PROGRAM
USC Architecture
WHAT IMPACT DO YOU WANT TO HAVE ON THE WORLD?
That sounds like a simple question, yet it carries enormous meaning! As the world has become more similar in many ways, and as technology has brought disparate peoples closer together, we still find ourselves atomized by geographic constraints, economic limitations, structural inadequacies, and conflict. Navigating the world and the complexities of identity and space requires a capacious intellect and an imaginative mind. The USC School of Architecture has been educating explorers since its founding in 1919. Our educational offerings include architecture, landscape architecture + urbanism, building science, and heritage conservation. With 750 students and 100 faculty members, the School has the reach and scale of few others nationwide.

OUR GRADUATES ARE EXPLORERS AND CITIZENS OF THE WORLD.
As students, they come from all corners of the globe. They are from diverse backgrounds, races, ethnicities, geographies, and cultures; and they claim identities that are their own. They are Pritzker Prize Laureates and AIA Gold Medal Recipients—like Paul Williams, Frank Gehry, and Thom Mayne. They are transformational figures in the history and evolution of modernism and urbanization. They are providing the intellectual capital that fuels new thinking in applied building technologies and the preservation/conservation of our heritage, cultural infrastructure, and ecologies. And…they are the emerging voices in the yet unwritten stories of urban revitalization, civic infrastructure, and new forms of housing and commerce.

WE CELEBRATE PLURALISM, AND WE PRACTICE CRITICAL THINKING.
Our graduates are being equipped with competencies that range in scope from technical skills in designing architecture at all scales; and conceptual precision in articulating ideas and linking design to other discourses, including humanities and social sciences; to representational finesse in utilizing analog, digital, and moving image methods to communicate ideas. Our faculty are driven to explore—from the everyday consequences of architecture and design to impact a community to the experimental realm of theoretical research and speculation. Our curriculum and our connection to the larger USC community means that there are no bounds to your interests. USC is a leading research university with excellence across 19 academic schools, institutes, and global partnerships.

The opportunity is yours—join us!

MILTON S. F. CURRY
Dean
Della & Harry MacDonald Dean’s Chair
**ABOUT**

**USC SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE**

PROGRAM

SINCE OUR ESTABLISHMENT IN 1914, the USC School of Architecture has excelled in offering a solid foundation for success for all of our graduates.

Our program gives students numerous degree options to best pursue their individual interests and goals. All undergraduate students may choose between two distinct bachelor degrees and a minor from more than 150 options. Our graduate students may choose from our five master's degrees, three dual degrees and five certificate programs.

Through the ongoing success of so many of our alumni trained within these programs, the School of Architecture has built a well-earned reputation of preparing leaders in our field. Our degree curriculum—whether in architecture, landscape architecture, building science, or heritage conservation—has always been intensive, in-depth, and topical, with each program fusing history, theory, technology, and design into a variety of degree programs.

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2 distinct bachelor degrees
5 distinct master's degrees, 3 dual degrees, 5 certificate programs.
that well-prepare our students for the rigors of the professional design practices.

Our graduates from these programs are truly world renowned as the foremost designers, practitioners and faculty in architecture of yesterday and today. We hold two Pritzker Prize laureates Frank Gehry and Thom Mayne as our alumni, as well as Case Study House Program participants, Pierre Koenig, Conrad Buff, Don Hensman, and Calvin Straub. Countless more of our alumni have established themselves as leaders in local and international practices—for instance, Emmet Wemple, William Pereira, Albert Martin, Jon Jerde, Mark Rios, Kelly Sutherland McLeod, Ronald Altoon, and Gerard Furbershaw all established their own local offices after graduating from USC, which then quickly grew into practices with worldwide reputations for creative, groundbreaking architecture, landscape architecture, and design.

Embracing the future, our students are encouraged to participate each year in one of our many global studies programs. We offer semester-long programs in Europe (Barcelona and Como), Asia (China, Japan, Hong Kong), South America (Brazil, Mexico, Peru) as well as shorter studio offerings and field studies in France, China, as well as the United States to introduce students to new cultural frameworks that contribute to the shaping of their global perspective.

Our approximately 100 faculty members create a diverse spectrum of experts for our students to learn from in both studios and seminars each term. Tenured academicians teach alongside practicing, award-winning professionals. Our invited visiting faculty and critics are selected from elite schools and design practices from Los Angeles and around the world and have included Frank Gehry, Kazuyo Sejima, Ryue Nishizawa, Michael Maltzan, Mia Lehrer, Will Bruder, Dan Meis, Markus Miessen, Michael Meredith & Hilary Sample, Oliver Schulze.
Michael Meredith & Hilary Sample, Thomas Phifer, Tom Kundig, and Oliver Schulze.

The future of the architectural profession rests on providing the highest caliber education to students who will become leaders in the industry and beyond. The USC School of Architecture demonstrates its commitment in bridging academic excellence and professional development through individualized mentoring programs, career guidance, and active engagement through the USC Architectural Guild. As the nation’s most distinguished architecture professional alumni organization, the Guild has provided philanthropic support to enhance and promote the School’s top priorities, including scholarships, professorships, and school programs. For close to 60 years, the members of the Guild from all professional backgrounds and industries within the realm of architecture, design, construction and real estate development, have joined together with a shared vision that architectural education at USC must be supported and nurtured. In this spirit, USC Architecture students are presented with numerous opportunities to develop connections, both through personal and professional development such as one-on-one reviews of student resumes and portfolios and small group networking with selected industry leaders and firms. The School dedicates special attention and resources to ensure its students achieve their academic and career goals that align with their passion and core values.
UNIVERSITY AND LOS ANGELES

Los Angeles is world-renowned for its vibrancy. The University of Southern California is a premier research institution. Both provide the USC School of Architecture with an unparalleled context for the study of the natural, built and technological environments. Positioned at the fulcrum of East and West, the City, University, and School combine to engage our students simultaneously on the global and neighborhood stage.

