ARCHITECTURE

Rudolph Hall, 203.432.2288
https://www.architecture.yale.edu/academics/programs/4-p-h-d
M.Phil., Ph.D.

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Professors in the Practice Steven Harris, Joel Sanders

Associate Professors Mark Foster Gage, Kyoung Sun Moon, Elihu Rubin

Assistant Professors Anthony Acciavatti, Joyce Hsiang, Bimal Mendis (Adjunct)

Lecturers and Critics Marta Caldeira, Kyle Dugdale, Elisa Iturbe, Dana Karwas, M. Surry Schlabs

FIELDS OF STUDY

The doctoral program in Architecture offers two tracks of study: History and Theory of Architecture and Ecosystems in Architectural Sciences. Both tracks offer rigorous grounding in their respective fields of specialization while giving future scholars and educators a broad awareness of issues facing architecture in its relations with society, the environment, and the world at large.

The History and Theory track provides training in the historiography and culture of architecture and the built environment. It prepares candidates for careers in university teaching, cultural advocacy and administration, museum curatorship, and publishing, among others. Students focus on a diverse range of topics, often drawing on related disciplines ranging from art history and media studies to the history of science and technology and social and political theory and history. The program aims to foster both a deep knowledge of the past and a strong spirit of critical inquiry.

The Ecosystems in Architectural Sciences track provides preparation in interdisciplinary scientific inquiry in support of both academic and professional research careers, qualifying students to collaborate across disciplines and to incorporate environmental research methods within new design frameworks. Doctoral thesis work involves the investigation, development, and testing of novel material and information systems. Students in this track engage in research related to the behaviors of living ecosystems, emphasizing their interconnection with built environment processes.
ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Applicants must have a master’s degree or equivalent in Architecture, Engineering, Environmental Design, or, exceptionally, a related field. They should specify to which track of the program—History and Theory of Architecture or Ecosystems in Architectural Sciences—they seek admission. Two years of professional work in an architecture office are recommended. The Graduate Record Examination (GRE) General Test taken no more than five years prior to application is required. All applicants whose native language is not English are required to take the Internet-based Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL iBT), which includes a section on spoken English. The TOEFL requirement may be waived only for applicants who, prior to matriculation at Yale, will have received a baccalaureate degree or its international equivalent from a college or university where English is the primary language of instruction. Applicants must have studied in residence at the baccalaureate institution for at least three years to receive the waiver. A waiver will not be granted on the basis of an advanced degree (such as M.A., M.S., or Ph.D.) from another institution.

In addition to meeting qualifying criteria, candidates are required as part of the application to submit a portfolio of their own architectural work; a writing sample in the form of a substantial research paper or publication; and an explanation of their motivation for engaging in their chosen course of study. Qualified applicants may be invited to interview with a member of the doctoral faculty.

The portfolio should be a well-edited representation of the applicant’s creative work. Portfolios may not contain videos. Anything submitted that is not entirely the applicant’s own work must be clearly identified as such. The portfolio is submitted digitally as a single pdf document optimized not to exceed 20MB and will need to be uploaded as part of the online application. Pages of the pdf portfolio should be uploaded as spreads. The digital portfolio will be viewed on computer screens, so resolution above 150 dpi is not necessary.

Admission to the Ph.D. program in Architecture is administered by the Yale Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. For questions regarding admissions, please contact graduate.admissions@yale.edu.

SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE SUMMER PREPARATION COURSES FOR INCOMING PH.D. STUDENTS

In the week before the beginning of the School of Architecture fall term, the School of Architecture offers two preparation courses that are required of incoming Ph.D. students.

- Summer Digital Media Orientation Course. This half-day orientation covers accessing the School’s servers, use of the School’s equipment, and the School’s digital media policies and procedures.
- Arts Library Research Methodology Course. This course covers research methodologies and tools specific to the Ph.D. curriculum.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PH.D. DEGREE

Entering students engage in a concerted course of study that leads directly to dissertation research and a doctoral degree.
Students are required to be full-time and in residence in the New Haven area during the first three academic years. (See Degree Requirements under Policies and Regulations.) Students in both tracks of the program take twelve graduate and Ph.D. seminars for credit. In the History and Theory track, these include a Ph.D. seminar taught in each of the first four terms by a member of the School of Architecture faculty that introduces the student to various methodologies and areas of study. Some seminars encourage primary research on a specific topic. Others offer a survey of historiographic approaches or focus on the reading of a body of texts. The four required seminars are ARCH 551, ARCH 552, ARCH 553, and ARCH 554. In the Ecosystems in Architectural Sciences track, the requirements in the initial two years include four Ecosystems in Architectural Sciences seminars, ARCH 558, ARCH 559, ARCH 568, and ARCH 569.

