



MASTER OF ARCHITECTURAL STUDIES (M.A.S.)

A post-professional degree, the Master of Architectural Studies (M.A.S.), is offered to applicants who already hold a professional degree in architecture and wish to pursue further investigations in design or design-related topics. Students are offered an intensive curriculum in one of four areas of concentration: Sacred Space/Cultural Studies, Emerging Technologies and Media, Real Estate Development, and Urban Practice. The program requires a minimum of one-and-a-half years of advanced study tailored to the needs and interests of the individual.

Year One

Fall	ARPL601	Concentration Studio 1	6	
	ARPL	Theory Elective	3	
	PE	Program Elective	3	
	PE	Program Elective	3	15
Spring	ARPL701	Concentration Studio 2	6	
	ARPL721	Thesis Preparation	6	
	ARPL591	Independent Study	3	15

Year One: Total Credit Hours

30

Year Two

Fall	ARPL702	Thesis Design	6	6
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Year Two: Total Credit Hours

6

Master of Architectural Studies: Total Credit Hours

36

CONCENTRATIONS

The school offers four areas of concentration for more focused specialization within the Master of Architectural Studies post-professional degree program.

Sacred Space/Cultural Studies

The Sacred Space and Cultural Studies concentration is one of very few programs in the world in which architecture graduate students, faculty, and professionals can reflect upon, learn, research, and profess the deepest spiritual and cultural roots of place-making. We pursue this interest by engaging the inspiring conversations between the physical and the metaphysical, matter and spirit, life and intention, with the eyes of architecture. The School of Architecture and Planning has a long history of exploring these topics and providing an environment uniquely positioned to support and advance this discourse. While the core issues of the Sacred Space/Cultural Studies concentration are intrinsic to Catholic University's mission, the program also explores ecumenical and broader definitions of sacredness. Moreover, as culture, landscape, and the sacred are of growing concern in global architectural practice, the concentration draws upon and hosts a highly diverse student body and experts from throughout the world.

Emerging Technologies and Media

The Emerging Technologies and Media concentration focuses on digital technology and media as a means to explore the transformative opportunities of emerging technologies during all phases of design, from theory and conception through visualization, representation, construction, and beyond. Interdisciplinary in nature, the concentration engages emerging and innovative fields of inquiry and research. Collaborating with the profession, this concentration responds to the continual application of digital tools and media to an ever-expanding process of research, conceptual modeling and design, sophisticated testing and effective communication of the work. The course of study critically engages various forms of digital and analog technologies in architecture. Through architectural studios, core classes, electives, and seminars, students are exposed to some of the latest digital tools and software. The concentration operates under the notion that digital design technologies are catalytic tools in the process of design thinking and critical inquiry, and will lead to the creation and crafting of new solutions and strategies for today and the future of architecture.

Real Estate Development

Modern architecture practice encompasses an array of design challenges, with a growing emphasis on privately financed residential and commercial real estate development projects. Real estate development in the 21st century includes a broad range of projects, ranging from urban mixed use to suburban new towns to adaptive reuse of historic structures, all requiring significant design expertise. Through an educational grounding in the fundamentals of real estate development, practicing architects can enhance the quality of the built environment, while at the same time taking advantage of potential business opportunities to share in these market-driven forces. The concentration in Real Estate Development is designed to provide graduate students with a program of study that integrates architectural design with business, law, construction management, and urban planning practices, all of which form the basis of modern real estate development. The concentration provides an overview of the development process with an emphasis on understanding planning regulations, financial feasibility analysis, site and market analysis, architectural contract law, construction management, and project financing.

Urban Practice

The Urban Practice concentration asserts that design is not an isolated act but one that is woven into a larger physical and conceptual fabric. Architecture is seen as a civic art, entrusted with the purposeful design of the public domain by addressing the symbiosis between public spaces and public institutions. The concentration promotes the creation of sustainable communities by addressing architecture and the city through the study of urban morphology and corresponding building typologies, critically examining conventional and unconventional practices and reconciling contemporary needs while also addressing theoretical possibilities so that they can help mend damaged urban fabric and conceive of new urban spaces that reflect contemporary social and cultural issues. The Urban Practice concentration broadly studies architecture as it relates to context, those frameworks in which we design and conceive of the designed environment and include cultural, scalar, economic, civic, and material systems. Urban Practice is an attitude and approach to the designed world. It is how we look at, reflect upon, and design.