LOS ANGELES: THE ULTIMATE LABORATORY

Los Angeles is described as the perfect laboratory for architecture students. Its variety of urban and environmental components, both cultural and physical, contributes to the city’s diversity, flexibility, and multiplicity in all aspects. These conditions make it
the perfect laboratory where architecture starts to challenge its boundaries. In this city is where the USC School of Architecture should be. But to be in it is not enough. It should be connected to it and immersed in it.

This immersion takes many forms. Our students actively participate in the city and its culture, studying notable architecture and landscapes through first-hand experience. Student design projects often reflect this interactive engagement by creating work that directly examines issues of the city, engaging in the real world issues of architecture, landscape architecture, building science and heritage conservation that surround them every day.

**USC: THE ULTIMATE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT**

You are part of the Trojan Family experience the moment you become a student at USC. This unique and prestigious designation joins you not only to the community of students and faculty but also to a network of 375,000 alumni. Together they offer an unsurpassed support system for every student. This vibrant setting presents numerous opportunities to get involved academically and socially, not only on campus but within the surrounding community and city as well. With 800 student organizations, you can explore your passions and interests—leadership programs, recreational sports, religious groups, student government, multicultural organizations, Greek life, community service opportunities, and much more.

USC offers students countless opportunities and options to enhance their academic careers. You can pursue degrees from 19 different professional schools and choose from 150 minors—the broadest selection of any U.S. university. Visions and Voices, a university-wide arts and humanities initiative, fosters creativity and discovery.
THE SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE CURRENTLY has 39 full-time faculty, as well as numerous adjunct professional faculty, specializing in design, theory, history, technology, preservation, landscape, or computation. In addition to teaching, our faculty engage in distinguished creative practice, funded research or scholarly publication.

USC Architecture faculty members have collectively received hundreds of awards and grants, including those from the American Institute of Architects (AIA), the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA), the California Preservation Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the National Science Foundation. Our faculty engage in multi-year funded research projects, advancing knowledge in areas such as seismic design, natural day lighting, solar design, affordable housing, housing for special users, sustainability, advanced material application, and building information modeling. Others working in architectural history, media theory, and heritage conservation publish each year in single-authored university press books and in competitive journals. Several faculty have served as officers on editorial boards, including those of Journal of Architectural Education and the Society of Architectural Historians.

Four of our faculty have been recognized as Distinguished Professors by the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture (ACSA). Twelve have been named Fellows of the American Institute of Architects (FAIA). Four have won the prestigious Phi Kappa Phi award for outstanding achievement in the publication of a book. Faculty have also been named Fellows of the American Academy of Rome, Fellows of the American Solar Energy Society.
ABOUT

USC SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE PROGRAM

Located in the Harris Hall and Watt Hall complex of buildings and courtyards on the University Park Campus, the USC School of Architecture comprises over 50,000 square feet of design studios, classrooms, galleries, workshops, and laboratories specifically designed to offer an immersive and stimulating learning environment.

Each semester, all architecture students are assigned their own design workstations with storage. The University provides continuous wireless support, and students have 24-hour, seven-days-a-week access to their studios and workstations.

The School expects, promotes, and supports the use and advancement of technology for the study of architecture. Our
About USC School of Architecture Program

The School also operates a state-of-the-art darkroom for analog photography with a variety of equipment, darkrooms, and a model shooting room for student use as well as a digital fabrication workshop including laser cutting, CNC milling, and robotics.

Helen Topping Architecture and Fine Arts Library

Watt Hall features the Helen Topping Architecture and Fine Arts Library, a fully computerized facility that contains one of the most comprehensive architectural book, journal, and slide collections in the United States. The library houses over 75,000 volumes, including many original rare books. Homer, the library’s online catalogue, provides access to the library system’s holdings from any branch on campus, as well as from a student’s personal computer. Students can access more than 300 electronic databases, such as the Avery Index to Architectural Periodicals, art and popular culture indexes, and many journals online.
*Historic Landmarks*

The Greene & Greene Gamble House and Frank Lloyd Wright’s Freeman House are two jewels of our Heritage Conservation program. Both landmarks are available to students and faculty for study, research, and events. Each year, two USC Architecture students are awarded fellowships to live at the Gamble House as part of the Scholar-in-Residence Program.

The Gamble House, a national historic landmark, is recognized internationally as a masterpiece of the turn-of-the-century Arts and Crafts Movement in the United States. The house, built in 1908 for David and Mary Gamble of the Proctor and Gamble Company, is the most complete and best-preserved example of the architecture and interior design work of brothers Charles Sumner Greene and Henry Mather Greene.

The Freeman House, designed by Frank Lloyd Wright in 1923, is one of the most interesting examples of his textile block period. Given to the School of Architecture by Harriet Freeman in 1984, it contains one of the best collections of custom-designed Rudolph Schindler furniture.

