CORE I Architectural Design Studio
School of Architecture / College of Design / Georgia Institute of Technology
Hinman Research Building
Instructors: Charles Rudolph, Associate Professor

ARCH 8855 is the first of three introductory-level studios in the Master of Architecture curriculum, and the beginning of an academic year focused on developing the skills, tools and overall confidence in critical thinking and making necessary as a foundation for contemporary architectural practice. The Core I studio will focus on the development of your competence as architectural designers through the practice of a design process that is rooted in abstraction, ideation, and iteration. The iterative process will employ both analog and digital tools, and the exercises will be explored using various media and techniques of representation: drawings, sketches, models, and constructions.

Each student brings a different academic background, knowledge base and cultural experience to the program, yet we all must learn to converse with—and within, the language of our discipline. Architectural representation (drawings and models of spaces, buildings, environmental conditions) functions as that language. It is based in abstraction, whether in two or three dimensions, on paper or in the computer, as a construction detail or as a city plan.

The architect is trained to imagine and visualize a transformed physical reality by constructing, evaluating, and manipulating abstract representations of this reality. To command this eye-to-hand (and eye-to-machine) skill with confidence requires time, patience, and—perhaps most importantly, thoughtfulness and care. A student’s individual “embodied knowledge” that they bring with them can only be allowed to influence his/her work to the degree that they command the representational media. The goal of the studio is to build visual acuity and spatial sensibility that will support the later command of advanced tools and media.

The work will be challenging and at times perhaps frustrating. However, breakthroughs will happen and confidence will be gained if you enter into this course (and program) with equal parts enthusiasm, intellectual adventure, and—dare I say it, a sense of humor.