



THE GRADUATE SCHOOL | MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY

## School of Architecture

### DEGREES OFFERED

- Master of Architecture



The MSU School of Architecture's location in the Rocky Mountains of western Montana offers a dramatic learning environment for faculty and student design inquiry and creativity. The school has a strong tradition of fostering independent design thinking in concert with independent research. Our award-winning faculty offer vigorous graduate educational programs. The multidisciplinary interests of our faculty and graduate students form the basis of exciting new research collaborations with a variety of other disciplines including the College of Agriculture, the College of Business and the College of Engineering.

Graduate architecture education at Montana State University is rigorous, demanding and exhilarating. As part of our mission, we strive to play an essential and innovative role in enhancing the human condition. To accomplish this, the School of Architecture empowers students to critically engage the complexities of society and the natural environment by instilling the fundamental principles of design and inspiring a spirit of exploration and creative experimentation in shaping the built environment. Design studios form the core of our architectural education, and every student makes a significant design studio commitment each semester.

### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Students wishing to acquire the Master of Architecture Degree must complete three semesters of graduate study. Throughout this graduate study, students will choose from a variety of architectural studios, design-build projects, architectural seminars, research methods, and non-architectural electives intended to emphasize the development of a critical position with regard to the environment and architecture. A final graduate design studio is required that demonstrates the student's moral, ethical, and aesthetic responsibility to society and the natural world.

Design is at the center of all we do with particular emphasis on the landscape, culture, sustainability and theory. Studios begin regionally and expand outwardly with varying studio field trip experiences to places that have included Chicago, New York, San Francisco,

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### *School of Architecture, continued*



and Los Angeles as well as non-urban locations in the central valley of California and the farmlands of western Washington. During the graduate year students select from a series of studio options including the Visiting Scholars Studio, which brings visiting faculty or practitioners to the MSU campus to teach a graduate level studio. Other studio options have explored design solutions for visitor facilities in Grand Canyon National Park, migrant worker housing in the Pacific Northwest, as well as housing, social and economic issues in Nairobi, Kenya. Graduate electives allow students to explore topics on meaning and place, advanced day-lighting and energy analysis, fused glass, photography, interior design, history/theory, historic preservation, furniture design and advanced material studies.

### LEARNING, DISCOVERY, AND ENGAGEMENT

The School has an outstanding tradition in outreach and engagement to communities. The School has developed strong connections with the state's cities, towns, national parks and tribes, including projects on the Crow and Blackfeet reservations and on-going work in Yellowstone National Park. Students and faculty in the School of Architecture have undertaken work on the Towne Harvest Vegetable Washing Station, the Khumbu Climbing School in Pochtse, Nepal, the Hyalite Pavilion in Gallatin National Forest, the Morocco Sustainable Community Development program, the Global Urban Lab's Kenya straw-bale design-build and the Playful Ping Pong Pavilion design-build collaboration between MSU School of Architecture and Oxford Brookes University. The School's research reflects a diverse and wide-ranging faculty of committed practitioners of the profession of architecture. Faculty have received national recognition for their work, ranging from NCARB Prize awards, American Society of Architectural Illustrators' Awards of Excellence, book publications, and numerous AIA State and Regional Awards. The School is the current headquarters of the Design Communication Association.



Faculty-led efforts include the application of sustainable design practice in rural regions, development of visually compelling tools to encourage smarter growth in the rapidly growing Rocky Mountain west, ongoing research in day-lighting with the Integrated Design Lab, national and international competitions, community design workshops, historic preservation, and the application of both hand and digital drawing and fabrication in the design process. Our outstanding Lecture Series has included Marlon Blackwell, Stanley Saitowitz, Branko Kolarevic, and Teddy Cruz just to name a few.

### APPLICATION INFORMATION

Admission into the Master of Architecture program is competitive. Highly qualified students are admitted from both our Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Design degree program and from other universities. Placement may vary depending upon the student's background; students with an undergraduate degree in a field other than architecture will be considered, and must, if accepted, complete a full course of study in design studio. Portfolio review is of primary importance to the School of Architecture's application review committee. All applicants are required to submit a portfolio of their best work to be reviewed by the school's faculty. For more information on admission requirements and procedures please refer to our website.

In the United States, most state registration boards require a degree from an accredited professional degree program as a prerequisite for licensure. The National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB), which is the sole agency authorized to accredit U.S. professional degree programs in architecture, recognizes three types of degrees: the Bachelor of Architecture, the Master of Architecture, and the Doctor of Architecture. A program may be granted a 6-year, 3-year, or 2-year term of accreditation, depending on the extent of its conformance with established educational standards.

Doctor of Architecture and Master of Architecture degree programs may consist of a pre-professional undergraduate degree and a professional graduate degree that, when earned sequentially, constitute an accredited professional education. However, the pre-professional degree is not, by itself, recognized as an accredited degree.

Montana State University School of Architecture offers the following NAAB-accredited degree program:

- Master of Architecture (pre-professional + 42 graduate credits)
- Next accreditation visit for this program will take place in 2014

### SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRADUATE TEACHING ASSISTANT FELLOWSHIPS

The School of Architecture offers a wide range of endowed and annual scholarships, as well as annual design competition scholarships totaling over \$50,000 each year. The selection criteria for each scholarship vary from outstanding capability to promise of excellence and demonstration of financial need. The School offers a number of Graduate Teaching Assistant Fellowships—allowing graduate students to teach in our undergraduate program and providing tuition waivers for our students. Graduate students must apply for these highly sought after positions.