School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape
Master of Architecture Program
University of Calgary

ARCH 616 – Comprehensive Studio in Architecture
Winter 2024 (Full course)
Mondays, (Tuesdays), Thursdays, (Fridays), 2pm – 6pm
Instructors: Philip Vandermey (Coordinator), pjvander@ucalgary.ca
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Rooms: TBD
Office Hours / Location   By appointment

Comprehensive Studio

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Architects have the privilege of taking the many complex dimensions of the contemporary city and orchestrating them into projects that simultaneously embody the present moment and contribute to a better and more beautiful future. In Comprehensive Studio, students will work within an intellectual framework (initiated by the instructor and made more specific by students) to develop a project concept and resolve a compelling, clear, and coherent outcome. Various allied professionals (structural, envelope, and mechanical engineers) will contribute expertise and feedback on the various building systems that must be orchestrated within and in support of the conceptual goals of the project. Students will analysis life safety considerations and regulatory frameworks to guide the building design and its relations with context. Further, the building design will be developed in a partnership that simulates the complexities but also the advantages of working in architectural teams on projects. Finally, the projects will be rigorously resolved to a greater level of detail – they will be represented, at the end of the studio, in a format that architects use to communicate the design intent to contractors, life safety experts, planners, manufacturers, etc.

PROJECT

During this studio, students will work on the design of a cultural center with a gross area of approximately 2500m2. A detailed project brief will be provided separately to students by their studio section instructors. Each student will have the opportunity to consider the definition of a 'cultural center,' and an appropriate and specific interpretation of this type within the conceptual framework developed for each studio section and reinterpreted and refined by each student group.

SITE

The site is located between Confluence Way SE, 6 Avenue SW, and the Bow River in East Village in Calgary.

TEACHING APPROACH

Students will work through the assignments, given at the outset of each phase of the course, making regular progress on studies and deliverables. Student groups will receive regular input from the instructor through desk crits, formal reviews, group discussions, and presentations. Students are expected to bring updated and refined work to each meeting with their instructor. The work will primarily be done in groups of two, with coordination between students group work as required by each studio section instructor (site / context analysis, preparation, installation, and removal of the final exhibition, and other activities as assigned). Students are expected to be in studio during scheduled studio times (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday afternoons from 2-6pm) and during other studio activities as required (presentations, reviews, coordination sessions, etc). Contact time will generally take place on Mondays and Thursday from 2-6pm, to be adjusted as required.

COURSE HOURS

6 units

PREREQUISITES

Architecture 606 or Environmental Design Architecture 682.02 (Formerly Environmental Design Architecture 682.04). Confirm with Graduate Program Administrator.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. To develop a conceptual and theoretical framework for a project, based on the studio section approach determined by each instructor, and carry this framework through all phases of the project, and incorporate into all aspects and scales of the project, in a clear, consistent, and cohesive way.
2. To develop design skills through the creation of a medium-sized project based on the understanding of and critical engagement with the site and larger contemporary context.
3. To develop the skills to critically interpret a given program in a manner consistent with the conceptual framework of the project.
4. To develop the skills to orchestrate a wide variety of technical systems, including structure, mechanical, and envelope systems a way that contributes to the project's conceptual framework.
5. To develop the skills to work in a small team and coordinate the input of various specialists into a coherent and clear outcome.
6. To develop the skills to explore and document a project from conception to detailed design through a process that clarifies rather than complicates the relation between concept and detail, with an outcome that involves a process of rigorous project refinement, editing, simplification, clarification, and resolution.
7. To develop an awareness of regulatory contexts and a capacity to respond to project restrictions in a way that reinforces the conceptual ideas within the project.

LEARNING RESOURCES

Refer to project handouts by each studio section instructor.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

In order to successfully engage in their learning experiences at the University of Calgary, students taking online, remote and blended courses are required to have reliable access to the following technology: A computer with a supported operating system, as well as the latest security, and malware updates; A current and updated web browser; Webcam (built-in or external); Microphone and speaker (built-in or external), or headset with microphone; Current antivirus and/or firewall software enabled; and Broadband internet connection. Most current laptops will have a built-in webcam, speaker and microphone.

WORKSHOP SAFETY TRAINING REQUIREMENT

If a course requires the use of the SAPL workshop, students must complete all online University of Calgary safety courses, the online Trajectory safety training course, as well as in-person workshop training and a grade of pass on the final evaluation project, to be granted access to the SAPL workshop. This training is offered once a year, around the start of the Fall term and has a completion deadline.

GUIDELINES FOR ZOOM SESSIONS IN ONLINE CLASSES

Students are expected to participate actively in all Zoom sessions and to turn on their webcam. Please join our class in a quiet space that will allow you to be fully present and engaged in the Zoom sessions. Students must behave in a professional manner during the session. Students, employees, and academic staff are also expected to demonstrate behaviour in class that promotes and maintains a positive and productive learning environment.

