At the College of Architecture at Illinois Tech, our students come from around the world to study and explore architecture, landscape architecture, and urbanism in the great global city of Chicago.
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 gleans knowledge from the world around you.

Our curriculum stresses disciplined experimentations in materials and technologies 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, and exhibitions. 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 600 students from 50 countries and 80-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 for Metropolitan Architecture, one of the world’s most influential architecture firms. The Ed Kaplan Family Institute for Innovation and Tech Entrepreneurship, the new hub for innovation on campus, was designed by award-winning Professor John Ronan.

Illinois Tech’s Undergraduate Architecture Program 2018 Rankings

• #1 in the Midwest and
• #20 in the United States

DesignIntelligence is the only ranking agency for architecture schools in the United States.

FACULTY ACCOLADES

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

Adjunct Professor Carol Ross Barney—Founder and president of the firm Ross Barney Architects, which was the recipient of two American Institute of Architects honors for its design of the Chicago Riverwalk

Landscape Architecture Director Ron Henderson—Three projects won regional design awards from the American Society of Landscape Architects (Rhode Island Chapter)

Associate Professor Eva Kultermann—Specializations include energy-efficient buildings, leading studio designing the Bronzeville Dream Center

Professor John Ronan—Multiple American Institute of Architects awards, designed the new Kaplan Institute on Illinois Tech’s campus

Professor Donna Robertson—Received a 2016 Women in Architecture Award from Architectural Record
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 Advanced 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
- 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.

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.

DESIGN FOR THE COMMUNITY

In spring 2016, students in Associate Professor Frank Flury’s Design/Build studio developed a community center; during the summer, in combination with local community members in Chile, they constructed the center on the Laguna of Antihuila, Chile. They won a 2018 Small Project Honor Award from the American Institute of Architects Chicago for their work. Students in the program have also completed projects in Indonesia, Ghana, Japan, and in 2018, Puerto Rico.

“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 ’18), 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.

“The curriculum for my specific field is very intense. It provides its students with the correct tools to thrive in the field. I feel that we have the best professors and some of the best facilities in the Architecture program as well. Programs focused on active learning and improved leadership have helped me develop better leadership skills along with becoming more collaborative with my peers.”

—Max Hisatake (Architecture 3rd Year), Las Vegas, Nevada

“Once it came down to choosing between my final three universities, it came down to the innovative thinking here at Illinois Tech. Not only do we have history courses that start us off with the earliest architecture, but we also have professors that have dedicated thousands of hours to create a curriculum that balances the elegance of traditional architectural education and the fast-paced evolution of technology and architecture.”

—Julia Mosqueda (Architecture ’18), Chicago