Drexel email address. It is the obligation of all students to be sure their Drexel account is active, to check their Drexel email account regularly, or to link them to their primary account.

SCHEDULING MONDAY COURSES IN CONFLICT WITH THESIS

Occasionally a student must take a Monday class in order to graduate at the end of the thesis year. Since thesis review sessions are organized individually with the Thesis Advisor it is possible to do this although careful planning and coordination with the Program Director and Academic Advisor is required. Please note, however, that the University computer will see such a schedule as a conflict and will automatically reject not only the additional Monday course but the rest of your schedule as well. If you are considering such a schedule, you should pre-register for the additional Monday course only. Thesis can then be added by following the appropriate override procedures. If you intend to take a course on Monday nights you should contact the department Academic Advisor as soon as possible to learn how to proceed.

GRADING

REVIEWS

The Intermediate Review occurs in at the end of the Fall Quarter. A formal presentation of all work to date is expected. The jury will be composed entirely of members of the faculty plus invited alumni. Members of the same jury will review both Intermediate and Final Presentations. After the Intermediate Review, the jury can make three recommendations:

- (1) Proceed to the Final Review;
- (2) Proceed to the Final Review with Reservations; Additional sessions will be scheduled with the Thesis Advisors
- (3) Do Not Proceed; the student must withdraw from Thesis and start a completely new topic by submitting a new Proposal in the following year.

Having been cleared to present at the Final Review does not guarantee successful completion of the Thesis. Students who receive a failing grade at the Final Review must also attempt a completely new project in the following year. Students who withdraw from the Thesis at any point for any reason must also attempt a completely new project with a new Thesis Advisor. They must register and pay for all 3 quarters of thesis, even if they received a passing grade for Thesis I and Thesis II. All three thesis studios must be retaken to demonstrate a general improvement before continuing in the program. (Grades earned in retaken studios will replace previous grades for the purposes of calculating studio averages only. All grades remain on the transcript and are part of overall GPA calculation.) Students who fail a second time to meet the minimum studio requirements will be dropped from the architecture major and advised to select another degree program.

GRADES

The content on which the grades will be based will be the following:

Fall Quarter - The program (15%), research, initial design studies, and the Intermediate Review.

Winter & Spring Quarters - Subsequent design development, and the Final Review plus the Stewardson Competition (15% of Winter grade).

Grades for Fall Quarter will be awarded after the Intermediate Review. An "In Progress" grade for Fall will be recorded until the Intermediate Review. The Winter and Spring Quarter grades will be awarded after the Final Jury. An "In Progress" grade will be recorded for Winter Quarter until the Final Review is completed.

To complete the Thesis successfully a student must receive a passing grade in each quarter. A passing grade is necessary in the Fall Quarter to proceed to the Final. Therefore, an incomplete grade for the Fall Quarter must be cleared within two weeks of the Intermediate Review or the student cannot go forward. Students who abandon or fail the Thesis must register and pay tuition for all quarters of the second attempt even if the Intermediate Review and the Fall Quarter might have been passed successfully in the first attempt. They must also propose a new topic to undertake for which they will be assigned a new advisor to guide them.

THE STEWARDSON COMPETITION

The Stewardson Competition is open to all senior students in accredited architecture schools in Pennsylvania. The winner receives a generous stipend for extended foreign travel. Since this design exercise has significant academic value, completing it is a requirement of the Thesis year, and a component of the Winter Quarter grade. This 10-day design competition will be scheduled in the Winter Quarter, after the Intermediate Reviews, where it serves as a change of pace for the Thesis class.

THE MICHAEL PEARSON PRIZE

The Michael Pearson Architecture Prizes honor Michael Pearson, a 1988 architecture graduate, whose life so full of promise was tragically cut short in 1989. The Michael Pearson Prizes are presented annually to the architecture students "who produce the best Thesis Projects, and who, in the course of the thesis year, show exceptional spirit in pursuing the work." The winner receives a gold medal and a stipend for extended travel in the study of architecture. Second and Third Prize winners receive medals. The Pearson Prizes are awarded at the Final Thesis Reviews by the vote of the faculty.

Award:	Winner:	Gold Medal & travel stipend
	2nd Place:	Silver Medal
	3rd Place:	Bronze Medal

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY

The pursuit of a professional degree in Interiors or Architecture brings with it the demand for integrity, for integrity is at the heart of professional practice. Your commitment to integrity begins here at Drexel University and the work that is required of you. The personal commitment that you make to uphold this policy not only preserves the integrity of the degree you will earn, but also honors the professions you will serve. Thus it is vitally important that you understand and adhere to both the letter and the spirit of the Department of Architecture + Interiors Academic Integrity Policy.

The following is to help clarify what constitutes a violation of the Academic Integrity Policy:

- Copying another student's answers or use of cheat sheets, electronic resources, etc during an exam.
- Submission of a copy or modified version of a project prepared for another class without explicit permission of the instructor.
- Assistance with the fabrication of a project including but not limited to the preparation of models or drawings unless approved by the instructor.
- Copying of another person's designs, compositions, data, research, writings, printed material, electronic material or original ideas without proper acknowledgement is plagiarism. This includes even the use of parts or fragments of someone else's work or ideas.

You must never present someone else's work as your own.

