

**School of Architecture | Georgia Tech | Summer 2026**

*Required Course for M. Arch 3*

## **ARCH 6030 Syllabus**

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*Core 3 Studio. 5 Credit Hours.*

*Summer 2026*

### **Instructor Information**

**Instructor: Daniel Baerlecken**

**Email: dbaerlecken3@gatech.edu**

**Office Location: 351 C Architecture West**

**Office Hours: by appointment**

TA Name: TBD

TA Email: TBD

## **General Course Information**

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### **Course Description**

Intermediate studies in architectural design emphasizing integrative design strategies that engage the programmatic, contextual, and constructed dimensions of architecture and its representations.

### **Course Learning Outcomes**

ARCH 6030 is an architecture design studio focused on developing a student's ability to independently produce an architecture project based on resolving the program of a specific public building typology within the constraints of an urban site based on a methodological procedure. Students will engage in a design methodology defined by a sequence of methodological assignments aimed at guiding the design process and encouraging a rich discourse on architecture's ability to guide visual experience in public environments. Through model making and graphic representation, we are going to investigate our capacity to perceive spatial complexity.

The focus on design techniques and the production of articulate artefacts will lead to discussions on spatial typologies, methodology, representation and classifications.

Those students who successfully complete the course will be able to:

- 1. Produce a comprehensive architectural design for a complex public building typology, resolving program (functionality, adjacency, circulation), site (urban context, place-making, topography), and form (typology, composition, proportion) through an integrated design methodology.
- 2. Analyze canonical and contemporary architectural precedents using orthographic representation, physical and digital models, diagrams, and written critique to extract and apply formal and conceptual design strategies.
- 3. Demonstrate an understanding of structural systems and building assemblies — including envelope systems — through plans, sections, details, and models at multiple scales.
- 4. Develop a coherent system of graphic communication across analogue and digital representational modes (plan, section, perspective, rendering, physical model) that effectively conveys design intent and spatial experience.
- 5. Situate a design project within broader disciplinary discourse by engaging concepts of phenomenology, visual perception, spatial typology, and spectatorship, and by connecting design decisions to historical and contemporary architectural theory.

Note: For all M. Arch courses, see also "Professional Standards Addressed."

## Required Course Materials

No required textbooks. Readings will be uploaded to Canvas as PDFs.

## Grading Policy

Your final grade is determined by the cumulative quality of work produced across all assignments, weighted by the point values below. Grades reflect the quality of your design work, improvement over the semester, depth of engagement with studio themes, craftsmanship, timely completion of work, class participation, and attendance. Grades are earned — not given. The total course is worth 2,000 points. Per Georgia Tech policy, final grades are awarded A–F with no +/- grades permitted. See Georgia Tech Regulation V.A: <https://catalog.gatech.edu/rules/5/>

## Assignments

- Project 1-A — Precedent Drawing — 200 pts / 10%
- Project 1-B — Assemblage: Architectural Elements — 200 pts / 10%
- Project 1-C — Configurations: From 2D to 3D — 300 pts / 15%

- Project 2-A — Interiorities — 300 pts / 15%
- Project 2-B — Site & Program / Final Project — 800 pts / 40%
- Portfolio — 200 pts / 10%

**Total: 2,000 pts / 100%**

### **Description of Graded Components**

*Project 1-A — Precedent Drawing (200 pts):* Students produce a creative analytical drawing study of an assigned canonical or contemporary building. Work includes orthographic plans, sections, diagrams, and written analysis aimed at extracting conceptual, formal, and material strategies from the precedent.

*Project 1-B — Assemblage: Architectural Elements & the Dysfunctional Section (200 pts):* Students develop spatial assemblages through the manipulation of architectural elements, producing models and section drawings that explore unconventional spatial relationships and begin constructing a personal repertoire of spatial types.

*Project 1-C — Configurations: From 2D to 3D (300 pts):* Building on precedent analysis and assemblage work, students develop spatial configurations that translate two-dimensional organizational logics into three-dimensional architectural proposals, demonstrating command of both analogue and digital modeling techniques.

*Project 2-A — Interiorities (300 pts):* Students design a series of interior spaces for the Culture Factory program, focusing on spatial quality, program adjacency, and the phenomenological dimensions of viewing and making. Work includes plans, sections, and physical or digital models.

*Project 2-B — Site & Program / Final Project (800 pts):* The primary studio deliverable. Students produce a comprehensive architectural design for a Culture Factory — a public "laboratory of fun" — situated on an urban site in Atlanta. Work must demonstrate the resolution of site, program, and form through a full set of drawings (plans, sections, perspectives, details), physical and/or digital models, and renderings. Craftsmanship, representational clarity, and design development across the semester are all evaluated.

