

Meeting Time and Location

Time: 1:00pm - 5:00pm (In Person) - M,W,F

Location: 5th Floor Studio

Occasionally we will meet online via Teams. Pay attention to your email for these updates

Instructor Contact Information

Ben Fusco

brfusco2@bsu.edu

Email is my preferred method of communication. If you wish to meet with me outside of class time, please email me and I will do my best to ensure I am available.

Catalog Description:

Conceptual architectural design and design methodologies in large-scale projects; introduction of architectural technology, research, analysis, and programming. Workshops in the exploration and development of visualization and communication skills at all stages of the design process.

Note to Class

Architecture is not just the practice of designing buildings. It is the culmination of many conceptual and cultural ideas that manifest in a plethora of creative outputs. We will explore many aspects of architecture throughout the semester that will challenge the preconceived notions of the discipline. Having an open mind, asking as many questions as possible, and being generally curious will increase your abilities in unexpected and authentic ways. This will be a rigorous course that will require lots of time and energy. Be prepared to spend extra time on tasks that seem simple, as you are learning. This class will teach the skills necessary to deliver a project, while also developing and discovering your methods of creating. These things together require a lot of time, practice, and experimentation — so be patient with yourself.

In short, I want you to challenge yourself, challenge “Architecture”, and have fun while doing it!

Thematic Overview

This semester will explore the relationship between traditional architectural representation and storytelling methodologies. We will explore how world-building can define architectural agendas that can be actualized through architectural forms and systems. The class will focus on creating distinct aesthetics through visual media, physical models, materiality, and graphic design. This type of architectural investigation happens across scales and focuses on the design interests of individuals, striving for each student to define unique aesthetics and social interests.

Objectives

Digital and Physical Design Strategy:

Understanding of digital design methodologies and physical fabrication techniques at an abstract level, allowing strategic creation of physical objects

Design Communication and Writing:

Integration of writing into design processes and project communication while connecting 3D design concepts (space, scale, light, movement) with 2D architectural representations

Presentation

Development of presentation skills through project reviews and critiques

Precedents:

Developing the ability to relate works across cultural contexts to relate to conceptual ideas

Site, Context, and Programming:

Ability to develop programs and designs that respond to and incorporate the site's natural features, cultural context, and existing built environment

Attendance

Attendance is expected at every class day unless otherwise communicated. While it does not affect your overall grade, lectures and instructions will not be repeated. While you are in the studio, you are expected to be working. This is a critique-based class; thus, if you are not present or do not have work to show, you are missing the benefits of the class.

If, for whatever reason, you have to miss a class. Send an email letting me know you will not be attending and your reason. If there are excessive absences for a project, it will affect the effort given to the project, impacting your final grade.

Please don't miss class, it's your major and your future.

Late Work

Late work will be accepted and reviewed up to 7 days after the original due date, and it will result in a reduction in the effort section of the final grade. If there are extenuating circumstances and you are unable to complete your work or are going to miss a presentation, please discuss this with me, and we will adjust the grades accordingly. This being said, an inability to complete work on time will limit the final grade your project can receive.

Grading & Evaluation

The grade of each project will take into consideration work throughout the semester with an emphasis on the final deliverables. There will be process assignments which are either complete or incomplete and final project assignments which will be graded under the following categories:

Required Deliverables (20%) - An assessment reflecting whether the assignment was completed and all required deliverables were present.

Craft (30%) - An assessment of the quality of models and drawings.

Development (30%) - An assessment of the depth of thought and the realization of that thought into the architecture and deliverables.

Effort (20%) - An assessment of whether or not you are consistently showing up to class with new work, ideas, and questions.

The following is how grades are evaluated:

A (>90) Excellent Work – Work that shows an exceptional level of thought, rigor, and depth. The solution exemplifies a fully developed, polished, and well-crafted design that is defensible with reason and intention, and exceeds the project requirements.

B (80-90) Good Work – Work that shows a good understanding of the project’s subject matter and a thoughtful solution with good intentions. “B” work meets more than the original requirements for the project and is of high quality, and demonstrates purpose in the design agenda and process.

C (70 -80) Average Work – Work that demonstrates a satisfactory level of process, production, and understanding of the project’s intentions. “C work” represents an average level of work in doing what is expected in the project statement.

D (60-70) Below Average Work – Work that is below the threshold for the expected level of response, process, and intention within the solution for a project. “D” work does not meet the standards for the project and is in need of further development and improvement in understanding and effort.

F (<60) Unsatisfactory Work – Work in which effort, process, and production are unacceptable and do not meet the established requirements for the project. Incomplete, poor, and uninspiring work with little to no intention and rigor constitutes “F” work.

Disability Services Statement

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, please contact me as soon as possible. The Office of Disability Services coordinates services for students with disabilities; documentation of a disability needs to be on file in that office before any accommodations can be provided. Disability Services can be contacted at 765-285-5293 or dsd@bsu.edu.

Student Conduct Policies

The Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities informs the community of the general behavioral expectations that the University has for all students and outlines the procedures that the University uses to respond to complaints when standards are violated. Students are expected to read, understand, and adhere to these community standards.

<https://www.bsu.edu/about/administrativeoffices/student-conduct>

Studio Culture Policy

Students are expected to read, understand, and adhere to these departmental studio culture expectations.

https://www.bsu.edu/-/media/www/departmentalcontent/architecture/pdf/architecture-pdfs/bsu_architecture_studio_culture_policy_24apr18.pdf?sc_lang=en

Student Academic Integrity Policy

Students must comply with and are responsible for knowing the student academic ethics policy, as published in the Ball State University Student Handbook. Cheating on exams, plagiarizing papers, etc. will not be tolerated.

