

School of Architecture | Georgia Tech | Summer 2026

ARCH 3017 R: Architecture Studio 5 (5 credits)

Credit Hours: 5 credits
Classroom: MOB
Days and hours of class: MWF 14:30-19:00

Instructor: Mark Cottle

Course Description (from the Catalog)

Intermediate architectural design projects exploring the inter-relationships of various programmatic models, normative building types, and technological themes within specific physical, urban and cultural contexts.

Course Overview

An introduction to the discourse of architecture, its language of representation, and its procedures, enacted through problem-based learning in two cumulative design exercises.

Course Objectives

This course is designed to accomplish the following objectives:

1. Introduce you to architecture as a *discourse*
2. Introduce you to design as an *iterative, heuristic process*
3. Help you become literate in architectural representation, drawings and models, as a *new language*
4. Enable you to engage in formal analysis and diagramming
5. Acquire a basic understanding of geometry and composition
6. Work at a range of scales — urban, site, building, room, element/object — and be able to shift among scales
7. Become cognizant of context, and responsive to it

Learning Objectives

Students who successfully complete the course will be able to:

1. Engage the *discourse* of architecture
2. Practice design as an *iterative, heuristic process*
3. Demonstrate literacy in *architectural representation*, drawings and models
4. Demonstrate through diagrams the ability to engage in formal analysis
5. Demonstrate a basic understanding of geometry and composition
6. Demonstrate facility with a range of scales: urban, site, building, room, element/object
7. Demonstrate an awareness of and sensitivity to context

Required course materials

Basic hand-drafting and model-making equipment and materials.

Course Requirements and Deliverables

Satisfactory completion of two assigned design exercises, each with a specific set of deliverables.

Active attendance and participation in class discussions, pinups, and reviews.

Instructional Methods

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

Course Schedule

Please see the annotated class schedule on Canvas. Please note that this schedule is subject to periodic revisions throughout the term. Updated schedules will always be posted on Canvas.

Assessment

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. 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. 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 work is developed to the point where evaluation can be made relative to the studio's essential themes and criteria.

A grade of "A" (90-100pts) represents "excellent" work. This grade reflects both a clear understanding of studio themes and criteria and a self-motivated exploration beyond basic course requirements.

Assignments are weighted as follows:

Exercise 1: 10%, Exercise 2: 20%, Exercise 3: 10%, Exercise 4: 50%, Portfolio: 10%.

Please note: In this problem-based learning environment, design projects serve as the primary vehicle for instruction, and as one important indication of a student's grasp of the learning outcomes stated above. But the project/product is not the studio's end goal. Rather, studio pedagogy aims to guide students, by example, in developing a robust design process of their own, with a set of tools (media) and procedures that will take them beyond the immediate requirements of any specific design exercise. Evaluation, therefore, will take into account: a student's active presence and participation in the studio, ambition, both the quantity and the quality of materials produced (the record of a process), and distance traveled.

No incompletes will be awarded without an appropriate reason or a prior meeting between the student and the instructor, either in person or on Teams. All assignments must be completed to receive a passing grade in the class. Incompletes will be granted only under extraordinary circumstances.

CIOS

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>). More information is available here:

<https://academiceffectiveness.gatech.edu/surveys/cios/cios-faqs/studentfaq>

COURSE POLICIES

Academic Integrity and Conduct

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. All Georgia Tech students should familiarize themselves with and abide by the Georgia Tech Honor Code: <http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/rules/18/>. Faculty shall report instances of academic dishonesty to the Office of the Dean of Students.

For expectations of student and instructor conduct more generally, consult section 19 of the catalog listed above, entitled "Code of Conduct," <http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/rules/19/>, and section 22, entitled "Student-Faculty Expectations," at <http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/rules/22/>.

All persons in the classroom are expected to behave with courtesy towards others and in a way that does not interfere with the regular conduct of the class. Cell phones are to be turned off when students enter the classroom and should remain off for the duration of the class; laptop computers are to be used only for taking notes; and students should not

engage in private conversations while the instructor or other students are speaking. Anyone not adhering to these basic courtesies will be asked to leave.

AI Policy

AI is not appropriate for the purposes of this studio and should not be used in any form. It's use will be considered an honor code violation, and dealt with accordingly.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Any student with a disability who may require accommodation should contact the Office of Disability Services at 404-894-2563 or visit <http://disabilityservices.gatech.edu> to make an appointment to discuss their special needs and obtain an accommodations letter. They should also schedule an appointment with the course instructor to discuss their learning needs.

Active Participation/Attendance

Active Participation at all class meetings is mandatory and crucial to the successful completion of the class. Absences will be excused only for medical or family emergencies, Institute-approved events, and religious holidays documented in writing. (According to a new policy, you must notify your instructor in writing during the first two weeks of the semester about any anticipated absences for religious holidays.)

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. Three tardies and/or early departures add up to an unexcused absence. Missing more than three classes, excused or unexcused, might result in a meeting with your instructor and the Architecture Program Office to determine a course of action and can result in an incomplete grade (I) or a failing grade in this course.

Students are highly encouraged to submit any class absence verification that is required due to documented illness, hospitalizations, accidents, death in the family, family emergencies, and lengthy illnesses to the dean of students. <https://studentlife.gatech.edu/request-assistance>

Approved Communication Platforms

https://gatech.service-now.com/home?id=kb_article_view&sysparm_article=KB0023604

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.

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 now in operation 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 also reserves the right to refuse credit for any project executed outside the precincts of the College or otherwise produced without proper coordination with the faculty.

Students are expected to be actively present and participate in all studio sessions, and to meet minimum completion requirements (or more) in a timely manner for each pinup and review. Late work may be accepted, but with a lowered grade, unless an accommodation is sought and granted in advance.

Studio hours should be dedicated to studio work. No homework for other courses, watching films, texting, chatting, eating, listening to music, etc.

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

Late work may be accepted due to extenuating circumstances, but with a lowered grade, unless accommodation is sought and granted in advance. Please note that pinups, reviews, presentations, and discussions occur in real time. If missed, they cannot be re-scheduled or re-constituted. Hybrid online presence is not possible.

Library & Archives

Need to do research but don't know where to start? 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 website: <https://library.gatech.edu/>

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

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.

Studio Housekeeping

Organize Your Space:

Please ensure that your workspace is organized in a manner that respects the needs of those around you. Avoid clutter that may become a nuisance, distraction, or even pose a hazard.

Keep Drawings Filed and Models/Materials Off the Floor:

Our cleaning staff tries to keep the studio clean and tidy. To assist them in their efforts, please keep your drawings properly filed and ensure that models and materials are not left on the floor. **Material left on the floor in studios will be considered trash and will be disposed of accordingly.**

No food during studio hours:

Food is strictly prohibited in studio during class.

Dispose of food-related trash immediately: If you have any food-related trash, please ensure it is promptly placed in one of the designated trash bins after use.

Desk Usage:

Please refrain from using a desk not assigned to you unless you have obtained prior permission.

Work Surface Protection:

It is strictly prohibited to use spray paint, spray adhesive, paint, stain, plaster, concrete, resin, or any similar materials on unprotected desktops, floors, or other work surfaces within the studio, classrooms, corridors, and stairways. These types of production should be carried out at the CoD shop or other designated facilities.

Cutting Materials:

Under no circumstances should materials be cut on an unprotected desk surface. Doing so can lead to damage.

Clean up your workspace:

Please make it a habit to clean up after yourself at the end of each day. This includes organizing your desk, disposing of any trash, and returning equipment or supplies to their proper places.