*Portfolio (200 pts):* Students compile and curate the semester's work into a cohesive portfolio document that demonstrates growth, process, and design thinking across all projects. The portfolio is evaluated on selection, layout, graphic quality, and the coherence of the overall design narrative presented.

### **Example Studio Grading Rubric**

- A grade of "F" indicates failure to meet studio requirements, including attendance and minimum presentation requirements.
- A grade of "D" means significant attendance problems and failure to meet basic studio requirements.
- A grade of "C" means the basic requirements of the studio have just been met, with a plausible but substantially undeveloped project.

- A grade of "B" means basic requirements are met and the project is developed enough for evaluation against studio themes and criteria.
- A grade of "A" means the project clearly demonstrates understanding of studio themes, criteria, and self-motivated exploration beyond basic requirements.

### Grading Scale

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Points (out of 2,000)</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
A	1,800 – 2,000	90–100%
B	1,600 – 1,799	80–89%
C	1,400 – 1,599	70–79%
D	1,200 – 1,399	60–69%
F	Below 1,200	Below 60%

### Course Schedule

Please see the annotated class schedule on Canvas. This schedule is subject to periodic revisions; updated schedules will always be posted on Canvas.

## Professional Standards Addressed

### NAAB Conditions for Accreditation

#### For Professional Degree Programs in Architecture (2020)

The accredited degree program must demonstrate that each graduate possesses the knowledge and skills defined by the criteria below. The knowledge and skills defined here represent those required to prepare graduates for the path to internship, examination, and licensure, and to engage in related fields. The program must provide student work as evidence that its graduates have satisfied each criterion.

The criteria encompass two levels of accomplishment:

- *Understanding*—The capacity to classify, compare, summarize, explain, and/or interpret information.
- *Ability*—Proficiency in using specific information to accomplish a task, correctly selecting the appropriate information, and accurately applying it to the solution of a specific problem, while also distinguishing the effects of its implementation.

**Program Criteria (PC) and Student Criteria (SC):** The NAAB establishes PC and SC to help accredited degree programs prepare students for the profession while encouraging education practices suited to the individual degree program.

For the purpose of accreditation, while this course will cover more criteria than the ones listed below, the following will be actively covered:

**PC.2 Design** — Understanding of the role of the design process in shaping the built environment and the methods by which design processes integrate multiple factors, in different settings and scales of development, from buildings to cities. — **Practiced**

**PC.4 History and Theory** — Understanding of the histories and theories of architecture and urbanism, framed by diverse social, cultural, economic, and political forces; nationally and globally. — **Practiced**

**SC.4 Technical Knowledge** — Understanding of established and emerging systems, technologies, and assemblies of building construction, and the methods and criteria architects use to assess those technologies against the design, economics, and performance objectives of projects. — **Introduced**

**SC.5 Design Synthesis** — Ability to make design decisions within architectural projects while demonstrating synthesis of user requirements, regulatory requirements, site conditions, and accessible design, and consideration of the measurable environmental impacts of design decisions. — **Introduced**

**SC.6 Building Integration** — Ability to make design decisions within architectural projects while demonstrating integration of building envelope systems and assemblies, structural systems, environmental control systems, life safety systems, and the measurable outcomes of building performance. — **Introduced**

# Course Policies

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## **Attendance and/or Participation**

Active participation at all class meetings is mandatory. Absences will be excused only for medical or family emergencies, Institute-approved events, and religious holidays documented in writing. (Notify your instructor in writing during the first two weeks of the semester about any anticipated religious holiday absences.) Late arrivals will be counted as absences.

NOTE: Absences due to special and/or unforeseen circumstances must be discussed with the instructor as early as practically possible.

Missing three classes without an approved excuse will result in a letter grade reduction. Missing more than three classes, excused or unexcused, may result in a meeting with your instructor and the Architecture Program Office to determine a course of action, and can result in an incomplete (I) or failing grade (F).

Students are highly encouraged to submit absence verification for documented illness, hospitalization, accidents, family emergencies, or lengthy illnesses to the Dean of Students: <https://studentlife.gatech.edu/request-assistance>

## **Academic Integrity**

Georgia Tech aims to cultivate a community based on trust, academic integrity, and honor. Students are expected to act according to the highest ethical standards.

Review [Georgia Tech's Honor Code](#) and the student [Code of Conduct](#). Any student suspected of cheating or plagiarism will be reported to the Office of Student Integrity.

For expectations of student and instructor conduct, consult [Code of Conduct \(rules/19\)](#) and [Student-Faculty Expectations \(rules/22\)](#).

## **Student-Faculty Expectations Agreement**

At Georgia Tech, we believe that it is important to strive for an atmosphere of mutual respect, acknowledgement, and responsibility between faculty members and the student body.

