Students of architecture learn how to make physical changes to their surroundings that enhance the quality of the built environment and their community’s experience of life. Within this broad purpose, architectural study and practice include the tasks of providing shelter and environmental protection, providing appropriate settings for human activities, and creating forms that are aesthetically pleasing and supportive of social well-being. In the context of rapid urbanization, climate change, transforming economies, emerging technologies, growing inequalities, and other challenges, the potential impact and value of architectural design has never been greater.

Because interdisciplinary collaboration is key to the practice of architecture, the Department of Architecture shares classes and facilities with the Interior Architecture Program and the Department of Landscape Architecture in Eugene and the Historic Preservation Program in Portland, all units within the College of Design’s School of Architecture and Environment.

A central part of education in the field of architecture is the design studio, where students learn by doing—hands-on application of knowledge and skills toward the design of buildings. This type of learning is demanding, and students are expected to stay motivated and work independently and responsibly toward program and course objectives. In the design studio, continuous evaluation and response are the basic learning modes. The department sets high standards for student performance. Advanced students often work together in courses and as collaborators with faculty members in research investigations through independent-study courses.

The Faculty

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Portland Architecture Programs
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Donald B. Corner, professor (design, construction systems, housing production). BA, 1970, Dartmouth College; MArch, 1974, California, Berkeley; reg. architect, Massachusetts. (1979)

Howard Davis, professor (design, urban vernacular architecture, culturally sustainable urban districts); director, graduate studies. BS, 1968, Cooper Union; MS, 1970, Northwestern; MArch, 1974, California, Berkeley; Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture Distinguished Professor. (1986)


Stephen F. Duff, associate professor (design; structures, construction, and design-build; naval architecture). BA, 1985, Washington (Seattle); MArch, 1988, MS, 1993, California, Berkeley. (1994)


Michael E. Fifield, professor (design, housing, urban design). BA, 1973, California, Berkeley; MArch, 1980, California, Los Angeles; reg. architect, Oregon, Arizona, Idaho; NCARB certificate; fellow, American Institute of Architects; member, American Institute of Certified Planners. (1998)


Donald Genasci, professor (history and theory, architecture and urban design). BArch, 1963, Oregon; Dipl. in Urban Design, 1965, Architecture Association; MA, 1974, Essex; reg. architect, Oregon, NCARB certificate; Architects’ Registration Council of the United Kingdom. (1977)

Mark Gillem, professor (urban design, social and cultural factors in design). BArch, 1989, Kansas; MArch, 1996, PhD, 2004, California, Berkeley; reg. architect, California, South Dakota; NCARB certificate; member, American Institute of Architects, American Institute of Certified Planners. (2005)

James W. Givens, senior instructor (design, design theory and process). BArch, 1985, MArch, 1989, Oregon. (1986)


Nico Larco, professor (design, urban design, suburban development). BA, BArch, 1996, Cornell; MArch, MCUP, 2001, California, Berkeley; reg. architect, Massachusetts, NCARB certificate. (2005)


Brook Muller, associate professor (design theory, environmentally responsive architecture); associate dean for academic affairs. BA, 1987, Brown; MArch, 1992, Oregon. (2004)


Otto P. Poticha, adjunct associate professor (design, architectural practice, community involvement in physical change). BS, 1958, Cincinnati; reg. architect, California, Colorado, Illinois (inactive), New Mexico, Oregon, Virginia (inactive), Washington, Washington, D.C. (inactive); NCARB certificate; fellow, American Institute of Architects. (1962)

Stobhan Rockcastle, assistant professor (design, lighting, environmental psychology); director, Baker Lighting Laboratory. BArch, 2008, Cornell; SMArchS, 2011, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; PhD, 2017, École polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne. (2017)


Roxi Thoren, associate professor. See Landscape Architecture.


Daisy-O’lice Ida Williams, associate professor (design, design communications); BS, 2002, MArch, 2005, Florida A&M. (2011)


Linda K. Zimmer, associate professor (design, media, behavioral factors). BArch, 1982, Kansas State; MiArch, 1990, Oregon; NCIDQ certificate; member, Institute of Business Designers. (1990)

**Courtesy**

Edward Allen, courtesy professor (technical teaching program). BArch, 1962, Minnesota; MArch, 1964, California, Berkeley; reg. architect, Massachusetts. (2001)

**Emeriti**


Earl E. Moursund, professor emeritus. BS, 1949, Texas; MArch, 1951, Cranbrook Academy of Art; reg. architect, Texas. (1955)


Donald L. Peting, associate professor emeritus; assistant dean, architecture and allied arts. BArch, 1962, Illinois; MArch, 1963, California, Berkeley; reg. architect, Oregon, Washington. (1963)


Guntis Plesums, professor emeritus. BArch, 1961, Minnesota; MArch, 1964, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; reg. architect, Oregon, New York. (1969)

John S. Reynolds, professor emeritus. BArch, 1962, Illinois; MArch, 1967, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; reg. architect, Oregon; fellow, American Institute of Architects; Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture Distinguished Professor. (1967)

Michael D. Utsey, associate professor emeritus. BArch, 1967, Texas; MEVd, 1971, Yale; reg. architect, Oregon. (1967)

*The date in parentheses at the end of each entry is the first year on the University of Oregon faculty.*

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**Majors - Master’s Degree**

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