ASSESSMENT COMPONENTS

Projects will be evaluated based on:

Assessment Criteria	Sub-topic	Description	Weight	Aligned Course Outcome
Design				
	Concept	Clarity and strength of the conceptual / theoretical framework of the project, such as project theme, concept, and high-level design moves, including responsiveness and appropriateness to context, project brief, and studio approach.	1/6	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
	Coherence	Clarity and coherence of the synthesis of the concept, incorporating project requirements relative to project themes, into all aspects of the project. Simple, clear, edited outcomes.	1/6	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
	Resolution	Level of detail the project achieves, level of rigor in the design development of the project at all scales, consideration of various technical requirements.	1/6	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
Execution				
	Progress	Regular project progress, including new content each day, ongoing iteration, testing, integration of feedback, exploration, and adjustments.	1/6	

Deliverables	Completeness and quality of deliverables. Graphic annotation, coordination, cohesion. Quality of verbal, graphic, video, and other formats of presentation.	1/6	
Professionalism	Attendance, punctuality, staying for the entire class / activity, preparedness for presentations and desk crits, professional responses to criticism, professional communications, being proactive, taking on responsibility	1/6	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
Risk	Taking chances, radical and unique designs, originality, making changes rather than maintaining a current trajectory	Bonus	

Unless noted otherwise in assignment briefs, students working together in a group will share the same grade. In the case of differential contribution, the instructor will work with the students to confirm the extent of each student's contribution and participation and assign a differential grade accordingly.

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION EXPECTATIONS

Students will be expected to follow all assignments, to be present for studio on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays during class time (2-6pm), and attend all lectures, trips, and reviews. Contact days will be on Mondays and Thursdays. Additionally scheduled activities may vary from regular studio hours.

Attendance in studio during all studio days and presentations is mandatory. Missed or late attendance at classes, reviews, or other activities may lead to a grade reduction in the final grade for the course by one letter grade per class or activity missed (for example, from an A+ to an A for missing one class). In the case that a student arrives late or leaves early, the instructor will use their discretion to apply an appropriate reduction in grade.

GUIDELINES FOR SUBMITTING ASSIGNMENTS:

Submit assignment by email, 10MB or less, entitled: YYMMDD_ASSIGNMENT _LASTNAME_FIRSTNAME.PDF.

Files larger than the maximum size should be submitted through a file sharing service that provides a timestamp of the time of submission / revision for confirmation that the assignment was submitted on time. Students are responsible to ensure that the instructor does not have delayed access to the submitted files at time of grading. Assignments submitted without timestamp will be determined to have been submitted at the time they are accessed by the instructor.

LATE ASSIGNMENTS

Submitting on time and participating in presentations and formal reviews at the time they are scheduled are required. Lateness to either the deliverable date, exhibition setup time, and / or beginning of formal class presentations will constitute a late grade for the entire assignment.

Assignments will be marked late if they are received or postmarked after the due date and time of the assignment. Students are responsible to submit deliverables via a format that postmarks the submission. Submissions that are sent via a format that does not postmark the submission date and time will be assumed to be received at the time the instructor retrieves the file. For each day an assignment is late, with one day being between 1 minute and <24 hours late, the grade will be reduced by one letter grade (from A+ to A-). For each additional calendar day the assignment is late, an additional letter grade will be deducted.

CRITERIA THAT MUST BE MET TO PASS

Failing any assignment worth 30% or more of the course will constitute failure of the course.

GRADING SCALE

Grade	Grade Point Value	4-Point Range	Percent	Description
A+	4.00	4.00	95-100	Outstanding - evaluated by instructor
A	4.00	3.85-4.00	90-94.99	Excellent - superior performance showing comprehensive understanding of the subject matter
A-	3.70	3.50-3.84	85-89.99	Very good performance
B+	3.30	3.15-3.49	80-84.99	Good performance
B	3.00	2.85-3.14	75-79.99	Satisfactory performance
B-	2.70	2.50-2.84	70-74.99	Minimum pass for students in the Faculty of Graduate Studies
C+	2.30	2.15-2.49	65-69.99	All final grades below B- are indicative of failure at the graduate level and cannot be counted toward Faculty of Graduate Studies course requirements.
C	2.00	1.85-2.14	60-64.99	
C-	1.70	1.50-1.84	55-59.99	
D+	1.30	1.15-1.49	50-54.99	
D	1.00	0.50-1.14	45-49.99	
F	0.00	0-0.49	0-44.99	

A student who receives a "C+" or lower in any one course will be required to withdraw regardless of their grade point average (GPA) unless the program recommends otherwise. If the program permits the student to retake a failed course, the second grade will replace the initial grade in the calculation of the GPA, and both grades will appear on the transcript.

The School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape will not permit the Flexible Grade Option (CG Grade) for any course offered by the School. https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/f-1-3.html

Students will be required to complete each of the course assignments. There will be no final exam.

USE OF GENERATIVE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Properly cited AI is permitted to be used for conceptual development and ideation. AI generated content is not permitted for final deliverables or assignment submissions. All AI generated content should be explicitly annotated / identified in process work.

