ARCH 6315 / 4315: The Practice of Architecture / Fall 2018
College of Architecture / Georgia Institute of Technology
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Credits: 3-0-3 (3 semester hours)

Prerequisites: Graduate standing, or junior or senior standing in architecture undergraduate program.

Overview: Whereas the vital core of architectural education, the design studio, inherently prioritizes the *forms* of architecture, this course examines the transition to practice through the *processes* of architecture. Akin to the accelerating speed of contemporary change itself, this course takes you on a fast ride through the rapidly evolving environment in which architects now practice: viewing the long-wave lifecycle of our broad profession through its short-wave cycles at the scales of career paths, project trajectories, and ultimately the fine grain of daily routines.

We will begin by exploring two sometimes competing views of architectural practice, from its identification as a profession (its history, its ideological structure, its ethical obligations to society), and then from its marketplace orientation, considering its role in the dynamics of global capitalism.

From these vantages we will further examine an individual's career path, from architectural education, through early career steps and licensure, to leadership roles in the architectural firm, incorporating approaches to firm organization and legal/ financial structures. This sequence culminates in a brief look into cross-disciplinary career possibilities, including entrepreneurial, networked-collaboration opportunities spurred by new advances in information technologies.

This career trajectory is overlapped by following a project timeline through the sequential phases of an architect's process (which also corresponds to the 6 'experience categories' of the AXP program and Architectural Registration Exam.) It begins with the solicitation of a project through marketing and contract negotiations, and introduces basic financial concepts such as fee determination and project budgeting. It continues with an overview of the expanding range of project delivery methods, scoping out from baseline design-bid-build systems to emerging Integrated Project Delivery (IPD) systems. The design phase is viewed with special emphasis on code issues and cost control, and proceeds to the construction documents phase (working drawings and specifications) in the emerging paradigm of BIM integration. The construction phase is also examined with particular attention to contract administration and on-site activities. The course integrates discussions of the profession's future as it responds to its changing socio-economic context, including the twin challenges of rapid globalization and environmental/social sustainability.

New to this course will be its amplified focus on entrepreneurship, more participation from a number of some of Atlanta's most innovative practitioners, and increased use of role-playing. Therefore, in addition to lectures by both the course instructors and outside practitioners, students will actively enact architects' processes through team presentations of start-up business plans and marketing interviews. The course also includes a visit to an active construction site.

Diagram labels (left margin timeline):

a — the profession / 1 practice management / guild formation / professionalization / standardization / mass customization — 13th c, 14th c, 15th c, 16th c, 17th c, 18th c, 19th c, 20th c, 21st c, 22nd c, 23rd c, 24th c

b — 2 project management / 3 programming / firm formation / leadership — y1–y12 / edu(ug) / edu(gr) / exm / exp(idp)

c — 4 project design / 5 project doc's — jan feb mar apr may jun jul aug sep oct nov dec / mktg / contract / program / sd / awd(d/b) / cd / awd(b) / ca / eval

d — 6 construction / eval / divergent tracks / collaborative mtg / divergent career tracks / mktg / contract / sd / bim / l&l / pm / mktg / eval

Circled numbers: 1 2 3 4 5 6

6 Architectural Registration Exam categories