

School of Architecture | Georgia Tech | Fall 2026

ARCH 6028 Core 1 Studio (5 credits)

Instructor

Michael Stradley | Ventulett NEXT Fellow

mstradley3@gatech.edu

Arch East, Room 110

Office Hours: TBD

TA Name/Email: TBD

Course Information

ARCH 6028 is the first design studio in the Master of Architecture program, intended for students entering the discipline from non-architecture backgrounds. The studio introduces the foundational language of architectural design — drawing, representation, spatial thinking, and making — through a sequence of exercises that build in scale and complexity across the semester.

Foundation studies in architectural design emphasizing analytical and analogical generative strategies applied to studio problems that engage architectural representation, composition, and fabrication.

Course Learning Outcomes

At the conclusion of the studio, students will be able to:

- Engage in close formal analysis of a visual work — identifying the procedures, structures, and spatial logics embedded in its surface and organization.
- Employ the foundational conventions of architectural drawing: plan, section, elevation, and axonometric projection, with clarity of intent and graphic precision.
- Translate ideas across media — from observation to drawing, from drawing to physical object, from object to architectural proposition — with awareness of what each translation preserves, transforms, and invents.

- Produce physical models as primary design instruments, demonstrating care, material intelligence, and iterative thinking through making.
- Formulate and articulate a design concept, and sustain that concept across a sequence of design investigations.
- Engage productively in desk crits, pin-ups, and formal reviews — presenting work verbally and visually, and responding to criticism from instructors and peers.
- Maintain a documented design process across the full length of the studio, evidenced through iterative drawing, model-making, and the accumulating body of work produced each week.

Course Requirements + Deliverables

Attendance for the full duration of each studio session is mandatory. The compressed contact time of two studio days per week requires that all available time be used productively. The majority of contact hours will be dedicated to studio time, desk crits, and group discussion. Occasional tutorials in drawing conventions, modeling techniques, or digital tools will take place at the start of selected sessions.

Studio work and assessment will take three forms: (1) weekly process drawings and models maintained as a running record of each student's development; (2) exercise pin-ups and deliverables; and (3) two formal reviews — a mid-review at the conclusion of Exercise 2 and a final review at the conclusion of Exercise 3.

At the conclusion of every studio session, students will select, format, and prepare a single trimmed process drawing or image for pin-up in a dedicated studio space. This artifact should be evidence of the day's work and thinking — not presentation quality, but curated and specific. These daily artifacts will accumulate into a living record of the studio's progress.

Weekly deliverables will be distributed and discussed each Monday. All work should be printed and ready for discussion at the start of the session. Digital files should be uploaded to the individual student folder in Teams prior to each session.

Course Materials + Instructional Methods:

Course information (syllabus, templates, weekly assignments) and announcements will be conveyed via Teams. Core documents will be duplicated and uploaded to Canvas, and Canvas will be used for grading. The studio Teams channel will serve as the primary means of communication and all deliverables should be uploaded to an individually named folder within the Teams channel. Once per week, a reading with content supporting the studio will be provided digitally via Teams and Canvas.

Grading Policy:

Student performance will be evaluated in alignment with the three primary deliverable formats for the studio. Missing three classes without an approved excuse will result in

a letter grade reduction. Additional absences (assessed, in part, through pinup of daily process) or missed reviews may result in failure of the studio.

Grading Breakdown:

Attendance, Studio Practice & Daily Process Artifact: (20pts total)

Exercise Pin-Ups and Deliverables: (50pts total)

Formal Reviews (Mid and Final): (30pts total)

Letter grades correspond to the Georgia Tech guidelines as follows:

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:

A 90–100%

B 80–89%

C 70–79%

D 60–69%

F Below 60%

Class Meetings and Schedule

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

Attending SoA lectures during studio time on Mondays or Wednesdays from 12:30–1:30 p.m. is required for M. Arch students and highly recommended for B.S. Arch, M.S., and Ph.D. students.

Monday | 12:30PM – 5:30PM

Arrive 12:30PM and pin-up. 1:00PM critique and discussion. Launch or continue current exercise. Studio time. 4:30PM pencils down + pin-up daily process material.

Wednesday | 12:30PM – 5:30PM

Arrive 12:30PM. Quick check-in, tutorial, or desk crits. Studio time. 4:30PM pencils down + pin-up daily process material.

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.

Course Policies

Attendance and Participation

Student performance will be evaluated in alignment with the three primary deliverable formats for the studio, described above. Students are expected to make measurable progress on their design projects during each studio session, responding to feedback from the instructor, but also advancing the project critically and independently.

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.

Missing three classes without an approved excuse may result in a letter grade reduction. Additional absences (assessed and recorded through pin-up of daily process) or missed reviews may result in failure of the studio.

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 will be reported to the Office of Student Integrity, who will investigate the incident and identify the appropriate penalty for violations.

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 to discuss your special needs and to obtain an accommodations letter. Please also e-mail me as soon as possible in order to set up a time to discuss your learning needs.

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.

Use of Generative AI

In this course, the use of Generative AI tools (insert appropriate AI tool(s) here) 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.

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.

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 Mancini (catherine.mancini@library.gatech.edu), for research help and information on available resources.

Contact your Architecture Archives liaison, Jody Thompson (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.

SoA & College of Design Policies

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