A FIVE-YEAR BACHELOR OF ARCHITECTURE PROGRAM
ADVANCING THE MODERNIST PRINCIPLES OF
ARCHITECT LUDWIG MIES VAN DER ROHE
TO THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY AND BEYOND
B.ARCH. YEAR 1
Ryan Gann’s hand-drafted perspective of Rem Koolhaas’s Villa dall’Ava focuses on materiality and structure using aerial and worm’s-eye views. Requiring precise study of details and perspective, complex hand-drafted renderings give students a deep understanding of architectural design and construction principles. You’ll develop an understanding of line, geometry, composition, and the visual language of architecture.

B.ARCH. YEAR 2
In a studio focused on wood-frame construction, John Connor designed a simple and universal cabin for a summer camp. The project emphasized natural ventilation and light, traditional structure, and sustainable materials.

B.ARCH. YEAR 3
Steven Karvelius created a boat club facility on the Chicago River. The steel studio projects push students to examine the limits and potential of steel and its application to clear-span structural systems. Designs explore a sustainable and efficient material used around the world.

B.ARCH. ADVANCED STUDIOS
In an advanced studio for a Benedictine monastery complex, students were tasked with developing comprehensive spatial, material, structural, environmental, and system specificities of the design. Hyerim Kang based her design on planar geometry, with spreads in the complex center allowing light to reach the various programmatic wings.
For more eye-opening work from IIT undergraduate students, please visit the project galleries at iit.edu/arch/projects.
WHY ARCHITECTURE AT IIT?

**NAAB-ACCREDITED.**
IIT offers one of the few accredited, five-year Bachelor of Architecture programs in the Midwest. Our curriculum meets all the professional licensing standards for the practice of architecture. The five-year degree saves you the additional cost and time required to complete the alternative six-year M.Arch.

**PROFESSIONAL.**
Our teachers are architects. Following the legacy of excellence established by Frank Lloyd Wright, Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, and Chicago School architects, our faculty includes award-winning, influential architects who teach in our design studios and architecture courses. Our teachers are on the cutting edge of the profession, and understand how to design and make buildings with thoughtful regard for sustainable solutions and humane environments.

**PERSONALIZED.**
The first three years provide foundation courses in structures, urban planning, and building systems, coupled with design studios. After completing your core courses and foundation studios, you’ll select advanced studios that help you develop your skills in design and architectural production. You may want to explore projects in urban and suburban contexts, including high-rise structures, public buildings, transportation buildings, and cultural institutions—and some projects will take you abroad.

**SPECIALIZED.**
Extend your credentials through professional specialization by choosing a minor such as structural engineering or construction management—or build your expertise in digital design, landscape architecture, history and theory, design/build, and planning.

**INTERNATIONAL.**
Our student body and faculty are from around the world. Our studios have traveled to places as diverse as Berlin, Mumbai, and Morocco. You’ll gain a broad design perspective that will help you engage with tomorrow’s global practice.

**RESPECTED.**
Chicago has been defined by its innovative architecture and engineering since Chicago architects invented the skyscraper after the Chicago Fire. The twentieth century’s master of modern architecture, Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, designed IIT’s Main Campus and left a legacy of inventive architecture and creative design thinking about materials, construction technology, craftsmanship, and meaningful architectural expression—all of relevance to the twenty-first century. IIT architects and their work are internationally recognized. Throughout the world, many of today’s most successful architecture firms are led by IIT alumni—and the B.Arch. program is consistently ranked among the top 20 in the United States.
HOW YOU LEARN: DEVELOPING IDEAS, DESIGN, STRUCTURES, AND BUILDINGS

THE FIRST THREE YEARS

You will receive a solid foundation in visual analysis and critical thinking:

• Model making and drafting, visual communications, materials, and construction
• Math, physics, structural theory and systems, mechanical engineering, urban planning
• Design studios integrated with materials, structures, and construction
• Sustainable practice and ecological planning
• Architectural history, humanities, and social sciences

YEARS FOUR AND FIVE

Advanced studios replicate professional practice through collaborative teams and iterative design thinking. Studio groups of 12–14 students are taught by the studio’s practicing architect to design a wide range of complex buildings with an eye on sustainable practice and modern materials. You’ll leave IIT with a portfolio of advanced work that demonstrates your professional competence and design expertise to potential employers. IIT architects are employed around the world!

ELECTIVES

In years four and five, seven architecture electives invite you to diversify or concentrate your areas of expertise. Areas of study include visual training, energy-conscious design, professional practice, furniture design, and architectural photography, among others.

STUDY ABROAD

A variety of study abroad opportunities prepare IIT architecture students for global practice. Earn your architecture elective credits in Europe, South America, and elsewhere. Advanced students can study abroad in IIT’s Paris Program or with partner universities in architecture throughout Europe.

SAMPLE UNDERGRADUATE COURSES

(IN ADDITION TO FIVE YEARS OF DESIGN STUDIOS)

• Visual Training
• Architectural Photography
• Digital Fabrication
• Furniture and Architecture
• History of Twentieth-Century Skyscrapers
• Eco Structures
• Advanced BIM Strategies
• Mechanical and Electrical Building Systems
• Frame Structural Systems and Steel Reinforced Concrete and Continuous Structure
• Architectural Practice
• Ecological Basis of Planning
Associate Professor Frank Flury teaches advanced design/build studios, where students design and construct projects in the Chicago area and as far away as Germany.
IIT College of Architecture forged its Modernist reputation at the hands of Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, the former head of the Bauhaus in Dessau, Germany, who was head of IIT’s Department of Architecture from 1938–1958. Today, Mies’ masterpiece, S. R. Crown Hall, is home to IIT’s architecture program, and the building was designated a National Historic Landmark in 2001.

WHY ARCHITECTURE?

Architects are innovative, creative thinkers. Architects use visual media and creative problem solving to communicate solutions to a broader audience, making them uniquely equipped to tackle complicated questions of sustainable living, healthy neighborhoods, and human needs. And their disciplined design-thinking skills prepare them for the complex challenges faced in any industry, including finance, medical institutions, corporations, and public policy.

Architects work on a global stage and are experienced collaborators—pursuing relationships with communities, governments, contractors, and engineers to realize a project. The design process requires an architect to investigate everything from science and history to economic and legal issues. Architectural study will prepare you for both cutting-edge professional practice and the challenges of a visually complex and interdisciplinary world. ARCHITECTURE is the consummate degree for the twenty-first century.