Washington University in St. Louis is an ideal environment for intellectual, creative, and personal growth. As an Architecture student, your course work in the major will prepare you to engage a dynamic cultural and environmental context through design. You will also have the opportunity to explore other academic areas across the University that will enrich your work.
Our students begin working in the studio in their first semester, pairing a rigorous combination of classes in the architecture program and course work across the campus. Many of our students pursue minors in studies outside the design disciplines, as well as in landscape architecture and urban design. This immersion in design culture allows students to create unique educational experiences and envision a path for their future career.

HEATHER WOOFTER, Professor & Director, College of Architecture, Graduate School of Architecture & Urban Design

We strongly believe that a “learn-by-doing” methodology is one of the best ways to develop your skills as an architect. While our curriculum is centered around the design studio, architecture is interdisciplinary in nature, drawing from various bases of knowledge and requiring collaboration with other fields. You’ll find our program valuable for both its broad-based nature and its architectural focus, where small groups of students and a faculty member work together on design projects. With multiple opportunities in the undergraduate curriculum to pursue study in other areas, our students develop abilities to think, communicate, and work across disciplinary lines.

LEARN FROM THE DIRECTOR
One of the unique features of our curriculum is that you have the opportunity to learn directly from the director of architecture, Heather Woofter, beginning with your first semester on campus. All Sam Fox School first-year students take Practices in Architecture + Art + Design. Taught by the leaders of the School, this course introduces you to subjects, theories, and methodologies that extend across the fields of architecture, art, design, landscape architecture, and urban studies.

Innovation is at the heart of both teaching and practice for associate professor SUNG HO KIM and professor HEATHER WOOFTER, director of architecture. From digital fabrication courses to studios focused on the relationship between climate, geometry, and site, they challenge students to expand their thinking while learning valuable technical skills. More than 60 students and alumni have put these classroom lessons to use as members of the design team at Axi:Ome, Kim and Woofter’s firm, which engages in architectural research as well as the realization of built works, including the UMSL at Grand Center building.
FIRST YEAR
- Foundation studios in design
- Interdisciplinary drawing course for all Architecture and Art students
- Explorations of materials, media, geometry, and detailing
- Design of a small building
- Practices in Architecture + Art + Design
- Additional course work in the liberal arts
- Instruction in digital technologies begins in the first year and continues throughout the curriculum. We strongly recommend that all incoming students acquire a computer and software to support their studies. For more information, visit samfoxschool.wustl.edu/undergraduate/computer.

SECOND YEAR
- Design studios focused on the relationship of architecture to the landscape and to the urban environment
- Interdisciplinary elective studies between art, architecture, and design
- Architectural history courses
- Additional course work in the liberal arts

THIRD YEAR
- Intensified design studios exploring building assemblies, structure, landscape, and sustainability
- Building systems course
- Architectural theory course
- Additional course work in the liberal arts

FOURTH YEAR
For Bachelor of Science in Architecture:
- Continue in-depth study of architecture through design studios
- Structures courses
- Architectural history and theory course work, with an emphasis on urban design issues
- Technology courses in environmental systems or landscape architecture

For Bachelor of Arts in Architecture:
- Student-directed capstone project
- Ultimate flexibility to complete a second major or additional minor, or to explore other areas of interest
- Option to take additional architecture course work, including your choice of studios and theory classes

INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES
All Sam Fox School undergraduates take elective courses to experience new forms of visual making. Courses include:
- Furniture Design
- Digital Fabrications
- Urban Books
- An Ecology of Art
- Digital Filmmaking: City Stories
- Data Visualization

Our curriculum provides all students with a strong liberal arts base. You can choose from offerings across the undergraduate divisions—Art, Arts & Sciences, Business, and Engineering & Applied Science—and collaborate with other students and faculty on creative and challenging projects. For instance, for the course Sustainability Exchange, students work in transdisciplinary teams to discover innovative solutions for reducing energy use on campus and develop recommendations for advancing net-zero energy design and construction.

