

# Pedagogy

## Research: Thinking, Application and Communication

The faculty of the College of Architecture and Design believes that a thesis should raise issues and question accepted conventions within the disciplines of design. A thesis is therefore limited in scope but demands intense critical inquiry, comprehensive development, research, and analysis. It should therefore be of sufficient societal, aesthetic, contextual, technical, philosophical, or theoretical depth to generate substantive outcomes resulting in innovative ideas or the reframing or redefining of existing architectural and urban design practices. The thesis project may culminate in a written research paper, a design presentation, or a combination of written and designed work, but will be a research-based effort.

## Discourse(s)

The goal of the Thesis Project is to develop a proposition about the role and significance of architecture. Such propositions may be introspective, examining predispositions and potentials held within the discipline itself; others may direct attention outward, to the effects and consequences of the discipline in the world. To do this, though, one must begin from a clearly understood position within contemporary architectural discourse.

## Method(s)

In a thesis, research is the examination of presumptions and possibilities, facts and potentials, ideas, interactions, and changes in the disciplinary and discursive territory of architecture. Because research (and architecture) are broad, fluid terms it is the responsibility of each student to determine and defend his or her method of research. The explicit determination of a method of research is of crucial importance to the Thesis Project. On what basis are the claims of the Project asserted? By what evidence are its claims defended?

## Context(s)

Whatever its focus—cultural, technical, disciplinary, typological, etc.—the Thesis Project delimits an area as a venue for architectural thinking and practice. Once delimited, this area serves reciprocally as the context for the thesis project, defining the conditions, forces and influences with which the project must contend. Due to its immersion in economic, social, and political processes architecture is often described as the most complex cultural production. In the formulation of the thesis project, however, the influence of such processes must be explicitly stated and clearly understood.