University of Utah
College of Architecture + Planning

Master of Architecture
Master's Project
PROCEDURES
2005-2006

Definition

Students intending to graduate with a Master of Architecture must successfully complete a Master's Project to conclude the professional degree program.

The Master's Project is a comprehensive design project intended to provide the opportunity for in-depth investigation, synthesis, and presentation of an architectural project of a high standard and in a professional format.

Fall Semester - Topic Approval and Development

All students eligible and intending to undertake a Master's Project will register for ARCH 6970, Project Preparation. The instructor of this course, Professor Lisa Henry Benham, will develop assignments, standards, and timetables for the preparation of a final master's project proposal and will evaluate the performance of students.

Students will work with the instructor and with invited faculty members to develop a proposal of their own selection, within the criteria stated below. The proposal will include a project statement, conceptual framework, program, and site description, along with supporting research and precedent. The dean and the instructor will jointly approve or reject a written preliminary proposal topic at mid-term. The criteria for approval of a proposal topic will be:
1. The project can be developed with an architectural program on a site;
2. The project is not too complex to be completed by the student in the time period given for the master's project;
3. The project is complex enough to provide ample opportunity to express rich conceptual ideas;
4. The student has made clear connections between a building project and the conceptual framework under investigation.

Rejected topics must be resubmitted for approval to continue. Students with a preliminary approved project topic will prepare a full proposal in accordance with the requirements of the Project Preparation class assignments. The full proposal will be presented to a jury of architecture faculty. Students who fail to prepare a timely and thorough full proposal, in the opinion of the instructor, may not present to the faculty jury and will not be admitted to the Master's Project studio. The faculty jury has the responsibility for recommending revisions to be made to the proposal prior to beginning the Master's Project studio.

Spring Semester – Master's Project Studio

During the spring semester, students who successfully completed ARCH 6970 may register for ARCH 6971, Master's Project. Students will reside in the Master's Project studio, which will have two faculty studio critics assigned to it, Professor Julio Bermúdez and Professor Mira (Mimi) Locher.

Studio Direction and Reviews

Students must prepare their projects under the direction of the assigned studio critics but may also consult other faculty members as desired. The studio critics will prepare the schedule, expectations, and presentation requirements of the master's project, in alignment with the criteria for evaluation as discussed in the next section.

The studio faculty will determine the schedule of all preliminary reviews and the materials that are required to be presented at these reviews. Preliminary reviews will involve appropriate architecture faculty and guest critics. There will be a **Schematic Design Review** and a **Design Development Review** involving the full faculty approximately eight and three weeks (respectively) prior to the end of the semester. Students passing these reviews will proceed to the **Exhibition Review**, in which the Master's Projects will be on display in the Bailey Gallery for review by the faculty and local architects, and the Master's Project Reception. Following the Exhibition Review and Master's Project Reception, students successfully completing the requirements of the Master's Project studio will prepare their project books, in accordance with the standards and timetable issued for them (see below).

Evaluation and Criteria

The College of Architecture + Planning has an interest in ensuring that all of its candidates for a Master's Degree in Architecture are capable of fulfilling minimum requirements for the individual design development of a building project. The studio faculty for the Master's Project are charged with setting appropriate standards and specific requirements so that this capability can be demonstrated to the full faculty. The following are understood to be **minimum** requirements for a passing Master's Project:

1. The project demonstrates a Master's level of competence in the synthesis of site, program, context, structure, codes, materials and systems. The final product must include drawings and other media sufficient to convey this competence.

2. The project demonstrates facility with and understanding of three-dimensional composition and aesthetic character.

3. The presentation graphics, project oral description, and other presentation media are clear and professional.

4. The thesis topic/conceptual ideas have developed clear expression in the design work and are cogently revealed in the oral and graphic presentation.

Students who have achieved these minimum requirements will receive a "pass" at the **Design Development Review**. This judgment will be rendered by the studio faculty, after consultation with the full faculty. Those students who do not achieve a faculty consensus to pass will receive a "continue". Any student who does not present his/her work at either the Schematic Design or Design Development Review will receive a "fail" and will be required to repeat the Master's Project studio the following Spring semester in order to receive the Master's Degree.

Students receiving a "continue" at the Design Development Review, or those who do not submit an acceptable completed project for the Exhibition Review, will receive an "incomplete", which may be satisfied by submitting the project for a second Design Development Review in mid-summer. Students in this situation must enroll in a summer session studio with a full-time faculty member to improve the project. Failure to present or failure to pass the mid-summer Design Development Review constitutes failure in the course and is usually final. At the discretion of the Dean of the College of Architecture + Planning, students who have completed all other graduation requirements but do not pass the first or second Design Development Review may be allowed to re-enroll in the Master's Project studio the following spring semester in order to revise and complete an acceptable project for graduation.

Project books

Students who have passed the Design Development Review and the Exhibition Review will prepare a "project book" in accordance with the University and CA+P required format. A minimum of three copies (one each for the Marriott Library, the CA+P library, and the student – or more if the student desires) must be turned into the College office ready for binding by **5:00 pm on Thursday, May 4, 2006**. The student's graduation release will be issued upon receipt of the three copies ready for binding. Students should expect to spend a minimum of $50 per copy for the final bound report, exclusive of reproduction costs. Failure to submit the books to the office by the time grades are recorded will result in a student receiving a grade of "incomplete" until the books are submitted.