ARCHITECTURE

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.

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.

A LEGACY OF EXCELLENCE

Illinois Tech Architecture has a long and renowned legacy. Architecture 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.

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 500 students from 50 countries and 100-plus faculty members (60 percent of whom are practicing architects), 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 urban areas.

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 Advance 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.

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
- AI/Rchitecture, 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.
In the summer of 2018, students from the College of Architecture designed and built a community pavilion in Las Carreras, Loiza, Puerto Rico. Led by Professor Frank Flury, nine Illinois Tech students traveled to Las Carreras, where they lived for nearly three months while building the pavilion they had designed during the previous semester. The result is an adaptable, ADA accessible, open-air structure focused on outdoor activity.

Named for its structural system, the V-Pavilion has become an important part of the community. Many new friendships have formed as a result of it, and the hope is that the project will create a positive and lasting impact that will bring together people from all over the world.

Illinois Tech’s Design/Build Studio has completed projects throughout the U.S. and the world, including Germany, Ghana, Indonesia, and Chile. The program focuses on inspiring and teaching through its architecture.

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

Landscape Architecture Director Ron Henderson—Won three American Society of Landscape Architects Regional Awards

Associate Professor Eva Kultermann—Received a 2018 AIAS Educator Honor Award

Adjunct Professor Lap Chi Kwong—Firm won an Architectural League of New York Prize

Professor John Ronan—Received the 2017–18 ACSA Distinguished Professor Award
“One of the greatest advantages of the College of Architecture at Illinois Tech is the dynamic range of professors. As you progress through the curriculum you will encounter professors from all sorts of fields and backgrounds. Just like the student body, the professors also come from a diverse background. With studio sizes relatively small, you get to know your professors quite well. Having a strong connection with your professors allows you to put your trust in them and helps you excel each semester. Illinois Tech allows you to shine and get great exposure to what the world of architecture needs due to the fact that the majority of the architecture professors are practicing architects. This exposure will help you grow as a young architect and help you think in a variety of ways when it comes to architecture and the world we live in.”

—Marcus Malesh (Architecture 5th Year), Warrenville, Illinois

For Martin Majkrak, a 2016 architecture graduate of Illinois Tech, his Illinois Tech experience came full circle when he joined the College of Architecture as an adjunct faculty member last year.

As a student, he transferred to Illinois Tech from Wilbur Wright College and immediately became immersed in a challenging and enlightening curriculum at Illinois Tech that covers topics including contemporary architectural issues in the urban context. After dedicating his elective courses to hands-on explorations of composition, representation techniques, and color, he was well prepared to begin working part-time at a small firm in downtown Chicago, Hirsch MPG, in his 5th year.

“I accepted an offer of a full-time position upon graduation, and I have been with the office since. The office produces mixed-use residential, hospitality, office, and retail and interior projects in the city of Chicago,” Martin says. “I have performed various roles on projects in all parts of a project’s lifespan, from performing code and zoning analyses to design iterations, from presentation material production to project documentation, and from participating in construction administration site visits to project completion reviews. Further, I also have had the opportunity to learn about interior design and to take part in interior design projects at the office. The interior design experience feels particularly valuable, since it has opened doors for me into a whole new professional discipline and line of thinking parallel to architecture.”

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“Studying in Venice meant studying architecture in the center of exhibitions, biennales, and curating. I was able to live in a city of imagination while being exposed to the reality of mass tourism and urban issues many historic cities face. Learning from canonical and contemporary Italian icons broadened my scope of architecture. The opportunity to study at IUAV let me explore my interest in methodologies of architectural display within Venice against my first exposure to the profession in Chicago.”

—Marya Kanakis (Architecture 5th Year), Chicago

“Studying abroad in Venice was an eye-opening experience—being exposed to events like the Venice Biennale and Salone del Mobile Milano. Not only was I able to travel, but I was also inspired by the work I saw and the people I met. The architecture program was an intensive studio that covered several topics (urban, landscape, transport, and architecture), which was a challenge but a great learning experience.”

—Aslinur Taskin (Architecture 5th Year), Pembroke Pines, Florida