The house has been the subject of research grants from the Getty Foundation, the Andy Warhol Foundation, and the Domino Foundation. When restoration work is completed, the Freeman house will function as a residence for students and distinguished visitors, as well as a setting for small seminars and meetings.
USC HAS A LONG TRADITION OF MEETING 100% of the USC-determined financial need for undergraduate students who meet all deadlines and eligibility requirements. The financial aid program includes need-based grants, merit scholarships, low-interest loans, and federal work-study programs for undergraduates. Students must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents and must meet all other eligibility requirements to be eligible for federal, state, and university financial aid programs.

In addition to applying for need-based aid through the University’s Office of Financial Aid, our undergraduate students in architecture may apply for various donor-supported scholarships each year through the School of Architecture Scholarship Application.

Visit [www.usc.edu/admission/fa/](http://www.usc.edu/admission/fa/) for more information.

Donor-supported scholarships, visit [http://arch.usc.edu/students/scholarships](http://arch.usc.edu/students/scholarships) for more information.
The School of Architecture also awards merit scholarships for both domestic and international graduate students. All applicants accepted into one of our graduate programs are automatically evaluated for this support. Most domestic graduate students who demonstrate financial need and meet all eligibility requirements and deadlines may also qualify for low-interest federal loans and federal work-study programs. International graduate students are not eligible for university financial aid.
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**Bachelor of Architecture**

Our NAAB-accredited professional Bachelor of Architecture program provides an exceptional university education. Students study architecture as well as complete other core coursework in the sciences and humanities throughout their five-year curriculum. Our students are encouraged to pursue minors to combine their interest in architecture with allied fields.

The combination of a world-class research university and a 100-year-old architecture program situated in Los Angeles, one of the centers of global architecture, makes for an unbeatable undergraduate education in architecture. With the robust scale of our program, we offer a great diversity of choices for each student to follow their own interests. With our worldwide reputation for design excellence, we create small studio laboratories every semester, led by distinguished faculty at the cutting edge of the profession. Our students are challenged to shape our future
environments through a synthesis of technological and cultural innovation, responding to thoughtful deliberation of pressing and contemporary issues.

Beginning in the first semester, students will be immersed in both architectural and general university studies. The first six semesters provides a foundation in understanding architecture through studies in design, technology, culture, and history, concluding with integrative studies that help develop a deeper understanding of becoming an architect. The remaining four semesters provide the opportunity to explore many aspects of architecture and the discipline, including studies abroad. To develop individual strengths and interests, each student’s studies conclude with a year-long degree project that develops out of a research seminar and concludes with a focused, yet comprehensive studio.

### DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

**School of Architecture Courses**  112 Units
- Design  58
- Technology  21
- History/Theory  13
- Design Communication  2
- Professional Practice  6
- Professional Electives  12

**Other Courses**  48 Units
- General Education  (incl. ARCH214ab, PHYS 125L, ARCH-213ab)  28
- Writing Requirement  8
- Mathematics  4
- Free Electives  8

**TOTAL UNITS REQUIRED**  160 Units
BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN ARCHITECTURAL STUDIES

The four-year architectural studies degree program provides a rich curriculum for each student—blending basic training in architectural design, technology, and history. It allows each student to both explore architecture and its related fields of practice, as well as focus on a particular area they find more compelling. It is an excellent degree alternative for those students interested in architecture but not sure if they might want to pursue a career or graduate work after USC in architecture or other fields, such as environmental studies, real estate, urban planning, landscape design, etc. Students first accepted into the professional five-year Bachelor of Architecture program (B.Arch) are eligible to elect this degree (B.S. in A.S) at the end of the second year of study.

The curriculum includes a core program in the first two years identical to the Bachelor of Architecture professional degree program. In the second two years, students explore many aspects...
of architecture and related fields and develop individual strengths and interests. Students take a specialization course in the second year, which introduces them to related fields and alternative degree options. Each student develops a degree plan with the help of their advisor, identifying electives that fulfill an area of concentration. The four-year program concludes with a capstone seminar, which allows all degree candidates to work collaboratively on areas of common interest.

**DEGREE REQUIREMENTS**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>School of Architecture Courses</th>
<th>84 Units</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Design</td>
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<tr>
<td>Technology</td>
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<tr>
<td>History/Theory</td>
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<td>Design Communication</td>
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<td>Professional Practice</td>
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<td>Core &amp; Capstone Seminar</td>
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<th>Other Courses</th>
<th>44 Units</th>
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<td>(incl. ARCH 214ab, PHYS 125L, ARCH 213ab)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Writing Requirement</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Free Electives</td>
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**TOTAL UNITS REQUIRED** 128 UNITS

**MINORS**

Students enrolled in other degree programs than listed above may achieve a Minor in Architecture or Landscape Architecture while studying at USC.

**Architecture**

Students not only gain a wide range of valuable skills related to the creative process, but also benefit by learning about the history of our built environment, with all of its technological and cultural impact on human progress across several millennium.

**Landscape Architecture**

The minor provides students with the ability to integrate the ecological and cultural dimensions of landscape architecture into their course of study. Studies are about repairing and sustaining natural systems in cities, about the history of human settlements, places, and gardens in urban landscapes, and about the cultural and aesthetic meanings of landscape architecture design. This is an excellent emphasis for students in environmental studies, civil engineering, planning, and anthropology.
The Global Studies Programs extend the boundaries of academic engagement beyond the USC campus. Part of the international focus of the School of Architecture is to encourage all students in good standing to study abroad for a semester to better understand and experience global culture, practice, economy, and education. The students will extrapolate and synthesize the similarities and differences that exist between their accepted social and cultural norms and other ways of thinking about the city and its architecture. Experiencing these places allows one to think more creatively about urbanism and the rich possibilities the environments and cultures of cities abroad offer its citizens for interaction and
stimulation. Resolving design problems within foreign contexts also provides an intellectual and creative challenge that engages students directly in understanding other places and cultures. Each program includes four to five weeks of travel field studies along with seven to eight weeks primarily focusing on the design studio that is part of the required curriculum. A priority of all programs is to provide interaction with international students of architecture.