"Studio is a place of collaboration and inspiration. It isn’t just about building models; it’s also about building your knowledge of design and its impact, and learning to analyze, problem solve, and thoughtfully observe. What I love about architecture is its multidisciplinary nature—you’re never done learning or finding connections." ERIN WONG, BS16, San Marino, California

Rendering by Caroline Brewer, BS17, for a studio focused on the design of a greenhouse in the St. Louis neighborhood of Soulard. Brewer’s project uses internally produced humidity to help heat the building, and functions as both a place for plants to grow and a place for people to exercise.
There are different paths you can take to obtain a professional architecture degree, which is required for licensure in the field. In the 1960s, Washington University pioneered an undergraduate program of study that combined architecture with the liberal arts. Through this model, you complete a pre-professional degree in architecture—such as our Bachelor of Science or Bachelor of Arts degree—followed by an accredited professional Master of Architecture degree. This path of study, which provides a foundation for professional education and a breadth of knowledge needed for lifelong success in a rapidly changing world, has been adopted as a model by the National Architectural Accrediting Board.

One of the main advantages to this model is flexibility. As an undergraduate, you take a greater variety of courses and develop wider skill sets that will benefit you when you enter the profession. At the same time, you take a rigorous schedule of architecture courses that will prepare you for graduate school and shorten the amount of time it will take to complete your master’s degree in architecture. This approach also allows you to work in practice after completing your undergraduate studies. This experience can help you identify interests and select a graduate program best suited to your aspirations.

Our undergraduate students are regularly accepted into the best graduate programs in the country, including Columbia University, Harvard University, University of Michigan, MIT, Yale University, and our very own Graduate School of Architecture & Urban Design. We offer a challenging and stimulating professional Master of Architecture degree program that is ranked in the top 10 nationally by the journal DesignIntelligence. In addition, we offer a Master of Urban Design degree program—the second-oldest of its kind in the country—and a Master of Landscape Architecture degree program.

MINORS

Within the College of Architecture, you may choose to minor in one of the three areas featured on this page. With proper planning, you may also pursue minors and second majors across the University. Dual degrees are possible and typically take five years to complete.

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY MINOR
The Architectural History minor explores the broader cultural context of the discipline of architecture. Through 18 units of course work, students take a studio, history/theory, and natural systems courses, with architectural history electives in advanced technology, mapping, and social studies.

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE MINOR
The study of landscape architecture is essential to understanding natural and built systems. The Landscape Architecture minor is an 18-credit course of study that explores issues that are vital to architectural and urban design—such as vegetation strategies and water management—at the local and regional scales. Students take studio, history/theory, and natural systems courses, with landscape architecture electives in advanced technology, mapping, and social studies.

URBAN DESIGN MINOR
As city populations increase, the need to build more sustainable environments makes an urban design education for architects more important than ever. The Urban Design minor is an 18-credit course of study that gives you more opportunities to develop your skills as an architect through direct involvement with the community, including a senior-level urban design studio. Additional theory-based course work focuses on urban design policy, sustainable development, and urban infrastructure.

PROFESSIONAL PATH

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The College of Architecture has a dedicated Career Services office. Our career advisers will guide you through specialized programs, help you structure your career search, and give you the tools you need to reach the best prospects for internships, residencies, fellowships, graduate schools, jobs, or other professional placements.

CAREER FAIRS
In addition to the University-wide Career Fair, the School hosts an internship and job fair specifically geared toward the fields of architecture and design. At this annual event, students and recent alumni have the opportunity to meet with top firms, as well as trade and professional organizations, network with employers, and have their portfolios reviewed by professionals in the field.

ROAD SHOWS
Road Shows offer a behind-the-scenes look inside top firms, agencies, and other organizations across the country. Recent Architecture Road Shows have been held in Chicago, Kansas City, New York, San Francisco, Seattle, and Washington DC. In addition to meeting with several organizations in each city, students tour major architecture projects and network with area alumni working in the field. Career Services also organizes visits to well-known firms in the St. Louis area each semester.

AFTER GRADUATION
From founding HOK—one of the largest architectural firms in the world—to teaching at top colleges and universities to playing key roles in post-disaster reconstruction projects, our graduates are making a tremendous impact in a diverse range of fields. While some pursue careers as practicing architects, others work in related disciplines such as furniture design, digital design, landscape architecture, urban design, and construction management. Still others focus on scholarly research or entrepreneurial projects.

Our alumni work throughout the United States and around the world, and are eager to hire graduates from the University. A selection of recent internship and job placements is listed on the next page.

Interests + CAREERS

The industry in which he’s made his mark: fashion.

