(The) Catholic University of America
School of Architecture

Focused Evaluation Team Report

Master of Architecture
(Pre-professional degree (137 credits) + 61 graduate credits)
(Non-pre-professional degree + 111 graduate credits)

The National Architectural Accrediting Board
October 2012

The National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB), established in 1940, is the sole agency authorized to accredit U.S. professional degree programs in architecture. Because most state registration boards in the United States require any applicant for licensure to have graduated from a NAAB-accredited program, obtaining such a degree is an essential aspect of preparing for the professional practice of architecture.
# Table of Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I. Summary of Team Findings</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Review Team Comments</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II. Compliance with the Conditions for Accreditation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Responses to Focused Criteria Identified from Previous Site Visit</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conditions:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Studio Culture</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Human Resources</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Physical Resources</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 Professional Degrees and Curriculum</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II. Appendices:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A. The Review Team</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV. Report Signatures</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
I. Summary of Team Findings

1. Team Comments

The Focused Evaluation team found that the four concerns raised by the visiting team have been Met.

The Focused Evaluation team reviewed documents submitted by Catholic University’s architecture program. We were impressed with how seriously CUArch took each of the concerns, and with the thorough and thoughtful steps taken by the program to address each concern. Studio culture, staff organization, curricular structure, and facilities appropriateness are all very serious concerns for a professional design program, and it could be daunting to address these effectively in the midst of the economic downturn that has affected colleges and universities over the past few years. CUArch addressed all of the concerns in a concerted and inclusive way, and we were impressed with the program’s effective responsiveness to the concerns raised by the NAAB visiting team.
II. Compliance with the Conditions for Accreditation

Program Response to the NAAB Focused Criteria

Schools must respond to the interests of the collateral organizations that make up the NAAB as set forth by this edition of the NAAB Conditions for Accreditation. Each school is expected to address these interests consistent with its scholastic identity and mission.

5. Studio Culture

The school is expected to demonstrate a positive and respectful learning environment through the encouragement of the fundamental values of optimism, respect, sharing, engagement, and innovation between and among the members of its faculty, student body, administration, and staff. The school should encourage students and faculty to appreciate these values as guiding principles of professional conduct throughout their careers.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Met</th>
<th>Not Met</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>[X]</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The team found that Catholic University has effectively and comprehensively resolved this issue. The formation of a student Studio Culture Committee, which has been expanded to become the Committee on Student Life, shows an ongoing commitment to implementing supportive Studio Culture policies and procedures. Follow-up meetings were thorough and inclusive, and wall installations provide continuing reminders of "the messages of studio culture." Catholic University has made what appears to be a very successful, effective and forward-looking response to the visiting team’s concerns in this area.

6. Human Resources

The accredited degree program must demonstrate that it provides adequate human resources for a professional degree program in architecture, including a sufficient faculty complement, an administrative head with enough time for effective administration, and adequate administrative, technical, and faculty support staff. Student enrollment in and scheduling of design studios must ensure adequate time for an effective tutorial exchange between the teacher and the student. The total teaching load should allow faculty members adequate time to pursue research, scholarship, and practice to enhance their professional development.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Met</th>
<th>Not Met</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>[X]</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Focused Evaluation team found that a comprehensive and thoughtful approach has been taken by Catholic University to addressing the concerns raised by the visiting team. An iterative analytical process produced staffing and organizational adjustments that are comprehensible in a clear organization chart, and it appears that the positive feedback to the school on the application of the organizational principles supports a conclusion that the organizational structure is operating effectively.
8. Physical Resources

The accredited degree program must provide the physical resources appropriate for a professional degree program in architecture, including design studio space for the exclusive use of each student in a studio class; lecture and seminar space to accommodate both didactic and interactive learning; office space for the exclusive use of each full-time faculty member; and related instructional support space. The facilities must also be in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and applicable building codes.

Met [X]    Not Met [ ]

The architects’ competition for a renovation of the Crough Center, curricular revisions, and a reduction in student headcount, accompanied by extensive discussions with senior administrators, have addressed the facilities issues raised by the visiting team.

12. Professional Degrees and Curriculum

The NAAB accredits the following professional degree programs: the Bachelor of Architecture (B. Arch.), the Master of Architecture (M. Arch.), and the Doctor of Architecture (D. Arch.). The curricular requirements for awarding these degrees must include professional studies, general studies, and electives. Schools offering the degrees B. Arch., M. Arch., and/or D. Arch. are strongly encouraged to use these degree titles exclusively with NAAB-accredited professional degree programs.

Met [X]    Not Met [ ]

Curricular revisions and a decrease in the number of credits required for the school’s 4+2 track in architecture, from 198 to 186, has resolved the concerns raised by the visiting team.
III. Appendices

Appendix A: The Visiting Team

Lead Reviewer, Representing the Academy
Ted Landsmark, M.Env.D., JD, DFA (Hon), Ph.D.
President
Boston Architectural College
320 Newbury Street
Boston, MA 02115
(617) 585-0221
(617) 905-5169 mobile
(617) 585-0122 fax
ted.landsmark@the-bac.edu

Secondary Reviewer, Representing the Profession
Joe Giattina, Jr., FAIA
8269 Gulf Boulevard
Suite 104
Navarre Beach, FL 32566
jgiattina@gastudio.com
IV. Report Signatures

Respectfully submitted,

Ted Landsmark, Esq.

Ted Landsmark, M.Env.D., JD, DFA (Hon.)., Ph.D.  Representing the Academy
Lead Reviewer

Joseph P. Giattina, Jr., FAIA  Representing the Profession
Secondary Reviewer