Fall Program in Asia: Asian Architecture and Landscape Urbanism

The AALU program provides the opportunity to explore the new urban paradigm of China. Though the program is anchored in Shanghai, academic enrichment excursions and urban/design workshops will take the students to many other cities in China, as well as in Japan, and Hong Kong. Students engage in the transformative forces of urbanism and built environments to mediate the spectrum between universal civilization and the indigenous particularities of place and culture. They will be taught to observe and synthesize the similarities and differences that exist between their own social/cultural norms and the critical means for thinking about architecture and the city. These studies are intended to challenge their assumptions and expand their horizons.

Fall Program in Spain: Barcelona

Barcelona is both a modern and historical city, committed to a culture of visual design that has realized many ambitious urban plans. It is a dynamic site for the study of ancient and contemporary urbanism, as it is a model of cultural activity and an impressive locus for new architecture, landscape architecture, and urbanism. Design projects seek to embrace public space and architecture from antiquity to the 21st century, which will be studied in the context of a city which seeks to project its future in dialogue with engaging its past and
present. A design studio with faculty and students from La Salle University Barcelona provides students with opportunities to work collaboratively with international students. Field studies in Madrid, Toledo, Bilbao, San Sebastian, Granada, Seville, Cordoba, and other Spanish cities, as well as areas of Europe, including Paris, Amsterdam, Rotterdam, and Venice, expose students to the full range of historical and contemporary architecture.

**Spring Semester in Italy: Rome/Como**

Anthony A. Marnell II  
*Italian Architecture Studies Program*

The Marnell Italy program begins in Rome with study and analysis of Ancient, Medieval, Renaissance, and Twentieth-Century design, architecture, and urbanism. Other field studies include Florence, with its exceptional Renaissance architecture; the Veneto region: Ferrara, Verona, Vicenza and Venice; and several weeks in Como and Milan. Milan is the heart of design, graphics, furniture design, and fashion for Europe, and the program includes study at the Salone Internazionale del Mobile, held every spring. As well, field studies to Switzerland, Germany, France, and Austria examine architecture and design in countries whose recent connections to northern Italy are increasingly important to Italy’s design direction for the future. Design studio projects extend from urban considerations to design strategy to design implementation and occur in a series of design studio workshops in Rome and Milan/Como, some working with faculty and students from the University of Roma Tre and the Milan Politecnico, exploring urban connections in a range of contexts.

**Summer Semester in South America:**  
*Emphasis on Architecture and Development*

The School of Architecture offers a summer program based at the Fundação Armando Alvares Penteado (FAAP), which includes travel throughout Mexico, and Peru before arriving at
São Paolo at the midterm point. USC students work on a studio project in collaboration with students from the FAAP and the Universidad Iberoamericana. The purpose of this program is to offer students the opportunity to:

— work on a real project in a country where development is a prime goal of the government and where opportunities for architecture students to complete internships and gain employment after graduation are expanding;

— work with the physical requirements, governmental regulations, and economic situations that affect the design of projects that can be realized;

— become familiar with local practitioners in order to learn about architectural practice in these areas; and

— expand appreciation of the importance of the rising status of Brazil as a world power in the current market and introduce USC students to current, local practitioners.

Please note: Specific locations for the School of Architecture global studies programs are subject to change.
Common Application and the USC Supplemental Application

Transcripts
FIRST-YEAR APPLICANTS: Submit official transcripts of all high school and college coursework completed.

TRANSFER APPLICANTS: Official final high school transcripts with date of graduation. Students who completed secondary school outside the U.S. may substitute a copy of a diploma or leaving certificate. Students who did not finish high school should also submit a copy of their completion certificate (such as a GED) and may also submit a letter of explanation.

All official college transcripts. Official transcripts of any and all college coursework completed through the fall term.

Official Test Scores
FIRST-YEAR APPLICANTS: arrange for the testing agency to send your SAT or ACT scores directly to USC.
TRANSFER APPLICANTS: SAT or ACT scores required, if you have completed fewer than 30 semester units of college coursework.

School Report
ALL FIRST-YEAR APPLICANTS are required to submit the Common Application School Report by providing the name and e-mail address of a recommender.

Letter of Recommendation from a Teacher or a Counselor
FIRST-YEAR APPLICANTS should utilize the Common Application for teacher recommendations.
TRANSFER APPLICANTS should utilize the recommendation system in SlideRoom.

Submit your fall grades (when available):
FIRST-YEAR APPLICANTS ONLY.
Use the Mid-Year Report Form included in the Common Application or visit www.usc.edu/midyeargrades to submit your fall grades.

Portfolio submitted to uscarch.slideroom.com

International students must also submit:
FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF PERSONAL OR FAMILY SUPPORT: www.usc.edu/financialstatement

TOEFL, IELTS, or PTE ACADEMIC SCORES, if the student’s native language is not English.