[The Student-Faculty Expectations Agreement](#) articulates some basic expectations that you can have of me and that I have of you. Simple respect for knowledge, hard work, and cordial interactions will help build the environment we seek.

## **Core IMPACTS**

[Core IMPACTS](#) is the University System of Georgia's General Education curriculum. If you are teaching a course that counts towards Core IMPACTS, you should include a syllabus statement

about the Core area and associated career competencies. This resource from Georgia State University includes template syllabus statements for each Core IMPACTS area that you may adapt for your course.

### **Accommodations for Students with Disabilities**

If you are a student with learning needs that require special accommodation, contact the Office of Disability Services (404-894-2563) as soon as possible to make an appointment, obtain an accommodations letter, and discuss your special needs. Please also schedule an appointment with your instructor to discuss your learning needs.

### **Optional Policies, Expectations, and Resources**

*[Remove this heading label in your final syllabus and eliminate the separation between required and optional policies.]*

*[While the following policies are not required, they include important expectations and resources. Visit the CTL Course Policies page at <https://ctl.gatech.edu/resources/syllabus/policies> for more sample policies and guidance.]*

### **Collaboration, Group Work, and Use of Generative AI**

#### **Generative AI Use Encouraged**

In this course, the use of Generative AI tools is encouraged as part of your learning and creative process. Responsible use is expected. All submitted work must include a brief AI Usage Statement outlining: which tools were used, when they were used, what prompts or questions were given, and how the AI output informed or shaped your final submission. Use of Generative AI must comply with Georgia Tech's Honor Code and academic integrity guidelines.

Draft GT AI policy: [https://provost.gatech.edu/sites/default/files/2025-10/AI%20Policy\\_draft\\_10.14.2025%202.pdf](https://provost.gatech.edu/sites/default/files/2025-10/AI%20Policy_draft_10.14.2025%202.pdf)

#### **Extensions, Late Assignments, & Re-Scheduled/Missed Exams**

Timely completion of work is a professional expectation and a core component of your grade. Deadlines are set to support the pacing of the studio and to ensure fair evaluation across the cohort. Late submissions will result in a one-letter-grade penalty per class day past the deadline. Work submitted more than one week late will not be accepted and will receive a zero.

Extensions will only be considered for documented medical or family emergencies and must be requested in advance of the deadline whenever possible. Requests made after a deadline

has passed will not be granted retroactively. There are no exams in this studio; all deadlines apply to project assignments and reviews.

Georgia Tech grants excused absences for approved Institute activities, off-campus interviews, and religious observances. Students must notify the instructor in writing during the first two weeks of the semester regarding any anticipated conflicts, including religious holidays, per GT catalog rules. Note that the All-Majors Career Fair (<https://careerfair.gatech.edu/>) and off-campus interviews are not automatic grounds for extensions — plan your studio schedule accordingly and communicate early if conflicts arise. See GT Regulation 4 for full details: <https://catalog.gatech.edu/rules/4/>

### **Inclement Weather and Digital Learning Days**

In the event of a weather-related campus closure or modified operations, class may be cancelled or shifted to a Digital Learning Day. On Digital Learning Days, studio will continue remotely via Teams or Canvas. Students will be expected to participate in scheduled desk crits, group discussions, or pin-ups via video call, and to continue advancing their work. Specific instructions will be communicated via Canvas or email prior to or on the day of the disruption. Students are encouraged to familiarize themselves with Georgia Tech's Digital Learning Day policy: <https://s1.policylibrary.gatech.edu/academic-affairs/digital-learning-days-modified-campus-operations> and the Digital Learning Day Toolkit: <https://provost.gatech.edu/digital-learning-days-toolkit>

### **Student Use of Mobile Devices in the Classroom**

*Studio is a focused, collaborative environment. Laptops and tablets are expected and necessary for design work. Mobile phones, however, should be silenced and put away during desk crits, lectures, pin-ups, and reviews. Phone use during these moments is disrespectful to your peers and to visiting critics. If you are expecting an urgent call, notify the instructor before class begins. Headphones may be used during independent work time at your discretion, but should be removed during all group discussions and critiques. Repeated disruptive device use will be addressed individually and may affect your participation grade.*

### **CIOS — Course Evaluations**

At the end of the term, students are asked to complete the online course evaluation for all courses at Georgia Tech (<https://gatech.smartevals.com>). CIOS scores and comments have different degrees of visibility based on roles:

Reporting access by role	CIOS Scaled Results	CIOS Comments	TA's Scaled Results	TA's Comments
Instructor	Their Own	Their Own	All within their own course	All within their own course
TA Supervisor	N/A	N/A	All within their own course	All within their own course
Teaching Assistant	None	None	Their Own	Their Own
School Administration	All within their own unit	None	All within their own unit	All within their own unit
Students	All – Summary only	None	None	None

More information: [CIOS Student FAQ](#)

## Campus Resources for Students

### Undergraduate Student Academic Success Resources

A list of resources for undergraduate students' academic success and advising can be found at [Success at Tech](#). Academic Support (a unit in the Office of Undergraduate Education & Student Success) provides free tutoring: [success.gatech.edu/tutoring](http://success.gatech.edu/tutoring).