After working as a technical designer at Marc Jacobs, DuGoff launched his menswear line, DDUGOFF, which tout’s “unbasic basics,” in fall/winter 2014. He said his architecture education gave him more than technical skills that have aided his rapid rise in fashion. “Thinking big and small, in two dimensions and three dimensions, digitally and analogue—architecture school is its own liberal arts of design. It prepared me and my friends for such a range of paths after graduation.”

Just six years removed from graduation, DANIEL DUGOFF's design savvy and success starting his own studio landed him a spot in Forbes Magazine's 30 Under 30 Class of 2016. What may come as a bigger surprise is the industry in which he’s made his mark: fashion.
STUDIO SPOTLIGHT

For the final studio of the core sequence, juniors design an observatory of environmental effects on the historic Chain of Rocks Bridge over the Mississippi River. The project begins with a series of material studies in which students develop devices that expose and manipulate the tangible effects of water, such as sedimentation, flow, and bubbles. They then turn to the spatial and physical requirements of observation, which inform their design of an environmental research station that is located on and integrated with the bridge. Envisioned as both a home and a workplace for a single on-site researcher, the station is a “dwelling” that accommodates diverse habits and activities of everyday life.

Jun Bae investigates the fluid movement of soap bubbles as a study for his wind-powered kinetic observatory.

A stream of tubular structures expand to create inhabitable space and connect at various points in Miriam Alexandroff’s observatory.

Taylor Halamka’s suspended observatory features a series of cascading floors that change as the Mississippi River rises and falls, joining people and nature as one.

This series of algae processors by Alexander Agnew pulls excess nutrients, such as nitrogen, out of the river and transforms them into algal cultures, which are in turn processed into ethanol.
To prepare you for these challenges, the College of Architecture provides numerous opportunities to apply lessons learned in the classroom to real-life situations, both in the St. Louis area and beyond.

Our students, faculty, and staff are committed to working with communities to address systemic social, environmental, and economic challenges. Our Office for Socially Engaged Practice provides a hub and resources to support these initiatives, which include curricular, research, and co-curricular activities.

In recent studios, students have addressed infrastructure and connectivity issues along the Mississippi River and the River des Peres; teamed with the nonprofit organization Urban eco-BLOCK to determine the feasibility of a new model for urban redevelopment; explored ways to utilize and transform parcels of vacant land in St. Louis; designed solar-powered houses that are both cost-effective and energy-efficient; researched resilient water management strategies for New Orleans; created proposals for a Montessori School in Florence, Italy; and developed environmentally just interventions for the North St. Louis Harlem watershed.

Other socially engaged programs include:

- Community Building, Building Community, a course in which students examine the intersection of the built environment and the social fabric of communities in order to more fully understand the role of architecture in a neighborhood and a city. Walking tours of St. Louis neighborhoods, interviews with area residents, and visits with community leaders help you to develop an urban design proposal that responds to the needs of a designated neighborhood.

- Service learning courses such as the Alberti Program, which give WashU students the opportunity to serve as teaching assistants, designing and leading hands-on problem-solving workshops about architecture and environmental issues for grade-school students.

- CityStudioSTL, which supports a series of community engagement and outreach projects in St. Louis. Offered in partnership with WashU’s Skandalaris Center for Interdisciplinary Innovation and Entrepreneurship, the program allows students to conceive, plan, design, and ultimately construct publicly minded projects, working closely with local groups and residents. Past projects include an outdoor classroom for Patrick Henry Downtown Academy, pictured above.

The environment is the context for life and its well-being—and poses the most important challenge facing architects today. Our students will help lead the way in developing sustainable design solutions.

Undergraduate and graduate architecture students participated in group fieldwork to document and map the Mississippi River, utilizing tools developed by the nonprofit Public Lab for a seminar led by assistant professor Derek Hoeferlin.

As part of a studio taught by assistant professor Chandler Ahrens, undergraduate architecture students designed and built a seating and shade structure to enhance a new soccer field for Nahed Chapman New American Academy, which serves recent immigrant students in kindergarten through tenth grade.
The College of Architecture provides a close-knit environment for learning. With approximately 60 students in each incoming class, you quickly get to know your classmates. Studio class sizes are typically 15 or fewer students to one professor throughout your undergraduate program. That allows you to interact more closely with our nationally and internationally distinguished faculty—all researchers and practitioners actively contributing to the growth of the profession. Their work covers a wide range of topics—ecological and environmental issues facing the Mississippi River, eco-urbanism strategies for local communities, modernity and post-World War II architecture and urbanism, industrial design, community engagement, digital fabrication, building systems—and highlights the innumerable paths you can pursue with an architecture degree.