It is your responsibility to educate yourself on what constitutes plagiarism and acceptable academic practices. Drexel University's Library website offers a useful tutorial on the issues at: <http://www.library.drexel.edu/tutorials/plagiarism/plagiarism.html>

Any student found violating this policy will receive, at minimum, an "F" for the assignment in question, be reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards, and be subjected to University discipline. A second violation of the Academic Integrity Policy can result in expulsion or suspension, which is standard University policy. The University's procedures for dealing with accusations of academic dishonesty can be found at: <http://www.drexel.edu/studentlife/judicial/honesty.htm> and http://www.drexel.edu/provost/policies/academic_dishonesty.asp

OTHER UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Students with Disability Statement: <http://www.drexel.edu/oed/disabilityResources/students/>

Dropping a Course: http://www.drexel.edu/provost/policies/course_drop.asp

Withdrawing from a course: http://www.drexel.edu/provost/policies/course_withdrawal_policy.asp

SCHEDULE FOR 2011-12 THESIS YEAR

Thesis Proposal due: <i>1 digital copy to Department of Architecture office architecture@drexel.edu</i>	Monday, July 2, 2012, 9:00AM
Response from Thesis Advisor	By Thursday, August 2, 2012
MANDATORY RESEARCH LITERACY SESSION	By September 17, 2012
Draft Program due: <i>1 digital copy to Thesis Advisor</i>	Monday, August 20, 2012 4:00PM
Program due: <i>1 digital copy to Department of Architecture office architecture@drexel.edu + 1 hardbound copy 1 digital copy to Thesis Advisor + 1 hard bound copy 1 loose-leaf copy to be retained by student</i>	Monday, Sept. 17, 2012
First Class	Monday, September 24, 2012, 6:00PM
Fall Group Review	Monday, October 29, 2012, 6:00PM Monday, November 5, 2012, 6:00PM
Intermediate Review <i>Upload presentation materials to AW Storage</i>	Saturday, December 15, 2012, Time TBA Monday, December 17, 2012, 4:00PM
Stewardson Competition Issued	Thursday, January 10, 2013, 6:00 PM <i>Arch Studios and online. Attendance optional</i>
Stewardson Competition Due:	Monday, January 21, 2013 , 6:00 PM
Technical Review	Monday March 11, 2013, 6:00PM Monday, March 18, 2013, 6:00PM
FINAL REVIEW <i>Upload presentation materials to AW Storage¹</i>	Saturday, June 1, 2013, Time TBA
Commencement	Saturday, June 15, 2013

BIBLIOGRAPHY/RESOURCES

One of the following is required reading: They are on reserve at the Hagerty Library.

- * Cherry, Edith Programming for Design: From Theory to Practice, 2008, Wiley
- Groat, Linda and David Wang Architectural Research Methods 2002, Wiley
- * Pena, W. M. and Parshall, Steven. Problem Seeking: An Architectural Programming Primer, Fourth Edition, New York: John Wiley and Sons, 2001.

The following resources are highly recommended:

- * Alexander, Christopher. The Timeless Way of Building. Oxford University Press, 1969.
- * Alexander, Christopher. A Pattern Language. Oxford University Press. 1977.
- Allen, Edward, and Iano, Joseph The Architect's Studio Companion. Wiley, 2006
- Brown, Denise Scott Having Words, 2011 AA Press
- Clark, Roger and Michael Pause Precedents in Architecture: Analytic Diagrams, Formative Ideas, and Partis, 2004 Wiley
- Ching, Francis D.K., Architecture: Form, Space, and Order, 2007, Wiley
- * Duerk, Donna. Architectural Programming: Information Management for Design. New York: John Wiley and Sons, 1993.
- Farrelly, Lorraine Construction & Materiality, 2009, AVA Publishing
- Farrelly, Lorraine Representational Techniques, 2008, AVA Publishing
- Goldberg, Paul Why Architecture Matters, 2009, Yale University Press
- Harbeson, John, with Introduction by John Blatteau and Sandra Tatman, The Study of Architectural Design. 2008 W. W. Norton
- * Kumlin, R. Architectural Programming: Creative Techniques for Design Professionals. New York: McGraw-Hill. 1995.
- * Lang, J., Burnette, C., Moleski, W. and Vachon, D., editors. Designing for Human Behavior: Architecture and the Behavioral Sciences. Dowden, Hutchinson and Ross, 1974
- Langdon, Philip A Better Place to Live; Reshaping the American Suburb 1994 U Mass Press
- * Moleski, Walter. Guidelines for Programming, ERG/Environmental Research Group, 1996 (electronic reserve)
- * Palmer, M. The Architect's Guide to Facility Programming. Architectural Records Books, 1981.
- * Preiser, W.F.E. Facility Programming, New York: Van Nostrand Reinhold, 1978.
- * Preiser, W.F.E., Rabonowitz, H. and White, E. Post-Occupancy Evaluation. New York: Van Nostrand Reinhold, 1988
- Sandaker, Bjorn S. et al, The Structural Basis of Architecture, 2011 Routledge
- * Sommer, R. Personal Space: The Behavioral Basis of Design. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall, 1974
- Thiis-Evanson, Thomas Archetypes of Urbanism: A Method for the Esthetic Design of Cities, 1992 Universitetsforlaget AS
- * White, E. Introduction to Architectural Programming, Tucson, AZ: Architectural Media, 1972.
- * Zeisel, J. Inquiry by Design, Monterey, CA: Brooks/Cole, 1981.

* Indicates text used in Architectural Programming course