

What is Architecture?

Architecture encompasses the making and study of the buildings and environment that we inhabit. The concerns of architecture involve a wide variety of areas of study including the art of representing built projects through drawings and computer graphics; the technology of building structure, building materials, and natural and mechanical systems; the history, theory, and art of making, using, and understanding buildings as cultural artifacts for human use; and the practice of architecture in the context of urban form and business economics.

The bachelor of arts (B.A.) degree with a major in Architecture provides instruction in history, representation, design, theory, and technology emphasizing the development of architecture as a language of form, space, and order. The B.A. with a major in Architecture requires an understanding of social, cultural, and physical contexts as a foundation for the examination of the methods, values, precedents, and material reality characteristic of the process of shaping natural and built environments. The major combines core prerequisites with a broad introduction to architecture, including required courses in representation, history, theory, and design processes and an individualized elective concentration or minor planned by the student with the assistance of an adviser.

The B.A. introduces the study of architecture in the context of a liberal arts education. It may be used as preparation for professional study in architecture or related fields at the graduate level, or for employment in architecture related fields that do not require a professional degree. The undergraduate major establishes a strong design foundation that serves a diversity of careers, and provides flexibility as individual opportunities change. A master's degree in architecture is required to qualify for licensure.

See the College of Design section for the B.S. and B.D.A. Architecture programs.

What are the major requirements?

Go to www.catalogs.umn.edu/programs.html and select "undergraduate majors."

How do I declare an Architecture major?

You will be required to declare a major by the time you have completed 60 credits.

1. You must apply to the Architecture major. Speak with your CLA adviser for details.
2. Talk with someone from the department: an adviser, a professor, or a teaching assistant, to learn more about the major and its requirements.
3. When you are admitted to the Architecture major, meet with the appropriate person from the department to complete a Major Program form.
4. Bring a copy of the form to your CLA student community.
5. If you decide to change your major, contact your student community to learn more about your new major's declaration process.

For more information:

About the Architecture major:

Undergraduate Advising Office
145 Ralph Rapson Hall
(612) 624-7866

<http://arch.cdes.umn.edu/>

About CLA requirements, graduation, and other information about majors:

CLA Society and Culture
Student Community
122 Johnston Hall
(612) 624-2549

<http://sandc.class.umn.edu/>

or

CLA Martin Luther King, Jr.
Program
19 Johnston Hall
(612) 625-2300

<http://www.class.umn.edu/mlk/mlk@class.cla.umn.edu>

About careers, internships, and community learning opportunities in this major and others:

Career and Community
Learning Center
135 Johnston Hall
(612) 624-7577

www.cclc.umn.edu/

cclc@class.cla.umn.edu

About graduation with honors:

CLA Honors Division
20 Nicholson
(612) 624-5522

www.honors.class.umn.edu/

honors@class.cla.umn.edu

What can I do with a major in Architecture?

Skills

Architecture majors develop skills that are applicable to a wide variety of careers. These skills include:

- Artistic skills including drawing, model building, depth and spatial perception
- Presentation skills
- Verbal and written communication skills
- Critical thinking and analytical skills
- Ability to work well with diverse groups

Employment

Common areas of employment for this major include but are not limited to:

- Architecture—residential, commercial, institutions, restoration
- Government—historic preservation, urban and regional planning
- Education—teaching, research, admissions, advising, student affairs
- Design—interior design, graphic design, landscape architecture
- Business—construction management, marketing, project management, sales, consulting
- Nonprofit—urban planning, fundraising, programming, non-profit management
- Media—writing, editing, public relations
- Arts and Entertainment—managing, development, announcing, writing

In addition, like many CLA majors, a degree in architecture can provide a good foundation for students who wish to pursue graduate studies in many different fields.

Today's workplace requires individuals with interpersonal skills, the ability to communicate effectively, an ability to solve problems, and adaptability. CLA graduates find that they are well-prepared in all these areas and that their education—especially when combined with experience gained through internships, volunteer positions, past jobs, and other collegiate involvement—makes them competitive.

The **Career & Community Learning Center** provides students with the tools to identify and pursue potential careers. An extensive resource room, career courses and workshops, and a helpful staff are just some of the ways we can help.

Remember!

You have not declared a major until you have:

- completed a Major Program form with your major adviser,
- filed a copy with the major department,
- and filed a copy with your CLA student community.

Don't forget: keep a copy for yourself!