The Mildred Lane Kemper Art Museum is located right across the plaza from students’ studio spaces and plays an integral role within the School. Membership is free to all students. You can also be actively involved with planning special student events through the Kemper Student Council. The student organization hosts an annual Vault Party—a one-night-only showcase of rarely seen works from the permanent collection—and Kemper Kabaret—a student-run variety show.

The Museum’s exhibition program focuses on both contemporary and historical forms of art, architecture, and design and the unique points of intersection between these areas. Professor Igor Marjanović recently co-curated Drawing Ambience, the first public museum exhibition of architectural drawings from the private collection of the noted educator Alvin Boyarsky. The exhibition included early drawings by some of the most prominent architects practicing today—Frank Gehry, Daniel Libeskind, Rem Koolhaas, and Bernard Tschumi, among many others. Since debuting at the Kemper Art Museum, the exhibition has traveled to venues across the United States, Canada, and Europe.

Your faculty will help you discover your own truths and, through enlightened thinking and teaching, ensure you are prepared to adapt to the changing demands of your chosen profession.
Your experiences at WashU extend well beyond course work. You can participate in activities that shape the character of the College of Architecture by serving on the Architecture School Council, which represents students to the faculty and staff. You can write about topics such as urban agriculture and vacancy for ISSUES Magazine, or use human-centered design to create local and social impact as a member of Design for America at WashU. And you can take advantage of the St. Louis area and its diverse offerings in architecture, art, and design, from Forest Park—located across the street from the Sam Fox School—to the Saint Louis Art Museum to Eero Saarinen’s Gateway Arch.

You may also participate in student chapters of national organizations such as the American Institute of Architects, American Society of Landscape Architects, National Organization of Minority Architects, and Alpha Rho Chi, a social, professional, co-ed fraternity for architecture and the allied arts.

PUBLIC LECTURE SERIES
Each semester, the Sam Fox School hosts lectures by nationally and internationally recognized architects, artists, landscape architects, urban designers, historians, and critics. Recent speakers have included Thom Mayne, Wang Shu, and Rafael Moneo—all winners of the Pritzker Architecture Prize, generally considered the profession’s highest honor. Invited speakers often interact with students during studio visits, workshops, and informal gatherings.

"I started referring to WashU as 'home' during my first semester, and I feel the same to this day. I am happiest at school, surrounded by intellectual peers, fun-loving friends, and the infectious energy that permeates throughout campus.”  
SABRINA HILFER, BDes17, Minor in Writing, Chappaqua, New York

COMMUNITY HERE + ABROAD

We believe that the opportunity to study abroad is essential to your education, so we encourage you to experience the world.

Our programs in Florence, Italy, allow architecture, art, and design students to study in a city that is key to the field of architecture—and the birthplace of Western cultural modernity. Courses are taught by Sam Fox School faculty as well as local faculty. The curriculum makes use of the rich artistic and cultural environment, urban and architectural history, and contemporary aspects of the city, as well as the surrounding Tuscan countryside.

FLORENCE SEMESTER PROGRAM
This program offers a full semester curriculum: architectural design studio, architecture and art history, Italian language, and the history of Florence. Studio projects have included design proposals for urban revitalization of the city’s growing transportation corridors, as well as building proposals for architectural programs such as schools, galleries, and housing.

FLORENCE SUMMER PROGRAM
Another option is to spend nine weeks of your summer in Florence. The program focuses on the design of public space and provides an interdisciplinary learning environment for exploring the relationships between historical and contemporary modes of representation, communication, and construction. You take an art history course along with an architecture studio that engages a diverse set of drawing strategies—from freehand drawing and drafting to printmaking. The program begins with a weeklong Italian language workshop on the island of Elba, which is part of the Tuscan Archipelago National Park.

OTHER WASHU PROGRAMS
You can also access the broad range of study abroad opportunities offered through other WashU programs. This option may be particularly appealing if you are pursuing a minor or a second major and want to obtain credits abroad in fields other than architecture.