Students in both tracks are encouraged to take courses related to their specific areas of interest outside the School of Architecture. For example, a student working on twentieth-century architecture in Italy would be encouraged to take a course in Italian history or culture. Likewise, a student working on biodiversity in urban contexts might take courses in the School of the Environment. Typically, at least two of the eight elective seminars are in related fields. Students may also opt to do independent readings with individual faculty members related to their specific areas of interest.

Not later than the end of their second year, students in the History and Theory of Architecture track are expected to demonstrate competence in at least one foreign language relevant to their field of study. Language competence is more than a formality and requires some acquaintance with literature in the chosen language. Competency may be demonstrated by a grade of B or better in a full-year, intermediate-level language course, or through examination.

The student’s field of interest within both the History and Theory of Architecture track and the Ecosystems in Architectural Sciences track is defined by the end of the second year, by which point all course and language requirements are normally completed. At this time the director of doctoral studies (DDS) assigns the student a thesis adviser, who may or may not be from the School of Architecture. During the fall term of the third year, students undergo three oral examinations on topics or fields relevant to their doctoral research, in the presence of the thesis adviser and two additional examiners selected by the student. Following successful completion of the examinations, the DDS, in consultation with the student’s adviser, appoints a dissertation committee for the student. The dissertation committee consists of the student’s adviser plus two additional faculty members. It is typical for one of the dissertation committee members to come from outside the School of Architecture, with selection based on the student’s area of interest.

By the end of the third year, students are required to present and defend their prospectus, a preliminary proposal of their dissertation topic. The prospectus should consist of a topic statement, an outline of a detailed program of research, and an annotated bibliography. Students are admitted to candidacy for the Ph.D. upon completion of all predissertation requirements, including oral examinations and prospectus. At this point, they begin dissertation research and writing, submitting drafts of the dissertation chapters as they are completed. The dissertation committee guides and monitors the student’s progress in writing the dissertation and evaluates the dissertation upon completion.
The Ph.D. program is designed to be completed in five years. However, if the dissertation has not been completed by the end of the fifth year and if, at that time, the program certifies that the candidate will complete the dissertation by August of the following academic year, the candidate may be eligible to take a teaching position in the School of Architecture or elsewhere in the University and extend funding for up to an additional nine months.

**GRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANT AND TEACHING FELLOW EXPERIENCE**

Teaching is an important part of graduate training. Students in the Ph.D. program in Architecture are expected to teach or serve as research assistants for four terms, normally in their third and fourth years. During these four terms, it is anticipated that a student in the History and Theory track will teach in two survey courses in the student's area of study at the School of Architecture or elsewhere in the University and teach in two design studios at the School of Architecture. Students in the Ecosystems in Architectural Sciences track are expected to serve as both teaching fellows in the School of Architecture and research assistants in the School’s Center for Ecosystems in Architecture. All assignments are carried out under the direct supervision of senior faculty.

**MASTER’S DEGREE**

**M.Phil.** The Master of Philosophy degree is awarded en route to the Ph.D. The minimum requirement for this degree is completion of all requirements for the Ph.D., with the exception of the teaching or research assignments and the dissertation.

**COURSES**

For a current listing of Architecture courses, consult the School of Architecture bulletin, available online at [https://bulletin.yale.edu](https://bulletin.yale.edu), and Yale Course Search at [https://courses.yale.edu](https://courses.yale.edu).

**Required Courses in the History and Theory of Architecture Track**

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<th>Course Code</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ARCH 551</td>
<td>Ph.D. Seminar: History/Theory I</td>
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<td>ARCH 552</td>
<td>Ph.D. Seminar: History/Theory II</td>
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<td>ARCH 553</td>
<td>Ph.D. Seminar: History/Theory III</td>
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<td>ARCH 554</td>
<td>Ph.D. Seminar: History/Theory IV</td>
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**Required Courses in the Ecosystems in Architectural Sciences Track**

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<tr>
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