

Georgia Tech School of Architecture
ARCH 6049 Design + Research Studio 1
Fall 2026
Syllabus Version 1 – March 24, 2026

Thematic Course Name:	Varies by Section
Credit Hours:	6
Location:	Assigned Studio Space in the School of Architecture
Class Periods:	Mondays and Wednesdays, 12:30PM – 5:25PM
Prerequisites:	Successful completion of all previous required studios in the M.Arch degree program
Instructors:	David Yocum, Professor of the Practice (Primary, Coordinator) Additional Instructors as Assigned to each Section

Course Summary

Advanced architectural design emphasizing innovation through applied research. Emerging methods of design generation/evaluation. Changing topics: healthcare, fabrication, urbanism, ecology, building performance, cultural institutions.

Course Description

Varies by Section

Course Objectives – General Design Content

1. Varies by Section

Course Objectives – Specific NAAB Criteria

1. **PC.2 – Design:** The student understands the role of the design process in shaping the built environment and conveys the methods by which design processes integrate multiple factors, in different settings and scales of development, from buildings to cities. This content is **Assessed**, meaning it is a critical component of the course, students are evaluated, and the program assesses the student performance for accreditation and/or annually.
2. **PC.5 – Research and Innovation:** The student prepares to engage and participate in architectural research to test and evaluate innovations in the field. This content is **Assessed**, meaning it is referenced, introduced, and/or supported in the course.
3. **PC.6 – Leadership and Collaboration:** The student understands approaches to leadership in multidisciplinary teams, diverse stakeholder constituents, and dynamic physical and social contexts, and has learned how to apply effective collaboration skills to solve complex problems. This content is **Practiced**, meaning it is referenced, introduced, and/or supported in the course.
4. **PC.7 – Learning and Teaching Culture:** How the program fosters and ensures a positive and respectful environment that encourages optimism, respect, sharing, engagement, and innovation among its faculty, students, administration, and staff. This content is **Practiced**, meaning students practice, understand, and are assessed on it.
5. **SC.5 – Design Synthesis:** The student demonstrates the 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 their design decisions. This content is **Practiced**, meaning students practice, understand, and are assessed on it.

Required Texts/Readings/Special Materials

Varies by Section

Site

Varies by Section

Course Requirements and Deliverables

The studio is project-based. There will be studio design assignments spaced through the semester, all building towards a final submittal of work for the Final Review. Requirements include attendance at each class for the duration of class time, and participation in every scheduled progress and final evaluation method (including Pin-ups, Workshops, Mid-Reviews, and Final Reviews).

Students must fulfill the following requirements:

1. Attend all class sessions of studio, held in the studio space, in person, unless otherwise scheduled and approved.
2. Advance their work during class sessions of studio, at their desk or other areas of lab, workshop, or meeting areas. The purpose is to use both the studio time, and the studio space, for work, in the presence of fellow students and the instructor.
3. Outside of scheduled class time, complete assignments and prepare for reviews while in the studio space, at your desk in the company of fellow students, whenever possible. Remote work (i.e., offsite, or at home) is necessary and permitted but should not be the norm unless arrangements have been made with and approved by the instructor, in advance. The primary space of work is studio.
4. Meet with the course instructor by signing up for desk crits, pin-ups, and small group meetings. Have working material ready for sharing, discussion, and feedback.
5. Complete all assignments by required due dates and time.
6. Attend all pin-ups and reviews. Make presentations to fellow students and visiting critics and engage in discussion and feedback sessions.
7. Document the final work of all assignments. Prepare and submit materials to the instructor for grading, and to the school archive. Follow formatting and computer file standards as issued.

Instructional Methods

Course information (syllabus, calendar, assignments) and announcements will be conveyed via Canvas and Teams. The studio will make use of traditional methods of teaching architectural design, such as specific design assignments, desk crits (individual and group), informal public pin-ups/reviews and discussions, formal design juries, lectures, design workshops, readings, field trips, etc.

Course Schedule

See annotated class schedule on Canvas and Teams. Please note: this schedule is subject to periodic revisions over the course of the term. Updated schedules will always be posted on Canvas and Teams.

