

**Time and Location:** MWF 1:00 - 5:00; RMH 301/501

**Prerequisite:** AHST 6110/5110  
Thesis Research and Analysis

**Corequisite:** Advanced architectural elective in student's area of research

## INTRODUCTION

Students enrolled in the Thesis Design Studio will continue work started in the fall semester's Thesis Research and Analysis course. Having established a conceptual framework and developed an appropriate vehicle project program, site, and relevant precedents in the prerequisite course, the spring studio segment will focus on design-based research to further test and explore each student's stated priorities in architectural terms. Continuing to apply both traditional scholarly, and design-based research methods, students will pursue means by which architecture can engage broader issues in culture, community, and the state of the world at large. While broad-mindedness and ambition in establishing relevance and significance of the thesis project is expected, it should be stressed that architecture as a discipline and as a mode of inquiry will determine the process, methodology, and eventually, the success or failure of the proposition. Final projects will be rigorously researched, developed, and represented.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. A fully developed and documented architectural proposition.
2. An updated and refined written thesis document incorporating the research conducted throughout the thesis year, and including documentation of the final architectural project. (3 copies, prepared for binding)

## INSTRUCTORS

### CONTACT INFORMATION + OFFICE HOURS

Wendy Redfield  
(studio coordinator)  
redfield@tulane.edu  
504.865.5396

Office Hours: W 9:30-11:30am, or by appointment  
RMH 303

Errol Barron  
ebarron@tulane.edu  
504.251.0572

Office Hours: TBA  
RMH 107

Irene Keil  
irenekeil@earthlink.net  
504.491.2402

Office Hours: M 5-6pm  
RMH 123

Cordula Roser-Gray  
croser@tulane.edu  
917 523 1096

Office Hours: W 10am - noon  
RMH 407

Scott Ruff  
sruff@tulane.edu  
504.314.2335

Office Hours: M/W/F 9am-11:30am  
RMH 116A

Kentaro Tsubaki  
ktsubaki@tulane.edu  
504-314-2345

Office Hours: M/W 11:00am -noon  
RMH 120

## **COURSE OBJECTIVES AND EXPECTATIONS**

The intention of the Thesis Design Studio is to provide a structured context for students to pursue individual interests and develop skills in advanced-level architectural research and design. By nature, the thesis studio will require a great deal of independent initiative, research, resourcefulness, and ambition on the part of participating students. We will offer minimum requirements at various stages of project development, but please be advised that these are just that - minimum. We fully expect you each to take on your project, your interests, and your education with aggressive enthusiasm, and to regularly exceed the stated minimum benchmarks.

Instructors will serve as design 'coaches', aiding students in their individual efforts by providing comments and suggestions for further study. Various modes of feedback will be used. At various times this will include desk crits, reviews and pin-ups in various sized groupings, peer reviews, and 'blind reviews' (without verbal presentations). Each mode of feedback is intended to strengthen students' understanding of how their work is being perceived, in order to encourage the development of increasingly clear and compelling textual and graphic documents that 'speak for themselves'.

## **ADDITIONAL ADVISORS AND SUPPORT**

You are expected to seek out additional support and advice for your project, as thematic or technical aspects of your project warrant. Do not expect to get all the advice and input you need from your assigned thesis advisor, or the critics he or she invites to group pin-ups and reviews. Specifically, you are expected to seek out no fewer than two additional advisors who have expertise relevant to your topic with whom you should interact on a regular basis. These individuals may or may not be members of our full- or part-time faculty, they may be local professionals, or may be specialists located elsewhere, with whom you communicate via phone, email and other digital means. Be prepared to identify your full committee of advisors by the first pin-up of the semester.

While all design work will be undertaken individually, peer-student discussion and criticism of on-going work will be highly encouraged. The faculty are also supportive of your recruiting production assistance in the final weeks of the semester among students in earlier years in the program. However we expect that any assistance you receive in producing drawings or models for your final review will be properly identified and credited in writing and verbally during your presentation.

## **STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

Reasonable accommodations will be made for students with verifiable disabilities. In order to take advantage of available accommodations, students must register with Disability Services through the Educational Resources and Counseling Center. Contact: Patrick Randolph for further information: [Patrick@tulane.edu](mailto:Patrick@tulane.edu)

<http://tulane.edu/studentaffairs/erc/services/disabilityserviceshome.cfm>

## **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

Students are expected to act in accordance with the Tulane Code of Academic Conduct. In all work submitted for academic credit, students are expected to represent themselves honestly. The submission of an academic assignment is considered to be an assurance that the work and ideas are the result of the student's own intellectual effort, stated in his or her own words, and produced independently, unless clear and explicit acknowledgment of the sources for the work and ideas is included. Any suspected violations will be brought before the Newcomb-Tulane College Honor Board. Students are strongly urged to refer to and abide by this code. You may obtain a copy at <http://college.tulane.edu/code.htm>. For additional information, you may contact Dean Mary Ann Maguire; Email: [maguire@tulane.edu](mailto:maguire@tulane.edu); Phone: (504) 247-1642

**ATTENDANCE POLICY**

Studio meets MWF 1:00-5:00 in RMH 301 and 501. Students are expected to work in studio during these hours, and should expect to stay late on certain days for reviews. The instructors will make every effort to inform students of these days ahead of time.

Unexcused absences from regular working days in studio will adversely effect the student's final grade, regardless of other course requirements completed and grades earned. An unexcused absence from a scheduled pin-up or review is especially serious and will have an appropriately adverse effect on the final grade.

Please call or email instructor prior to class if you know that you will be absent from class.

**HEALTH + SAFETY POLICY**

As part of your educational experience at the Tulane School of Architecture, you will be expected to participate in classes, field trips, and workshops in locations both on and off the campus. You will be expected to fulfill your class assignments using equipment, tools, and machinery belonging to the university and/or your own equipment, tools, and machinery. It is expected that you will use proper care and caution and will assume responsibility for your own health and safety.

**GRADING**

Grading will be based on work ethic, intellectual rigor, and the quality of the end product. We will consider both process and product when determining your final grade. As in all other courses in the School of Architecture, work completed for this course must comply with the Tulane Code of Academic Conduct.

Grades will not be given for individual project phases. However, midterm progress reviews will be conducted, and students will receive written indication of their progress at that time. Final grades will conform to the university grading scale and will be based on progress as well as product. The following grading scales (including +/- grades) will apply:

**A** Superior design and research skills, product, and effort. Student has exceeded requirements and expectations for the studio. Self-motivation, breadth of knowledge relating to architectural design issues, and ability to create integral and inspired design solutions is clearly evident. Contribution to the studio environment is in a leadership capacity. Ability to present ideas through drawing, modeling, and verbal means exhibits the highest level of achievement. The hallmark of an A student is the desire to question and critique him- or herself and to pursue new ideas and/or technical skills.

**B** Better than satisfactory design and research skills, product, and effort. Student has met the requirements and expectations of the studio with distinction. Drawing and modeling skills are highly developed. Student is a positive and active member in the studio environment.

**C** Satisfactorily meets the stated requirements of the course (all work is complete and on time). Work shows minimum competence relative to design and research skills, product, and effort.

**D** Marginally meets the stated requirements of the course (work is incomplete and/or late). Work fails to demonstrate full understanding and execution of the concepts and skills required for the studio.

**F** Fails to meet stated requirements of the course.