M. ARCH

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PROFESSIONAL MASTER OF ARCHITECTURE PROGRAM
The USC School of Architecture offers both a professional Master of Architecture degree and a post-professional Master of Advanced Architectural Studies degree program. These programs have been redesigned as two of the most innovatively rigorous programs anywhere, and by bringing together renowned and progressive faculty, the School aims to set new standards for postgraduate education internationally.
The School occupies a key position in design pedagogy within the global design community, the Pacific Rim, and Los Angeles in particular.

The programs draw their inspiration from the energy and dynamism of the city itself, a complex blend of urban life and cultural diversity. Blessed with a benign climate, yet at risk from earthquakes and other natural or manmade disasters, L.A. is a city that has learned to take environmental and ecological questions seriously. Above all, Los Angeles is the home of “content,” a city of creative individuals and highly original thinking that consistently challenges preconceptions and serves as an incubator for new ideas and practices. The USC Masters Programs in Architecture are based on the transformative power of advanced concepts and strategies, tested every day in the laboratory of Los Angeles. By locating our design research within an unpredictable, problematic, and very real environment, we actively confront culture, site, and construction in preparation for practice in the contemporary city.
MASTER OF ARCHITECTURE: FIRST PROFESSIONAL DEGREE
The Master of Architecture (M.Arch) is a professional degree accredited by the National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB). The USC M.Arch draws upon a 100-year tradition of groundbreaking architectural design in Los Angeles by its distinguished alumni and faculty, exemplified by the architects featured in the Case Study Program and more recently by the Pritzker Prize laureates Frank Gehry, FAIA (B.Arch. 1954) and Thom Mayne, FAIA (B.Arch. 1968). The Graduate Program is built on three levels: the first, foundation level is dedicated to introducing essential disciplinary knowledge and the basic skills required for the NAAB-accredited degree. The second level builds upon this foundation with increasingly refined vocational knowledge and advanced professional capability. The final level culminates with a year of individually directed work, with Master Classes and a Directed Design Research project, (otherwise known as “thesis”) focused on the student’s emergent architectural interests. All three levels draw on the University’s extended resources and the inspiration of Los Angeles. Firmly rooted in an investigative mode of critical, professional practice, the program’s aim is for every graduate to be prepared for the challenges of the 21st century.

M.Arch (+3 Curriculum, 102 units)
Intended for students who have not completed a pre-professional undergraduate degree in architecture. The track comprises a full-time, three-year curriculum for a first professional degree in architecture. This Master of Architecture fully prepares graduates for present and future professional activities in the ever-evolving field of architecture. As a NAAB-accredited professional degree, the six-semester curriculum consists of thoughtfully crafted sequences in the areas of design, history, theory, technology, environmental systems, and digital aptitudes. During the first two years, the curriculum provides a solid, intellectual base of professional knowledge critical to future practice; in the final year, the curriculum is designed for students to extend that core knowledge to engage with the most profound issues confronting the built environment today. Throughout the program, the emphasis on the design studio sequence allows students to synthesize social, environmental, and tectonic thinking through informed design practice. All students are encouraged to develop a tailored curriculum, taking advantage of the exceptional number of elective opportunities within the School, and if possible, to complete one of several graduate certificates offered by the School or within the University.

M.Arch with Advanced Standing (+2 Curriculum, 64 units)
Intended for students who have completed a pre-professional undergraduate degree in architecture. A four-semester program consisting of three semesters of intensive core studios, followed by a fourth semester of topical investigation. Studios are complemented by a carefully composed set of required courses.

Studies in the M.Arch Degree Program can be combined with the following graduate certificates:

GRADUATE CERTIFICATES
Building Science, Heritage Conservation, Landscape Architecture, and Sustainable Design

GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN ARCHITECTURE
For working professionals and graduate students (with the exception of students enrolled in the M.AAS and M.ARCH Degree Programs) to acquire understanding of core issues and knowledge; 16-unit program requires graduate standing and certificate program admission.

http://arch.usc.edu/programs/march