

National Architectural Accrediting Board, Inc.

October 22, 2010

Dr. G. P. Peterson, President  
Office of the President  
Georgia Institute of Technology  
225 North Avenue, NW  
Atlanta, GA 30332-0325



Dear President Peterson:

After reviewing the *Focused Evaluation Program Report* submitted by Georgia Institute of Technology College of Architecture as part of the focused evaluation of its Master of Architecture program, in conjunction with the *Focused Evaluation Team Report*, the National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB) has found that the changes made or planned by the program to remove the identified deficiencies are satisfactory.

The program also will not be required to report on these deficiencies as part of its Annual Report (AR) to the NAAB; however, the program should continue to provide a response to any other deficiencies listed in the most recent *Visiting Team Report* and report on any modifications made in the program that may change its adherence to the conditions for accreditation.

The next comprehensive visit for Georgia Institute of Technology Master of Architecture program is scheduled for 2014 and will be subject to the *2009 Conditions for Accreditation* and the most current *Procedures*.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact the NAAB office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wendy Ornelas".

Wendy Ornelas, FAIA  
President

cc: George B. Johnston, Director  
Michael Broshar, FAIA, Lead Reviewer  
Randall Ott, RA, Secondary Reviewer

enc.



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Georgia Institute of Technology  
College of Architecture

## Focus Evaluation Team Report

Master of Architecture

Track I (non-preprofessional undergraduate degree + 108 graduate credit hours)

Track II (preprofessional undergraduate degree plus 60 graduate credit hours)

The National Architectural Accrediting Board  
September 2010

*The National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB), established in 1940, is the sole agency authorized to accredit U.S. professional degree programs in architecture. Because most state registration boards in the United States require any applicant for licensure to have graduated from an NAAB-accredited program, obtaining such a degree is an essential aspect of preparing for the professional practice of architecture.*

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**I. Summary of Team Findings**

**1. Team Comments**

This Focused Evaluation of the Georgia Institute of Technology College of Architecture Programs concerned two conditions: Condition 6 – Human Resources and Condition 10 – Financial Resources. We wish to thank Professor George Johnston, PhD. for providing a thorough FE report, and for providing timely and useful clarifying responses to our questions.

The College of Architecture has undertaken significant actions during the two years since their accrediting team visit to respond to the Conditions Not Met and Causes of Concern.

- A net of five additional Full Time/Tenure Track Staff have been assigned to teach studio courses since the team visit, with corresponding reduction of 11 part time faculty studio assignments. There has been a reduction in admissions to achieve a balance between the number of studios and the staff available to teach them.
- In spite of budget rescissions in FY2009 and FY2010 of -4.6% and -3% respectively, the College has been able to supplement their budget through differential tuition assessment, a summer tuition incentive and a target of opportunity hire, resulting in a net increase in budget of 4.6% from FY2009 to 2010 and a projected increase of 5.6% in FY2011 over 2010.
- The VTR noted the high quality of the program and attributed much of the program's success to the dedicated and supportive faculty and administration.

**II. Compliance with the Conditions for Accreditation**

**Program Response to the NAAB Focused Criteria**

*Schools must respond to the interests of the collateral organizations that make up the NAAB as set forth by this edition of the NAAB Conditions for Accreditation. Each school is expected to address these interests consistent with its scholastic identity and mission.*

**6. Human Resources**

*The accredited degree program must demonstrate that it provides adequate human resources for a professional degree program in architecture, including a sufficient faculty complement, an administrative head with enough time for effective administration, and adequate administrative, technical, and faculty support staff. Student enrollment in and scheduling of design studios must ensure adequate time for an effective tutorial exchange between the teacher and the student. The total teaching load should allow faculty members adequate time to pursue research, scholarship, and practice to enhance their professional development.*

Met	Not Met
[X]	[ ]

The primary concern of the Visiting Team in 2008 was the number of design studios taught by part time faculty, and the limited experience of those part time faculty. Increases in enrollment were being accommodated through the employment of an increased number of part-time instructors in design studios. 56% of studio sections were being taught by part-time instructors in AY 2008-09.

A number of actions taken in the interim have resolved this condition. A net of four full time/tenure track faculty have been hired or assigned to studio coursework. In 2008-09, there were 24 FT/TT faculty studio sections taught and 30 PT. In 2010-11, there are 29 FT/TT faculty sections taught and 19 PT. The total is a reduction from 54 to 48 studio sections taught, due to a restriction in the number of students enrolled.

The full time/tenure track faculty numbers 32, of which 20 are licensed architects and 16 hold Doctor of Philosophy degrees. The staffing projection for 2010-2011 design studios includes 12 part time instructors, of which 10 are licensed architects.

Responding to concerns raised in the 2008 VTR, undergraduate enrollment has been stabilized by changes in the institution's centralized admissions process. Freshman enrollment in the College of Architecture peaked at 223 students in 2004. In the Fall of 2009, the freshman enrollment was 134. Common First Year enrollment in the College of Architecture dropped from 280 students to 186 in the same period. Graduate student enrollment has remained steady between 130 and 140 students. Total enrollment in the School of Architecture peaked at 380 in 2007 and is projected at 322 for the Fall of 2010.

**10. Financial Resources**

*An accredited degree program must have access to sufficient institutional support and financial resources to meet its needs and be comparable in scope to those available to meet the needs of other professional programs within the institution.*

Met	Not Met
[X]	[ ]

Concerns in the 2008 VTR noted that relative to the number of students enrolled, the Program's financial resources had eroded since the 2002 visit.

The economy during the past two years has been difficult for architecture programs across the country, and Georgia Tech has not been spared. During FY2009 the net reduction to the College of Architecture budget was 4.6%, with a subsequent 3% reduction in FY2010. Faculty and staff were also required to take six furlough days during the most recent academic year.

- Despite these conditions, a number of actions have been taken by the institution in response to the 2008 Accreditation decision, improving the financial resources outlook. In FY 2009, enrollment impact funds of \$97,000 were provided to offset the cost of the increased (but declining) enrollment.
- In addition, a differential tuition assessment of \$1,995 per semester was initiated in the Fall of 2009 for all students in the Master of Architecture Program. As the new tuition rate is phased in with incoming students over the next three years, the assessment will provide an income stream of approximately \$500,000.
- Summer Incentive Funding has provided a new revenue stream for the School. \$33,000 was provided to the school in FY2010 and it is estimated net revenue for FY2011 will exceed \$65,000.
- New endowment funding has been provided to provide approximately six fellowships per year and to restore the College's annual lecture series.
- The net result of these additional revenue sources has been an increase in revenue of 4.6% from 2009 to 2010, with a projected increase of 5.6% from 2010 to 2011.

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### III. Appendices

#### Appendix A: The Visiting Team

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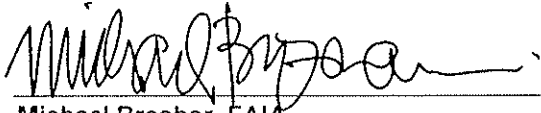
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**Appendix B: The Visit Agenda**

No visit required.

IV. Report Signatures

Respectfully submitted,



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Michael Broshar, FAIA  
Review Chair

Representing the Profession



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Randall Ott, RA  
Secondary Reviewer

Representing the Academy

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