MODELS

Models should be made in a variety of materials that represent or simulate materials used in the project (glass, stone, concrete, wood, steel, etc). Models should be constructed in a process of assembling different parts together. 3d printed models will not be accepted – submission of models that are 3d printed will be graded as though no model had been submitted. If students wish to 3d print individual small parts of a model, they should receive approval by their instructor before proceeding. Deliverables that have not been reviewed with an instructor as described here may not be accepted by the instructor.

DELIVERABLES

Students are expected to review progress deliverables several times with instructor before submitting. For example, students should work with their instructor to review the initial selection of deliverables (which diagrams to produce, which images to make, where to cut building sections, etc.). Students should also share progress draft iterations of graphic presentation material at least twice before presenting (for example, sharing the development of a collage on two occasions before presenting).

CACB Student Performance Criteria

The following CACB Student Performance Criteria will be covered in this course at a primary level (other criteria will be covered at a secondary level): A2 Design Skills, A4 Program Analysis, A5 Site Context and Design, A7 Detail Design, A8 Design Documentation, C1 Regulatory Systems, C2 Materials, C3 Structural Systems, C4 Envelope Systems, C5 Environmental Systems, and D1 Comprehensive Design.

TOPIC AREAS AND DETAILED CLASS SCHEDULE

Start of Classes	January 8	
Phase 1	**Concept Design** January 8 to February 1	20%
Phase 2	**Schematic Design** February 1 to March 11	20%
Block Week	February 12 to 16	no studio
Term Break	February 18 to 24	no classes
Family Day	February 19	no classes / university closed
Phase 3	**Design Development** March 11 to March 28	15%
Phase 4	**Detailed Design** March 28 to Final Presentation* (*during exam week, date TBD)	35%
Good Friday	March 29	no classes / university closed
Easter Monday	April 1	no classes / university closed
End of Classes	April 9	

| Phase 4 | **Portfolio** | 10% |
| | Assignment and Due Date TBD | |

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations according to the University policies and procedures listed below. The student accommodation policy can be found at: https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/student-accommodation-policy

Students needing an accommodation because of a disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Accommodation-for-Students-with-Disabilities-Procedure.pdf. Students needing an accommodation in relation to their coursework or to fulfil requirements for a graduate degree, based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to their instructor (contact information on first page above).

SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit www.ucalgary.ca/access/ .

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

Academic Misconduct refers to student behavior which compromises proper assessment of a student's academic activities and includes: cheating; fabrication; falsification; plagiarism; unauthorized assistance; failure to comply with an instructor's expectations regarding conduct required of students completing academic assessments in their courses; and failure to comply with exam regulations applied by the Registrar.

For information on the Student Academic Misconduct Policy and Procedure please visit: https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/student-academic-misconduct-policy

Additional information is available on the Academic Integrity Website at https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/learning/academic-integrity.

COPYRIGHT LEGISLATION:

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/acceptable-use-material-protected-copyright-policy) and requirements of the copyright act (https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorised sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy (https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html).

INSTRUCTOR INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Course materials created by instructors (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the instructor. These materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the instructor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the course at the same time may be allowed under fair dealing.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PROTECTION OF PRIVACY

Student information will be collected in accordance with typical (or usual) classroom practice. Students' assignments will be accessible only by the authorized course faculty. Private information related to the individual student is treated with the utmost regard by the faculty at the University of Calgary.

SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE POLICY

The University recognizes that all members of the University Community should be able to learn, work, teach and live in an environment where they are free from harassment, discrimination, and violence. The University of Calgary's sexual violence policy guides us in how we respond to incidents of sexual violence, including supports available to those who have experienced or witnessed sexual violence, or those who are alleged to have committed sexual violence. It provides clear response procedures and timelines, defines complex concepts, and addresses incidents that occur off-campus in certain circumstances. Please see the policy available at https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/sexual-and-gender-based-violence-policy .

UNIVERSITY STUDENT APPEALS OFFICE

If a student has a concern about a grade that they have received, they should refer to Section I of the Undergraduate Calendar (https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i-3.html) which describes how to have a grade reappraised. In addition, the student should refer to the SAPL's Procedure for reappraisal of grades

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Please visit the Registrar's website at: https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines for additional important information on the following:

•   Wellness and Mental Health Resources

•   Student Success

•   Student Ombuds Office

•   Student Union (SU) Information

•   Graduate Students' Association (GSA) Information

•   Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points

•   Safewalk

MEDIA AND RECORDING

Recording of lectures (other than audio recordings that are pre-arranged as part of an authorized accommodation) is not permitted. Students may not record any portion of a lecture, class discussion or course-related learning activity without the prior and explicit written permission of the course instructor or authorization from Student Accessibility Services. For any other use, whether by duplication, transcription, publication, sale or transfer of recordings, written approval must be obtained from the instructor for the specific use proposed.

FIELD TRIPS

Field trips may take place with the entire comprehensive studio, or with individual studio sections. Details and information TBD.