Portfolio Requirements
FIRST-YEAR APPLICANTS DEADLINE: DECEMBER 1 for Merit Scholarship consideration or JANUARY 15 for regular consideration
We are interested in seeing evidence of your creativity. Work selected for inclusion should demonstrate the breadth and diversity of your creative interests and need not be limited to architectural work (if included at all). Drawing, sketching, painting, graphic design, photography, video, web-design, sculpture, ceramics, and furniture design are just some examples of the types of work that may be included. Work may be produced digitally and/or by hand, for school courses, extracurricular activities or independently. Include examples of hand or CAD drafting only if they demonstrate clear design intent rather than just technical skill. Your portfolio should constitute a carefully edited selection of your strongest work, showcasing your creative interests, abilities, and motivation.
The USC School of Architecture offers both a professional Master of Architecture degree and a post-professional Master of Advanced Architectural Studies degree program. These programs have been redesigned as two of the most innovatively rigorous programs anywhere, and by bringing together renowned and progressive faculty, the School aims to set new standards for postgraduate education internationally.

The School occupies a key position in design pedagogy within the global design community, the Pacific Rim, and Los Angeles in particular. The programs draw their inspiration from the energy and dynamism of the city itself, a complex blend of urban life and cultural diversity. Blessed with a benign climate, yet at risk from earthquakes and other natural or manmade disasters, L.A. is a city that has learned to take environmental and ecological questions seriously. Above all, Los Angeles is the home of “content,” a city of creative individuals and highly original thinking that consistently challenges preconceptions and serves as an incubator for new ideas and practices.

The USC Masters Programs in Transfer Applicants Deadline: February 1
Transfer applicants will be carefully evaluated for academic and creative accomplishment and will be considered at one of three levels: First Year, Summer Transfer Studio or Second Year of the Bachelor of Architecture program. Students considered for the first year program have a high level of academic accomplishment and demonstrate general exposure to issues of design and architecture but have not yet achieved the comprehensive breadth of our foundational first year program. These basic skills range from design fundamentals of 2D and 3D composition, conceptual problem solving, research and analysis of historical precedent, principles of spatial order, free hand drawing, computer drafting and 3D modeling.

Students considered for the Summer Transfer Studio have a generally high level of previous academic and creative accomplishment. However, these students require a review of the fundamental principles described above to fill any gaps in their knowledge presented by their portfolio and transcript review. The Summer Transfer Studio is an accelerated and comprehensive course and requires students to have the ability to excel rapidly and at a high level through all of the design issues presented by the projects. This Summer Transfer Studio must be completed with grades of B’s or better in order to accelerate to the second year in the fall.

Students considered for admission directly to second year have a high level of academic accomplishment and creative experience from their previous program(s) of study. The projects presented in the portfolio represent an advanced level of design analysis, creative problem solving and a range of visualization skills, all required as part of comprehensive awareness and understanding of the fundamental principles presented in first year.

arch.usc.edu/apply/undergraduate

arch.usc.edu/apply/graduate
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consistently challenges preconceptions and serves as an incubator for new ideas and practices. The USC Masters Programs in Architecture are based on the transformative power of advanced concepts and strategies, tested every day in the laboratory of Los Angeles. By locating our design research within an unpredictable, problematic, and very real environment, we actively confront culture, site, and construction in preparation for practice in the contemporary city.
THE MASTER OF ARCHITECTURE [M.ARCH.] is a professional degree accredited by the National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB). It is intended for individuals who have completed a bachelor's degree with a major other than one of the design professions, (typically requiring three years of residency); or, with advanced standing, for those individuals with a pre-professional undergraduate degree in architectural studies (typically requiring two years of residency).

The USC M.Arch draws upon a 100-year tradition of groundbreaking architectural design in Los Angeles by its distinguished alumni and faculty, exemplified by the architects featured in the Case Study Program and more recently, by the Pritzker Prize laureates Frank Gehry, FAIA (B.Arch. 1954) and Thom Mayne, FAIA (B.Arch. 1969). The Graduate Program is built on three levels: the first, foundation level is dedicated to introducing essential disciplinary knowledge and the basic skills required for the NAAB-accredited degree. The second level builds upon this foundation with increasingly refined vocational knowledge and advanced professional capability. The final level culminates with a year of individually directed work, with Master Classes and a Directed Design Research project, (otherwise known as “thesis”) focused on the student’s emergent architectural interests. All three levels draw on the University’s extended resources and the inspiration of Los Angeles. Firmly rooted in an investigative mode of critical professional practice, the program’s aim is for every graduate to be prepared for the challenges of the 21st century.
THE MASTER OF ADVANCED ARCHITECTURAL STUDIES [M.AAS] program is a one-year (three-semester) post-professional degree intended for individuals who have already completed a professional degree in Architecture (B.Arch/M.Arch). This program is dedicated to cutting-edge research and bold design conjecture and seeks to explore in a highly innovative fashion the cultural and technological landscapes of Los Angeles.

The program is continuously evolving to reflect and serve the needs and interests of the students who participate; most recently, it has been structured around Exponential Design and Design Augmentation. Exponential Design describes a series of strategies that allow design to have an exponential
impact over the built environment, such as crowdsourcing, game design, application interfaces and parametrics. Design Augmentation describes the increased agency of design that is informed by the data and processes that both produce it and affect it such as performative analysis & simulation, geometric logics & material systems, and modes of fabrication.

