Cutting-Edge Programs, Smart People, Cool Research—Find It All at Illinois Tech

Architects of tomorrow will have to be agile, carving their own paths and authoring their own careers. Illinois Tech’s College of Architecture will teach you how to see architecture through a different lens—and how to become a self-constructer who gleams knowledge from the world around you.

NOWNESS is our approach. There are no more boundaries, no eternal forms. We should not attempt to define architecture in an all-encompassing way but instead make possible an architecture of freedom. Now is the time for opportunities of innovation. Now is the time to conceive new strategies. Illinois Tech Architecture welcomes students to “Rethink the Metropolis” as we question the roles of architecture, landscape, and urbanism.

Our curriculum stresses research, analysis, and synthesis as the fundamental skills that will allow you to seize opportunities and explore new territories. Beginning in your first semester, you’ll learn from practicing architects how to research and explore complex urban issues for the twenty-first century. Working independently or in teams, you’ll benefit from symposia, lectures, exhibitions, and master classes directed by architects, theorists, historians, and critics. Well versed in global issues, you will be ready to engage with the world at large.

CHICAGO AND OUR CAMPUS—YOUR ARCHITECTURAL LABORATORY

Located in Chicago, the College of Architecture at Illinois Tech is one of the largest and most international architecture schools in the United States. With more than 700 students from 50 countries and 100-plus faculty members, our school embodies the global metropolis in miniature. The city of Chicago provides endless architectural inspiration as the testing ground for our explorations. You’ll learn directly from one of the world’s greatest metropolises.

Illinois Tech’s Mies Campus is a world-famous ensemble of modernist architecture, planning, and landscape design. Illinois Tech Architecture is housed in Ludwig Mies van der Rohe’s masterful S. R. Crown Hall—a National Historic Landmark and one of the most significant buildings of the twentieth century. The McCormick Tribune Campus Center, Illinois Tech’s student center, was designed by Rem Koolhaas’s Office of Metropolitan Architecture, one of the world’s most influential architecture firms.

The Bachelor of Architecture (B.Arch.) at Illinois Tech

A five-year, NAAB-accredited professional degree, the B.Arch. curriculum is centered on a studio sequence of increasing complexity. In addition to design, the courses include architectural history and theory, building technologies, structures, design communication, and professional practice as well as a range of courses beyond architecture that fill out a well-rounded undergraduate education.

While always envisioning the future, architects must also be committed to engaging reality. In our extensive fabrication workshop, you’ll learn to handle materials, explore structural systems, and refine building details. Equally, our research and design topics put you in direct contact with the realities of urbanism in Chicago and throughout the world.

Our innovative Cloud Studio brings together students from all degree programs to research and design the new metropolis. Our program of visiting teachers and lecturers contributes to these projects, so that you learn directly from the world’s leading architects, urban designers, landscape architects, artists, critics, and policymakers.

A LEGACY OF EXCELLENCE

Illinois Tech Architecture has a long and renowned legacy. Architectural education took on international significance here in 1938 with the appointment of the German architect Ludwig Mies van der Rohe as director. A leading figure of modernism and the last head of the famous Bauhaus, Mies would eventually design 20 buildings at Illinois Tech, including S. R. Crown Hall.

FACULTY ACCOLADES

Our faculty are international prize-winning architects, scholars, and engineers. Just a few recent accolades include:

- Associate Professor Marshall Brown—Selected to present designs in the U.S. Pavilion at the 2016 Venice Architecture Biennale
- Landscape Architecture Director Ron Henderson—Three projects won regional design awards from the American Society of Landscape Architects (Rhode Island Chapter)
- Visiting Assistant Professor Conor O’Shea—His office Hinterlands Urbanism and Landscape named among “Chicago’s Next Generation” by Architectural Record
- Professor John Ronan—Finalist for the Obama Presidential Center, also designing the innovation center on Illinois Tech’s campus
- Adjunct Professor Monika Thadhani—Named a 2015 “40 Under 40” by Building Design+Construction magazine

DESIGN FOR THE COMMUNITY

In spring 2015, students in Professor Frank Flury’s Design/Build studio designed a prototype rural hospital, and during the summer they collaborated with local villagers in the Magetang district of Indonesia to build the clinic in the Central Java Province. During the previous summer, another group of students and alumni built a library/study space for secondary school students in the rural village of Twifo Hemang, Ghana.
Experience It: Architecture at Illinois Tech

“Most Illinois Tech architecture professors work or have worked in the field. Their passion for the practice results in a genuine care for their students and their projects. Having faculty who have been involved in the practice in many different capacities gives students an exposure to many different sides and viewpoints of architecture both within the school and in the lectures and events the school hosts. This exposure to the profession teaches students not just the necessary technical skills, but also how to see, draw, and think about the world in a unique way.”

—Caleb Vick (Architecture 3rd Year), Springfield, Missouri

LEARN TO INNOVATE IN IPROs

In Illinois Tech’s signature Interprofessional Projects (IPRO) Program, you’ll work with students from various majors to solve real-world problems. Recent architecture-oriented IPROs include:

- Sustainable home design: Race to Zero competition
- Developing sustainable urban agriculture for a Chicago South Side neighborhood
- Integrating hydroponics into the workplace environment
- AIRchitecture, an inhabitable flying platform

RESOURCES: MATERIALS WORKSHOP AND DESIGN/BUILD STUDIOS

Illinois Tech’s teaching is rooted in the connection between design and making. Today, the importance of that connection is visible in our 14,000-square-foot Materials Workshop. In this inspiring industrial space, designed by Mies, you will learn to use and apply a multitude of tools, materials, and techniques. In Design/Build studios, you’ll collectively design and construct full-scale buildings—definitely a “hands-on” education. These award-winning projects are true collaborations between faculty, students, professionals, and the communities in which they are built.

GO BEYOND—STUDY ABROAD

Today, with architects practicing internationally, it is essential for you to explore new surroundings during your course of study. Illinois Tech Architecture’s study abroad options are among the widest and deepest of any school in the country. Programs include full semesters, eight-week summer courses, and intensive short-term international workshops. And while many schools’ programs are limited to western Europe, our programs are truly global.

“Last summer I studied abroad through the CORBU++ Travel Program. We went to Switzerland, Italy, France, and Germany. Going was definitely the best decision of my life. The architecture program at Illinois Tech definitely pushes you to the limit and constantly tests you to get outside of your comfort zone.”

—Amr Mohsen (Architecture 3rd Year), Cairo, Egypt

DESIGNING (INNOVATIVE) SOLUTIONS

Katherine Darnstadt (Architecture ’05) solves architectural problems in breakthrough ways. When the firm that she founded was asked to address a South Side Chicago food desert, she designed a bus—not a building—to provide the best solution.

After acquiring an old Chicago Transit Authority bus and poring over its manual, her firm converted it into Fresh Moves, a mobile grocery store packed with produce. Fresh Moves Mobile Markets are now part of a City of Chicago initiative providing affordable fresh fruits and vegetables to underserved areas on the city’s south and west sides.

“I think my time at Illinois Tech shaped so much of what I thought of the profession, and the alumni and professors gave me the support and strength to challenge what the profession will be in the future,” Katherine says.

EXPERIENCE IT

SEE WHAT HAWK LIFE IS ALL ABOUT!

Throughout the year we host a number of opportunities for you and your family to come check out everything you’d ever want to know about us!

Schedule a campus visit today at visit.iit.edu.

Or send us an email at admissions@iit.edu.