### Graduate Student Academic and Professional Success Resources

A list of resources for graduate students is available on the [Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Education](#) website.

### Student Well-Being

At Georgia Tech, we are concerned about your overall physical, social, and mental well-being. A [comprehensive list of wellness-related resources](#) has been compiled by the Office of the Vice President for Student Engagement and Well-being.

## **Library & Archives**

Contact your Architecture Library subject specialist, Catherine Manci ([catherine.manci@library.gatech.edu](mailto:catherine.manci@library.gatech.edu)), for research help and information on available resources.

Contact your Architecture Archives liaison, Jody Thompson ([jody.thompson@library.gatech.edu](mailto:jody.thompson@library.gatech.edu)), for assistance with archival research and collections.

Georgia Tech Library: <https://library.gatech.edu/> Georgia Tech Archives: <http://library.gatech.edu/archives>

## **Approved Communication Platforms**

[Georgia Tech Approved Communication Platforms](#)

## **Georgia Tech Values Statement**

At Georgia Tech, we see different backgrounds and perspectives as essential to learning, discovery, and creation. We strive to remove barriers to student success and to build a welcoming community where everyone has the opportunity to contribute to our mission. As outlined in our [strategic plan](#), we want to create an environment of holistic learning where all individuals can grow and learn to lead healthy, purposeful, impactful lives.

## **Archiving**

At the end of the semester, all students are required to submit physical and/or digital examples of their work to their instructors or administration for archiving no later than one week after the end of term. By enrolling, each student grants a license to reproduce and display their work online, in forthcoming print publications, and in public exhibitions.

## **Ownership**

For the purposes of continuous improvement efforts, such as accreditations and periodic program reviews, the School will select samples of student work submitted to satisfy course requirements. This includes digital files, papers, drawings, models, etc. Collected samples may be returned to students upon request.

## **College of Design Facility Rules and Guidelines**

Please consult the [Georgia Tech Student Handbook](#) regarding the use of facilities and all Institute policies. Aerosol sprays of any kind are strictly banned from the studio and surrounding areas. A spray painting booth is available in the College of Design shop on the ground floor of the East Architecture Building.

**Course Expectations & Guidelines**

Per the [GT Catalog](#), all work produced in the College of Design as part of a degree program becomes the property of the College; it may be retained or returned at the discretion of the faculty. The faculty of the School of Architecture reserves the right to refuse credit for any project executed outside the precincts of the College or produced without proper coordination with the faculty.

**Emergencies**

In case of emergency (e.g., fire, accident, or criminal act), please call the Georgia Tech Police at 404-894-2500. Perry Minyard, IT Support Administrator for the College of Design, is also a firefighter and EMT certified in performing CPR.

**Studio Housekeeping (for design studio only)****Daily Workspace Maintenance****Keep Your Space Organized:**

Maintain an organized workspace that respects those around you. Avoid clutter that could distract others or create safety hazards.

**Drawings and Models:**

Store drawings in designated areas and keep models and materials off the floor. Items left on the floor will be considered trash and discarded by cleaning staff.

**Food Policy:**

No food is permitted in studio during class hours. Dispose of all food-related trash immediately in designated bins.

**Desk Assignment:**

Use only your assigned desk unless you have prior permission to use another workspace.

**Materials and Production****Surface Protection:**

Never use spray paint, spray adhesive, paint, stain, plaster, concrete, resin, or similar materials on unprotected surfaces. Conduct this work at the CoD shop or other designated facilities.

**Cutting Materials:**

Always protect desk surfaces when cutting materials. Direct contact can cause permanent damage.

**Daily Cleanup:**

Clean your workspace at the end of each day: organize your desk, dispose of trash, and return equipment to proper storage.

**Shared Equipment:**

Clean up after using machinery in the CoD shop, DFL, laser cutter rooms, or other shared spaces. Neglected facilities will be closed until properly cleaned.

**End-of-Semester Requirements**

All personal belongings and materials must be removed by the announced deadline. Studios and lockers are completely cleared during winter break, summer break, and before the End-of-Year Show. Items remaining past the deadline will be discarded. Failure to comply may result in an Incomplete grade or grade reduction.

**Review Space Protocol**

- Remove your work immediately after presentations — others may discard items left behind
- Dispose of trash in designated bins
- Protect wall surfaces from damage or marks
- Return chairs to their original positions