Studies in the M.AAS PP Degree Program can be combined with the following graduate certificates and/or dual degree:

Graduate Certificates: Building Science, Heritage Conservation, Landscape Architecture, Sustainable Design. Master of Advanced Architectural Studies/ Master of Planning Dual Degree: Preparation for a public or private sector career in urban design, architecture, and planning or preparation for doctoral studies.
STUDIES IN BUILDING SCIENCE recognize that exemplary architecture requires an understanding of and innovative response to natural forces. The integration of the study of building sciences with an understanding of current practice and development of new tools and technologies creates synergistic and holistic architectural design that satisfies informed performative goals. An architect uses creativity and critical thinking to design the built environment considering constraints from economy, sociology, ecology, and other realms. A scientist uses reasoning and observation to investigate principles affecting a process. Creativity and discovery are traits to be revealed in each of our students, and the goal of the program is to draw these out in a symbiotic learning environment that makes them stronger architects or consultants informing design.
The need exists for a new generation of professionals whose education has prepared them to fully participate in bringing appropriate technology to the building and rebuilding of humane and supportive cities. Within this context, the program emphasizes:

— The integration of planning, design and technology to form a coherent and interdependent force for the appropriate construction of urban places;
— Recognition of the ecological importance of energy-conscious design and construction as well as the high social value of places in which natural forces and systems are being utilized rather than suppressed; and
— The development of research and design methods suited to the complexity of building in urban settings and effective in the use of extensive information.

The complex interplay of environmental, structural, and material issues with human needs and global problems is a rich field of study. The environment and evolving technologies impact buildings, and the buildings we design have a huge impact on those issues in return. The 21st-century issues affecting building environments include changing energy needs and sources, the growth of urban density, and solutions for adapting our aging, inefficient buildings. Every decision we make has consequences. In the USC MBS program, we study these decisions and consequences in order to design a better future.

The two-year, 48-unit Master of Building Science degree program includes the option for each student to complete a course-based or thesis-based research project and is supported by research seminars and electives from architecture, engineering, and other related fields.
LOS ANGELES PROVIDES A UNIQUE LABORATORY in which to learn and challenge conservation issues. As a relatively young and diverse global city, it is the ideal place to explore a relatively young and diverse global discipline. Our wealth of recent past resources raise a new set of research challenges, and the city’s richly diverse communities woven throughout the tapestry of the built environment push us to acknowledge the many layers of history and meaning revealed in the city. It is also a place forever seeking the new, providing opportunities to protect the best of the past, while embracing the landmarks of the future.

Embedded in the School of Architecture at USC, heritage conservation students are instantly part of a multidisciplinary environment, linking landscape architecture, building science,
architecture, and conservation. As such, the program curriculum is designed to expose students to a broad range of topics, including materials conservation, policy and planning, conservation theory, global conservation efforts, architectural and landscape history, best-practices in resource documentation and evaluation, sustainability, and historic site management. Students are also encouraged to take advantage of the many academic resources in the broader university, including taking courses in real estate, regional history, urban planning, and spatial sciences. Program faculty are leaders in the field, a blend of academics and practitioners that grapple with conservation in real time, seeking creative solutions that balance the integrity of the past with a sustainable future. Through this broad exposure, students begin to formulate their professional path within the discipline.

Master of Heritage Conservation Degree
The MHC degree consists of 48 units of study and the completion of a master’s thesis. The creation of a graduate thesis enables students to stretch themselves in the direction of their choice. Topics are chosen based on the interests of the student and vary from architectural and landscape history to policy analysis, from materials-based inquiry to industrial archaeology, and beyond. A current list of theses completed by our program graduates is available on the program website. The typical program length is two years, although students may apply for advanced standing and/or pursue their studies part-time.

Students may chose to focus their electives by pursuing a Graduate Certificate in a related field—Architecture, Building Science, GIS, Landscape Architecture, Non-Profit Management, Public Policy, Real Estate Development, Sustainable Cities, or Sustainable Design.

Dual Degree: Master of Heritage Conservation/Master of Planning
The Master of Heritage Conservation/Master of Planning dual degree program facilitates highly related cross-disciplinary studies in heritage conservation and in urban planning at the master’s level. The primary objective of the dual degree curriculum is to impart to students a basic familiarity with the origins and development of the philosophies, theories, and practices of planning and heritage conservation. This curriculum has been developed so that students will graduate from this program with a broad practical knowledge of the laws, regulations, and policies that apply to planning and conservation practice in the United States and internationally. This expertise will include knowledge of urban design, public policy, and architectural and planning history and theory. Students will be expected to understand the critical methodological tools necessary for a professional engaged in the investigation, interpretation, and evaluation of the urban built environment.
DISCOVER HOW NATURE AND CULTURE combine to create dynamic (territorial and urban) landscapes as a Master of Landscape Architecture student in the Graduate Program of Landscape Architecture + Urbanism at the USC School of Architecture. USC offers a unique living laboratory of a diverse, multicultural and geographically sophisticated territory, which is exemplar for many of the world’s most pressing landscape challenges within the context of a major urban research university. Los Angeles, in particular, and California, more generally, are extreme natural and social geographies, where the evolving interplays of infrastructure, landscape, and urbanism require innovative and systemic thinking.
WHY STUDY LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA?

Los Angeles, which Reyner Banham famously interpreted in 1971 as a construct of four ecologies, is an ideal urban nature setting for studying landscape architecture—where urgent contemporary issues can and must be addressed while testing the boundaries of design research, design thinking, and implementation. The growing ecological crises and intense population pressure of the city’s coasts, flatlands, and foothills are a pars pro toto, a microcosm, of the challenges facing state, nation, and globe, ones that necessitate a paradigm shift to complex systems thinking.