Grading Rubric

For each Assignment, the Instructor will evaluate the work of each student based on the following criteria:

- The quality of architectural design thinking and investigation; and
- The technical sophistication and resolution of the design and work product; and
- The effectiveness of representation through 2D graphic, 3D physical, and/or digital media; and
- General class participation in, and contribution to, the group discussion and work of the studio.

Assignment Weights – Example – Varies by Section

Assignment 1 – Site and Place	10	points
Assignment 2 – Programs of Community	15	points

Assignment 3 – Dwelling and the Unit (Mid Review)	15	points
Assignment 4 – Architectures in the City	20	points
Assignment 5 – Representation and Presentation (Final Review)	30	points
Assignment 6 – Portfolio	10	points
Total	100	points

Grades

- A grade of “F” (0-59pts) represents “failing” work. This grade reflects a failure to meet the studio requirements, including attendance, minimum requirements concerning presentation, and fulfillment of studio requirements. In case of an “F,” the studio must be repeated.
- A grade of “D” (60-69pts) represents “unsatisfactory” work. This grade reflects that you have significant attendance problems, poor studio performance, failure to meet deadlines, non-fulfillment of the basic requirements of the studio, and/or your project is not plausible. In case of a “D,” the studio must be repeated.
- A grade of “C” (70-79pts) represents “satisfactory” work. This grade reflects that you have met the basic requirements of the studio, and your project is plausible, even if underdeveloped. A grade of “C” is a baseline passing grade.
- A grade of “B” (80-89pts) represents “good” or “very good” work. This grade reflects that you have met the full requirements of the studio, and that your project is developed to the point where evaluation can be made relative to the studio’s essential themes and criteria. Your project demonstrates a reasonable degree of completeness, care, and insight.
- A grade of “A” (90-100pts) represents “excellent” work. This grade reflects that your project represents both a clear understanding of studio themes and criteria and is a self-motivated exploration beyond the basic course requirements. Projects that receive grades of “A” are exemplary projects in terms of concept, production, and craft.

All assignments must be completed to receive a passing grade in the class. Assignment due dates and review dates are noted in the class Calendar, as published and updated throughout the semester. Work for all assignments is due at the start of class on the published due date. Work for all reviews (pin-ups, progress reviews, mid-term reviews, and final reviews) are due at the start of class on the published date.

Extensions for the completion of required work may be requested for substantive personal reasons (sickness, family emergency, observed religious holidays, etc.) and approved School or Institute activities (other field trips, career days, etc.).

Unexcused late work, missed assignments, and absences will affect grading. Students are strongly encouraged to have early and transparent conversations with the instructor about potential conflicts, and other issues that may affect their performance in the class, so that reasonable accommodation can be provided. Work not submitted 48 hours prior to GT grade submission deadline will not be considered for grading.

A grade of Incomplete: <https://registrar.gatech.edu/info/incomplete-grades>. Grade disputes and grievances: <https://catalog.gatech.edu/rules/19/>

Archiving and Portfolio

School of Architecture archive requirements: Submission by students of all assignment work, including final project, according to published school standards, in a complete and organized manner, is mandatory. Additionally, submission of a printed and digital portfolio with all GT student work, including work of this semester and participation in the end of semester portfolio event. Failure to submit this content will result in an automatic letter grade reduction and/or the non-filing of a grade. Students are urged to meet this deadline.

Active Participation/Attendance

Active participation at all class sessions is mandatory and crucial to successful completion of the class. Absences will be excused only for medical or family emergencies or for Institute-approved events and religious holidays documented in writing. Without prior approval, late arrivals and early departures will be counted as absences. Students must first notify the Dean of Students to receive an approved absence. Unexcused absences beyond a total of three (3) may result in an automatic letter grade reduction, at the sole discretion of the Instructor.

Correspondence

A Georgia Tech email address is considered the student's official address. Failure on the student's part to receive email or to send email does not constitute an acceptable excuse for failure to complete required work or attend required class. When in doubt, contact the Instructor in person, in addition to confirming receipt of any time-sensitive or urgent correspondence.

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 on a quiz, exam, or assignment 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 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 articulate some basic expectations that you can have of me and that I have of you. In the end, simple respect for knowledge, hard work, and cordial interactions will help build the environment we seek. Therefore, I encourage you to remain committed to the ideals of Georgia Tech while in this class.

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 and maintained by the Office of the Vice President for Student Engagement and Well-being.

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