<https://www.bsu.edu/about/administrativeoffices/vice-provost/student-services/academic-integrity>

Freedom of Expression

In this course, we are committed to fostering a learning environment that values intellectual diversity, encourages free expression, and promotes open inquiry. As members of the Ball State Community, we treat each person in the Ball State community with civility, courtesy, compassion, and dignity and respect and learn from differences in people, ideas, and opinions. Please review Ball State University's Statement on Freedom of Expression, the resources on Ball State's Freedom of Expression webpage, and Ball State's Beneficence Pledge.

<https://www.bsu.edu/about/freedom-of-expression/faculty-toolkit>

Title IX

Ball State University is committed to providing a safe and inclusive learning environment for all students. If you or someone you know has experienced sexual harassment—including sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, or stalking, please know that you are not alone. The University offers support services and resources. For more information or to report an incident, please visit bsu.edu/titleix or contact the Title IX Coordinator at 765-2851545 or at titleix@bsu.edu.

As your instructor, I am a mandatory reporter under the Title IX policy and required to report any information I receive about possible sexual harassment. This includes information shared in class discussions, assignments, or private conversations. What happens after I report? The Title IX Coordinator will email the person who experienced sexual harassment (complainant) and invite them to schedule a meeting.

If the complainant chooses to meet with the Title IX Coordinator,

- Title IX Coordinator will offer supportive measures (e.g., counseling, extensions on deadlines, course-related adjustments, changes to work or class schedules, and/or referrals to campus offices), review the policy, and discuss options to move forward.
- If a complaint is filed by the complainant or the University, an investigation will begin following University policy.

Learning Center

The Learning Center offers free tutoring for many courses. They also provide writing and study skills tutoring. Students can make appointments for virtual (Zoom) or in-person (NQ 350).

To make an appointment, visit my.bsu.edu and click on “Navigate” in the Additional Tools section, or just go directly to <https://bsu.navigate.eab.com>. You can also download the Navigate Student app.

The Learning Center also has drop-in tutoring (no appointment necessary) for math, chemistry, and physics. Check bsu.edu/academics/collegesanddepartments/universitycollege/learningcenter for more information.

Testing accommodations for students with disabilities are available for students who have received the appropriate documentation from Disability Services. Tests may be administered in the Learning Center.

For more information about all of their programming, visit bsu.edu/learningcenter or call 765-285-1006. Email at learncenter@bsu.edu.

Writing Center

All writers improve with practice and feedback, so as a student in this course, you are encouraged to use the Writing Center (in Robert Bell 295, Bracken Library, or online) to get additional feedback on your writing. To schedule a free appointment to discuss your writing, go to www.bsu.edu/writingcenter. Online and in-person appointments are available seven days a week; however, plan ahead because appointments book quickly!

The Speaking Center

The Speaking Center is a free resource available to all members of the BSU community wanting to improve their public speaking abilities. We offer personalized coaching designed to help you become a more confident and effective speaker. Our trained coaches provide constructive feedback and support throughout the entire speech preparation process, whether you are in the early stages of brainstorming ideas and organizing your thoughts, or you need to practice your delivery and refine your message. The Center is in the David Letterman Communication and Media Building, room 302. To schedule an appointment, please access us through your Navigate app to sign up for a time. Appointments are available both in person and on Zoom. Appointments are available in person, on Zoom, and in virtual reality (VR) for those interested in practicing in an immersive speaking environment.

<https://www.bsu.edu/academics/collegesanddepartments/communicationstudies/speaking-center>

Counseling Center

The Ball State University Counseling Center offers free and confidential services to all students. The Counseling Center is located in Lucina Hall, Room 320. To schedule an appointment, you can contact 765-285-1736. Ball State now also offers a 24/7 Crisis Line, which can be reached at 765-285-HOPE (4673). The Crisis Line is a mental health resource for those who are struggling with thoughts of suicide and/or self harm or any other mental health concern.

At the Counseling Center, they provide therapy that is designed to help you address your concerns and feel better as quickly as possible. They see students for a variety of reasons, some of which include anxiety, depression, relationship concerns, and homesickness. At your first appointment, you will work with a therapist to create a plan that will connect you with the resources that best fit your needs. They assist clients with getting connected to therapeutic resources within their Center as well as self-help resources, other on-campus resources, and community-based resources. All Ball State students also have access to several on-demand self-help resources through a variety of different platforms. All of these resources, including a direct link to their website, can be found on the Counseling Center Linktree.

<https://linktr.ee/bsucc>

Basic Needs Hub

If you are having difficulty affording enough food, do not have a safe and reliable place to sleep, and/or experiencing an emergency or crisis, help is available through the Basic Needs Hub. The Basic Needs Hub has information, resources, and provides individualized support to students. To talk with a supportive staff member about your experience, receive one on one assistance, or learn more about resources, you can submit a Basic Needs Assistance Form.

<https://www.bsu.edu/about/administrativeoffices/dean-of-students/basic-needs-hub>

Health Center

The Ball State University Student Health Center, located in the Amelia T. Wood building, provides ambulatory health care for currently enrolled sick and injured students in addition to providing care for on-the-job injuries for Ball State University employees.

<https://www.bsu.edu/campuslife/healthcenter>

Emergency Preparedness

Information of the University's emergency guidelines and protocols, including campus closure due to weather, can be found at:

<https://www.bsu.edu/about/administrativeoffices/emergency-preparedness>