Graduate landscape architecture at USC is based on the knowledge and skills to engage complex issues and to undertake ambitious design explorations. Upon completion, graduates are prepared for both design and leadership opportunities in professional practice, public service, as well as in higher education; they are able to address the necessary balance of ecology and development our future environments will require.

Landscape architecture at USC is about unraveling the complex and continually evolving social and environmental conditionals of sites and territories in order to develop thriving communities and environments. The design-centered program develops a trans-disciplinary capacity and approaches that reach across scales and combines the tangible and the imaginary to provoke conversations that promote social equity, environmental justice, and spaces for creative expression. An exceptional core faculty brings to the program its cutting-edge, topical research and outstanding teaching skills, while adjuncts and critics from an expanded network of L.A. and the wider world of landscape and affiliated fields convey fresh perspectives.
Sequential studios and complementary courses, taught by both in-house and invited experts, that focus on history and theory, techniques and tools, develop relevant means towards the major challenges of society and towards the built environment. Climate change, resource and food security, landscape toxicity, and water scarcity require the skills of the landscape architect, who has for too long been absent from (the power and) responsibility of the territory. At USC’s Graduate Program of Landscape Architecture + Urbanism, transformation of the territory is premised on extensive fieldwork and an understanding of the latent qualities of existing sites and the (development) agencies that act upon them. Social and cultural transformations of territories are a means to strategically reformulate reality.

The USC Landscape Architecture + Urbanism program develops real-world issues, formulates and re-formulates problems, explores and proposes operative strategies, and becomes part of the discourse with stakeholders and cities. The resistive capacity of the landscape to the ever-globalizing, homogenization of territories is created as a means to shape possible futures for parks, neighborhoods, city districts, and the larger stewardship of the landscape.

The Landscape Architecture + Urbanism Program at USC encompasses two distinct degrees:

1. **First Professional MLA** (+3 Curriculum, 96 units)
   A three-year curriculum for students entering with prior degrees in non-design disciplines. The first professional degree curriculum is accredited by the Landscape Architecture Accreditation Board (LAAB).

2. **First Professional MLA With Advanced Standing** (+2 Curriculum, 64 units)
   Exceptional students who possess undergraduate degrees in landscape architecture from a LAAB accredited program may be admitted into the program with advanced standing.

   The first professional degree curriculum is accredited by the Landscape Architecture Accreditation Board (LAAB).
The Master of Landscape Architecture can be combined with the following graduate certificates and/or dual degree:

**Graduate Certificate in Landscape Architecture**
For working professionals and graduate students (with the exception of students enrolled in the MLA Program) to acquire understanding of core issues and knowledge; 14-unit program requires graduate standing and certificate program admission.

**The Dual Degree Program: Master of Landscape Architecture/Master of Planning**
Preparation for a public or private sector career in urban design, landscape architecture, and planning, or preparation for doctoral studies.

**Associated Centers and Institutes**
*USC’s Center for Sustainable Cities*
The Center for Sustainable Cities within the USC Sol Price School of Public Policy fosters multidisciplinary sustainability research with an emphasis on sustainability challenges of metropolitan areas.

*USC’s Spatial Sciences Institute*
The USC Spatial Sciences Institute promotes spatial thinking, analysis, modeling, and visualization and thereby helps to build excellence in research, teaching, and outreach across the entire university. This effort stretches from the fundamental spatial sciences (parts of computer science, geography, and psychology) to those in academic fields and application, domains that can usefully adopt and apply geospatial, technologies and underlying scientific concepts (civil engineers, earth scientists, epidemiologists, historians, landscape, architects, planners, etc.).
OUR CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS offer graduate students the opportunity to supplement their master’s emphasis with an additional specialization. Completion of these programs requires a minimum of 14 units.

Certificate in Architecture
The focus of this program is on understanding the broad and complex role of architecture within the urban context. Studies focus on cities throughout the world, where conditions of increasing density, environmental challenges, and cultural complexity require design initiatives that support amenity, sustainability, and cultural meaning.

Certificate in Building Science*
Building science at USC recognizes that exemplary architecture requires a creative response to natural forces, based on informed good judgment. The certificate program provides coursework options in sustainability, structures, environmental systems,
architectural computing, and other topics in architectural technology. The Certificate in Building Science is intended as a supplement for students enrolled in graduate course work in architecture, landscape architecture, heritage conservation, engineering, urban planning, or related disciplines.

**Certificate in Heritage Conservation***
Heritage conservation draws from many disciplines and is a valuable complement to a degree in architecture, landscape architecture, planning, public art administration, geography, anthropology, history, real estate development, or other related fields. The certificate program is open to graduate students and professionals seeking to understand the fundamentals of the discipline and how to integrate the historic built environment within our contemporary urban fabric.

**Certificate in Landscape Architecture***
This program is intended to introduce at the graduate level the basic subjects inherent to the field of landscape architecture: plant materials suitable to urban conditions; urban utility and transportation systems in relation to topography, natural drainage and pathways; plant and wildlife communities; as well as inquiries about landscape infrastructure and ecology and the history of human settlement in the evolution of urban landscapes. Southern California and Los Angeles provide an exceptionally valuable natural and socio-cultural laboratory for landscape architecture studies.

