

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

*Required Course for BS Arch*

## **ARCH 4016 Syllabus**

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*Architecture Design Studio 6. 5 Credit Hours.*

*Fall 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**

Advanced studies in architectural design emphasizing application of analytical, conceptual, and representational skills within projects that engage and problematize urban context culturally, ecologically and technologically.

### **Course Learning Outcomes**

ARCH 4016 is an advanced architecture design studio in which students apply analytical, conceptual, and representational skills to projects situated within complex urban contexts. Building on the foundational and intermediate skills developed in earlier studios, students will engage design challenges through cultural, ecological, and technological lenses. The studio emphasizes critical inquiry, methodological rigor, and the production of architecturally and urbanistically sophisticated proposals.

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. Critically investigate and reframe a building typology as a site of civic, cultural, and urban significance through research, analysis, and design.
- 2. Develop organizational strategies that hybridize program and public infrastructure, producing spatial proposals that challenge typological convention and engage the urban context.
- 3. Design and prototype facade systems that integrate material, structural, environmental, and representational dimensions as a unified architectural and civic expression.
- 4. Apply computational and physical fabrication processes to iteratively develop and communicate design proposals across multiple scales, from conceptual model to large-scale prototype.
- 5. Situate design decisions within broader disciplinary discourse by engaging questions of typology, civic space, materiality, and the relationship between architecture and everyday urban life.

## 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. 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

Phase 1 — Historical Research & Theoretical Studies (15%)

- In-depth typological research (historical and contemporary)
- Theoretical readings and critical responses
- Precedent analysis and comparative case studies
- Conceptual diagrams mapping storage as cultural and civic architecture

Phase 2 — Design Development (35%)

- Conceptual design proposals integrating typological study, space-making, and computational processes
- Iterative prototyping and digital modeling
- Mid-term review presentation and critique

Phase 3 — Final Project Production (Design, Documentation & Fabrication) (40%)

- Comprehensive final design proposal
- Large-scale façade chunk model
- Final presentation drawings and Cinema 4D animation
- Final review participation
- Portfolio (10%)

**Total: 100%**

**Description of Graded Components**

**Phase 1** — Historical Research & Theoretical Studies (15%):

Students conduct in-depth research into the self-storage typology, examining its historical antecedents, cultural dimensions, and contemporary urban role. Work includes theoretical readings with critical responses, precedent analyses, and conceptual diagrams that frame storage as civic and cultural architecture. Research is reviewed and discussed through desk crits and pin-ups, and may contribute to a shared publication format.

**Phase 2** — Design Development (35%):

Students develop conceptual design proposals that integrate typological research, spatial and formal invention, and computational processes. Work is advanced iteratively through physical and digital prototyping, with progress evaluated at desk crits, informal pin-ups, and a formal mid-term review. The mid-term review serves as a critical checkpoint for assessing the development of spatial ideas and representational strategies.

**Phase 3** — Final Project Production — Design, Documentation & Fabrication (40%):

The primary studio deliverable. Students produce a comprehensive architectural design proposal (minimum 40,000 sq ft) on a self-selected Atlanta site, synthesizing program, site, typology, technology, and cultural narrative into a coherent project. Required deliverables include a complete set of design drawings, a large-scale façade chunk model, a Cinema 4D animation, and participation in the final review.

**Portfolio (10%):**

Submission of a printed and digital portfolio documenting all work completed during the semester, including design process, research, and fabrication methodologies. Participation in the Fall portfolio event is required. The portfolio is evaluated on selection, layout, graphic quality, and the coherence of the design narrative presented across all phases.

**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

Grade	Percentage
A	90–100%
B	80–89%
C	70–79%
D	60–69%
F	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.

## 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.

### **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.

### **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](https://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**

### **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