

### GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Architecture is the art and science of designing buildings and structures. A wider definition would include the design of the total built environment, from the macrolevel of town planning, urban design, and landscape architecture to the microlevel of creating furniture. Architecture is both the process and product of planning, designing, and constructing form, space, and ambience that reflect functional, technical, social, and aesthetic considerations. Architectural design usually must address both feasibility and cost for the builder, as well as function and aesthetics for the user. Some programs are theory-based programs while others are design-based programs.

### COMMON SPECIALIZATIONS

<b>ARCHITECTURAL ENGINEERING</b>	Emphasizes the engineering aspects of the building design and construction process. This is a multidisciplinary engineering approach with a focus on architecture and design. Architectural Engineering includes the design of building systems including electrical, lighting, heating/ventilation/air conditioning (HVAC), and structural systems.
<b>ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY</b>	Studies the evolution and history of architecture across the world through a consideration of various influences including artistic, cultural, political, economic, and technological.
<b>ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN/ SUSTAINABLE DESIGN</b>	Emphasizes the integration of architecture with the environment to minimize the negative environmental impact of buildings by enhancing efficiency and moderation in the use of materials, energy, and development space. Deals with design that incorporates ecologically sustainable energy and waste systems; energy efficiency, renewable energy, water conservation, indoor air quality, and use of appropriate technology.
<b>GENERAL ARCHITECTURE: DESIGN, THEORY, METHODS</b>	Prepares one for a professional career as a design specialist or a general practitioner. Employs a range of methodologies, processes and philosophies, techniques, and technologies.
<b>HISTORIC PRESERVATION/ CONSERVATION</b>	Studies skills required to address issues relating to the restoration, rehabilitation, and adaptive use of existing buildings.
<b>INTERIOR ARCHITECTURE</b>	Deals with the process of creating and shaping interior space, as well as surface treatment.
<b>INDUSTRIAL DESIGN (SEE VISUAL ARTS SECTION)</b>	An applied art whereby the aesthetics and usability of products may be improved. Design aspects specified by the industrial designer may include the overall shape of the object, the location of details with respect to one another, colors, texture, sounds, and aspects concerning the use of the product ergonomics.
<b>LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE</b>	Involves the art, planning, design, management, preservation, and rehabilitation of the land and the design of human-made constructs. The scope of the profession includes architectural design, site planning, estate development, environmental restoration, town or urban planning, urban design, parks and recreation planning, regional planning, and historic preservation.
<b>URBAN DESIGN</b>	Urban design concerns the arrangement, appearance, and functionality of towns and cities. Focuses on the use of public space.

### COMMON DEGREES

<b>MS ARCH</b>	Master of Architecture is seen as a terminal, professional degree and usually includes a design studio component. It can be offered on two different tracks, the MArch I or the MArch II.
<b>MARCH I</b>	Master of Architecture I is usually a three-year program designed for those who do not already hold a professional degree in architecture or have not completed a five-year bachelor of architecture program. Students must hold the U.S. equivalent of a bachelor's degree and must also demonstrate a basic background in architecture, which normally requires students to have completed a studio course in drawing, sketching, sculpture, or basic architectural design. In addition, course work in calculus, physics, and art history may also be required.
<b>MARCH II</b>	Master of Architecture II is usually a two-year program for those students who already hold a professional degree in architecture or have completed a five-year Bachelor of Architecture degree. Students with an advanced background in architecture have been known to complete the MArch II program in one calendar year with special permission from the head of the department.
<b>MLA</b>	Master of Landscape Architecture is a professional degree and usually culminates in a design thesis. It can be offered on two different tracks, MLA I or MLA II.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

# Field of Study Focus: Architecture

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

## COMMON DEGREES (CONT'D)

<b>MLA I</b>	Master of Landscape Architecture I is usually a three-year program designed for those who do not already hold a professional degree in architecture or have not completed a pre-professional undergraduate degree in landscape architecture or architecture. Students must hold the U.S. equivalent of a bachelor's degree and must demonstrate a basic background of visual arts, such as drawing, sculpture, graphics, and/or basic design. Courses in the humanities, ecology, art history, landscape architecture, and architecture may also be required.
<b>MLA II</b>	Master of Landscape Architecture II is usually a one-and-a-half to two-year program for those students who already hold an undergraduate professional degree in landscape architecture.
<b>MUD</b>	Master of Urban Design is an advanced degree that may be a one- or two-year program. A portfolio is needed and programs generally require a studio component.
<b>MAUD; MAAUD; MARCH/ MUD; MARCH/MCP</b>	Combined programs such as Master of Architecture and Urban Design; Master of Advanced Architecture and Urban Design are relatively new fields and include computer-aided design and environmental architecture. Some of these programs are one-year in length, but begin early, requiring students to complete an entire calendar year of study, i.e. Summer, Fall and Spring semesters. For programs that are dual degrees, such as Master of Architecture/Master of Urban Design and the Master of Architecture/Master of City Planning, completion of the requirements in both areas is required and can therefore take 2-3 years to complete.
<b>PH.D./D.ARCH/D.DES</b>	Not all programs offer doctoral programs. The Ph.D. is a research-based degree that prepares students for teaching and research positions. D.Arch prepares graduates for applied positions. Extremely competitive and most programs require a master's degree.

## ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

<b>ADMISSION/ FINANCIAL AID DEADLINES</b>	Deadlines begin December 1.
<b>ACADEMIC BACKGROUND</b>	An undergraduate degree in architecture is usually required. Applicants with backgrounds in related fields may also be considered for admission provided they have demonstrated creative ability. If admitted, however, such applicants will be required to make up undergraduate deficiencies and will therefore require more time to complete the degree program. A well-qualified applicant will have a strong overall academic background and a transcript with a Grade Point Average of a 3.0 or above.
<b>WORK EXPERIENCE</b>	Is not essential but can greatly strengthen an application, especially if one is seeking advanced standing.
<b>TEST</b>	TOEFL: A minimum TOEFL score of 550 (paper based) or 80 (IBT) is usually required, though a 600 (paper based) or 100 (IBT) is more competitive.  GRE: Strong scores are very important with an emphasis placed on the quantitative section of the GRE since this field requires a high aptitude in mathematics. The most competitive schools seek a score of 600 and above for the verbal and quantitative sections of the GRE and a 4.5 and above for analytical writing.
<b>WORK SAMPLE OR PORTFOLIO</b>	Despite advances in technology, almost all programs require a hard copy of a portfolio (not a CD). We are beginning to see some changes where some programs are now requiring a complete electronic application. In this case the portfolio must be uploaded to the universities' electronic application. Individual portfolio requirements should be taken very seriously and can greatly affect a student's chances of being admitted. We advise students to submit portfolios with the dimensions of 8" x 11". Students will need to supply one portfolio to every school to which they apply. The submitted work should be representative of the applicant's development, include complete projects and, if possible, be relevant to the proposed field of study. The applicant's role in collaborative projects should be clearly identified. Some schools may require original drafts of submitted work. Most schools will not return a student's portfolio unless a specific request is made. The student will have to incur the cost of having the portfolio returned by mail as this is not covered by the application fee.
<b>ACADEMIC WRITING SAMPLE</b>	Required for Ph.D., but generally not required for the master's level.

Source: Prepared by the Institute of International Education's University Placement Services Division using information from internal resources and materials and resources readily available on the Internet.