

School of Architecture | Georgia Tech | Fall 2026

ARCH 4016: Architecture Design Studio VI (5 credits)

Required Course for B.S. Architecture Degree Program

ARCH 4016 Syllabus

Architecture Design Studio VI, Section JK, 5 credits

Fall 2026

Instructor Information

Instructor: Julie Ju-Youn Kim, FAIA, Professor

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Office Location: West Architecture 351A

Office Hours: by appointment

Instructor: Botao Li, PhD candidate

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General Course Information

Course Description

(from the course catalog) *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.*

Learning from Culture, Tectonics, and Plasticity

Cul-tur-al; adjective

- Relating to the ideas, customs, and social behaviors of a society.

Tec-ton-ic; adjective

- Relating to building or construction
- Relating to a (change or development) very significant or considerable.

Plas-tic-i-ty; noun

- The quality of being easily shaped or molded
- The adaptability of an organism to changes in its environment or differences between its various habitats

Three intertwined ideas frame this design studio's pedagogy: culture, tectonics, and plasticity. Design decisions became acts of interpretation. They became the choices about whose stories are shared, whose memories are carried forward, and how new layers might be added without erasing what came before.

THE SITE

Woodlawn, a historic and rapidly developing South Side neighborhood in Chicago, Illinois, provides a charged and meaningful context for this exploration. Anchored by the University of Chicago to the north and the new Obama Presidential Center and the Olmstead-designed Jackson Park at the eastern edge, Woodlawn embodies both the promise and the tension of contemporary urban redevelopment. It is a neighborhood that has been continually shaped by cycles of decline and reinvention. Recent investment has brought energy and opportunity, while simultaneously intensifying concerns around displacement and loss of local identity. It is poised again for change with the increased interest and attention on the adjacent Lake Michigan waterfront.

WHAT'S AT STAKE?

Our work will ultimately reinforce a fundamental lesson that context is expansive, layered, and unavoidable. It is not limited to what is immediately visible or measurable. It is never singular or static. As our projects move from drawings and models into shared discourse, they carry forward a conviction that good architecture is not only well designed, but well considered, rooted in context, responsive to change, and generous in its impact. Through our reading of the site and surroundings, we will offer design solutions that not only build upon its cultural and social history but also look to the future to script the next chapter. We will reframe this site through the inherently optimistic acts of making and building.

The work of our studio will demonstrate a commitment to architecture as an optimistic act of making, grounded in research, shaped by responsibility, and driven by belief in the power of place.

Course Learning Outcomes

Students who successfully complete the course will be able to:

1. establish and develop imaginative and defensible design proposals, to execute thoughtful and clear alternative propositions, and to test theories through experimentation relating to both the conceptual and the material dimensions of the project.
2. collaborate and share ideas and apply inventive approaches to problem finding and problem solving across scales and disciplines
3. understand the relationship between human behavior, the natural environment and the design of the built environment.
4. deploy appropriate representational modes and media in each of these aspects to advance the analysis and synthesis of design parameters and to communicate conceptual, technical, and expressive intents.

Required Course Materials

There is not a required textbook for this studio. Readings will be posted on Teams. There is external funding to support material and plotting costs for the studio. Students may still be required to purchase additional materials for physical model building.

Grading Policy

Student accomplishment will be assessed based upon these criteria and considering students' relative academic level in the program. Your grade for this course will be determined based upon the quality of the work you produce, your improvement over the course of the semester, completion and punctual submission of required deliverables, quality of class participation, and attendance, attitude, and ethical conduct. Midterm evaluations will be given by your instructor. They will notify and counsel any student concerning any necessary action should it need to be taken concerning the semester Drop Day.

There will be no incompletes awarded without appropriate reason nor without a prior meeting, either in person or on Teams, of the student and the instructor. All assignments must be completed to receive a passing grade in the class. Incompletes will be granted only under extraordinary circumstances.

The basis for grading is as follows.

Assignments

Exercise 1:	5%
Exercise 2:	5%
Exercise 3:	10%
Exercise 4:	25%
Exercise 5:	25%
Exercise 6:	20%
Portfolio:	10%
TOTAL:	100%

*Progress will be shared via Miro and will show the work evolution. These materials will take the form of the final studio publication and will therefore be gradually coordinated by students.

**Students will be required to submit process work over the course of the terms. At each step, all work should be submitted as a packaged InDesign file to the studio Teams site. All images should be saved as high-resolution files (JPGs or PNGs). All work should use the naming convention:

(date)_Fall2026_ARCH4016_JKIM_studentlastname_(file).(file type).

EX: 09032026_Fall2026_ARCH4016_JKIM_Abrahamian_section1.JPG

***Final Digital Submission: All final work completed as a requirement of this course is to be submitted to the Instructor digitally for final grading and documentation purposes, including all

physical materials. Models and/or physical materials will need to be adequately photographed. Failure to submit material can result in an incomplete and/or lower grade.

Description of Graded Components

All materials will be progressively produced over the course of the studio as essential parts of the research to support the design effort rather than serving as mere means of representation. Different media will be part of the experimentation agenda. Students are encouraged to be creative with design and with the tools that help develop it.