**Certificate in Sustainable Design***
This multidisciplinary program provides students with the tools necessary to understand and quantify the sources of energy use in buildings and landscapes. Studies emphasize improving sustainable design choices regarding natural and man-made systems, considering the performance of the built environment, the reduction of its embodied and operational energies, and the influence of other resource issues.
THE USC SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE GRADUATE STUDY ABROAD PROGRAMS (GSAP) provide a variety of off-campus offerings for students to become immersed in global culture. The programs extend the appreciation and importance of development in the current world market and shows global practitioners the USC graduate students’ ability to engage in and contribute to international development.

Students will engage in intensive field studies and design studios, concentrating on projects and practices from the analysis of buildings to the focused engagement with the methods of practice, landscapes and ecologies, both natural and manmade, and urban spaces including parks, plazas, and urban (re)development projects. Key areas of investigation will be in the context of Urban History/Development, Culture/Theory, City/Site and Practice.
For several years, the flexible agenda of GSAP has permitted summer travel to locations such as Hainan, Shanghai, Beijing, Paris, and Copenhagen. In addition to the full summer sessions of travel study, other global opportunities have included shorter travel studio visits to London, Madrid, Beijing, Tokyo, and Buenos Aires. These opportunities are facilitated by the school’s faculty, whose network of colleagues allows for critical global discourse.

Excursions within the United States have taken students to the Southwest, visiting Arcosanti, Taliesin, Marfa, and ancient structures such as Chaco Canyon and the Acoma Pueblo and to the Pacific Northwest, visiting natural and man-made sites in Portland, Seattle, and Vancouver.

Faculty and student interest impact the development of new travel opportunities. As a result, the School constantly seeks ways to reach afar to new territories and cultures.

Each summer, graduate students are also encouraged to partake in the events, courses, and programs offered through the USC-American Academy in China (AAC). Founded in 2008 by Professor Qingyun Ma, the AAC offers summer explorations of art, architecture, and urbanism. As a primary destination for universities throughout the United States and world to study architecture, arts, and humanities in China, the AAC is dedicated to the advancement of scholarly exchange and research in these fields.

*Please note:* Specific locations for the School of Architecture Graduate Study Abroad programs are subject to change.
Prior to submitting your application materials, please check our website for detailed information and the most up-to-date admission requirements. Applying for Graduate Admission to the USC School of Architecture is a two-part process.

**PART ONE**
The following documents must be submitted to the University’s Graduate Admission Office, using the online application system:

— USC application for admission
— Application fee
— Transcript (academic record)
— GRE test scores

*International applicants only*
— TOEFL Internet Based (iBT) or IELTS score
— Confidential Statement for Financing Studies at USC
— Copy of your Passport
PART TWO
— Resume and/or Curriculum Vitae
— Statement of Intent
— Three Letters of Recommendation
— Portfolio and/or Writing Sample

Please review the Portfolio Requirements section of our website for specific content and format requirements for your intended program of study.

Master of Architecture and Master of Advanced Architectural Studies
Portfolios submitted online via SlideRoom.

Master of Building Science
Optional Portfolio, publication, or work sample can be submitted via the USC online application.

Master of Heritage Conservation
Writing Sample(s) should be submitted via the USC online application.

Master of Landscape Architecture
Portfolios submitted online via SlideRoom.

Portfolios are not required of applicants to the following certificate programs:
— Certificate in Architecture;
— Certificate in Building Science;
— Certificate in Landscape Architecture; and
— A writing sample is required of the Certificate in Heritage Conservation.
WHAT IMPACT DO YOU WANT TO HAVE ON THE WORLD?

That sounds like a simple question, yet it carries enormous meaning! As the world has become more similar in many ways, and as technology has brought disparate peoples closer together, we still find ourselves atomized by geographic constraints, economic limitations, structural inadequacies, and conflict. Navigating the world and the complexities of identity and space requires a capacious intellect and an imaginative mind. The USC School of Architecture has been educating explorers since its founding in 1919. Our educational offerings include architecture, landscape architecture + urbanism, building science, and heritage conservation. With 750 students and 100 faculty members, the School has the reach and scale of few others nationwide.

OUR GRADUATES ARE EXPLORERS AND CITIZENS OF THE WORLD. As students, they come from all corners of the globe. They are from diverse backgrounds, races, ethnicities, geographies, and cultures; and they claim identities that are their own. They are Pritzker Prize Laureates and AIA Gold Medal Recipients—like Paul Williams, Frank Gehry, and Thom Mayne. They are transformational figures in the history and evolution of modernism and urbanization. They are providing the intellectual capital that fuels new thinking in applied building technologies and the preservation/conservation of our heritage, cultural infrastructure, and ecologies. And… they are the emerging voices in the yet unwritten stories of urban revitalization, civic infrastructure, and new forms of housing and commerce.

WE CELEBRATE PLURALISM, AND WE PRACTICE CRITICAL THINKING. Our graduates are being equipped with competencies that range in scope from technical skills in designing architecture at all scales; and conceptual precision in articulating ideas and linking design to other discourses, including humanities and social sciences; to representational finesse in utilizing analog, digital, and moving image methods to communicate ideas. Our faculty are driven to explore—from the everyday consequences of architecture and design to impact a community to the experimental realm of theoretical research and speculation. Our curriculum and our connection to the larger USC community means that there are no bounds to your interests. USC is a leading research university with excellence across 19 academic schools, institutes, and global partnerships.

The opportunity is yours—join us!

Milton S. F. Curry
Dean
Della & Harry MacDonald Dean's Chair
University of Southern California
School of Architecture
Watt Hall 204
Los Angeles, CA 90089-0291
Tel 213.740.2723
http://arch.usc.edu