1. Exercise 1: Building Cultural, Historical, Environmental Understanding (Weeks 01 – 02)
 - a. Operative Design Language Diagrams
 - b. Iterative pattern abstractions iterations of a module
 - c. Translations to Full-Scale Study
2. Exercise 2: Site Information Gathering and Mappings (Weeks 01 – 02)
 - a. Site photo documentation
 - b. Site mappings
3. Exercise 3: Translating the Diagram (Weeks 03-05)
 - a. Transformation of pattern into reality
 - b. Diagrams and 3D printed façade studies
4. Exercise 4: Programming the Site (Weeks 05-06)
 - a. Site and Program Analysis
5. Exercise 5: Site and Program Operation and Iterations of the Module (Weeks 06-09)
 - a. Site and Program Propositions: iterations of the module
 - b. Building Designs: propositions reconciling the program needs with the spatial circumstance
 - i. 3D printed and chipboard model studies
 - ii. Plans, sections, elevations
 - iii. Propositional drawings that bring the viewer inside the proposals
 - c. Continuous narrative alignment between the “making” of our work and the “storytelling”
 - i. 3D printed options will be a continual part of this process, as will focused interactions with both architectural SME's and industry partners in developing parameters and troubleshooting formwork/mold and transportability issues, as well as integration of glazing into the systems.
 - d. Deployment on an entire façade
 - i. While the individual module investigation and prototyping is occurring, students will simultaneously be investigating how these modules get deployed on a given façade:
 1. Optimize repeatability of formwork
 2. Grids versus randomization
6. Exercise 6: Wall Section and Full-Scale Fragment (Weeks 10-12)
 - a. Wall section development
 - b. Full-Scale prototype mold
7. Design Propositions: Presentation and Publication (Weeks 11-13)
 - a. Final presentation: diagrams, drawings, and models
 - b. Photo documentation of models and final work-product

8. Portfolio development and Studio documentation (Weeks 14-15)
 - a. Submission of a printed and digital portfolio with all GT student work, including work from Fall 2026, and participation in the Fall 2026 portfolio event are required.

Studio Grading Rubric

- A grade of "F" (below 60) 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" (60-69) 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" (70-79) 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" (80-89) 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" (90-100) represents "excellent" work. This grade reflects that your project demonstrates a clear understanding of studio themes and criteria and is a self-motivated exploration that extends beyond the basic course requirements. Projects that receive grades of "A" are exemplary projects in terms of concept, production, and craft.

Grading Scale

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. Attending SoA lectures during studio time on Wednesdays from 12:30–1:30 p.m. is required.

Instructional Methods

Initial course information (syllabus, calendar) will be conveyed via Canvas. Following announcements and assignments will be communicated via Teams. The studio will make use of traditional (and proven) 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, lecturing, design workshops, readings, field trips (when possible), etc.

Reviews and Criticism

Architectural reviews, or juries, as public reviews of student work are the primary means of critical review of student work in a studio format course. Reviews are usually held conclusion of each project, and at various points throughout the design process. Reviews, conducted to facilitate studio discourse, are an open forum of criticism and engagement. Juried reviews are an important part of the design studio culture and an invaluable tool in the learning process. Initially, students will likely find this system of presentation and critique challenging. Given time and objectivity, however, students will realize the value of these reviews. Failure to attend and actively participate in these review sessions is unacceptable and will result in a reduction in the course grade. Students are expected to attend their peers' reviews, take notes, make diagrams, and participate in discussions and critical engagement of the course through the public review process.

Course Policies

Attendance Policy

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

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.

Studio Reviews: Reviews are a critical part of the learning experience and essential to the life of any studio. All students are required to attend each and all reviews, from start to finish, and are expected to actively participate in the dialogue with reviewers regarding their own project as well as their classmates.

Attendance of SoA lectures during studio time on Wednesday from 12:30–1:30 p.m. is required.

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

All graphic content created with AI tools should be labeled as AI-generated or AI-assisted. Experimentation with various AI tools is highly encouraged but needs to be clearly identified.

1. 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

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

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>

There will be no incompletes awarded without appropriate reason nor without a prior meeting, either in person or on Teams, of the student and the instructor. All assignments must be completed to receive a passing grade in the class. Incompletes will be granted only under extraordinary circumstances.

For extensions, late assignments, and missed scheduled design reviews, the student must clearly communicate with the instructor as quickly as possible to determine appropriate next steps. Do

not wait before communicating with the instructor, as this will jeopardize any flexibility to accommodate a potential extension. Failure to communicate with the instructor after 2 days have passed from the original due date or review date will result in a failing grade.

Inclement Weather and Digital Learning Days

If a weather-related event affects campus operations, we may pivot to digital instruction. Once the official notification has been issued by the Institute, the instructor will post an announcement on Canvas outlining the plan for the studio meeting day.

Student Use of Mobile Devices in the Classroom

Students may use their mobile devices for matters related to the studio. Students should refrain from watching videos and/or doing other classwork during the required studio meeting time.

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.

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