



ARCH 509 / **DESIGN** THESIS TWO

Course Coordinator and Advisor: Karim Nader

Technical Advisors: Walid Haddad, Sany Jamal, Wajih Najm

COURSE SYLLABUS



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COURSE OBJECTIVES *(from university catalogue)*

ARCH 509 Final Project Design and Research II 7 cr.

The culmination of the design studio in which students integrate and synthesize acquired knowledge and skills, and develop both the theoretical/critical and practical components of the research and design project proposed in ARCH 508.

Prerequisite: ARCH 508.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students will be able to:

- 1- Conduct on their own the design of:
 - A medium-sized architectural intervention in:
 - Detailed plans
 - Detailed sections
 - Detailed elevations
 - Advanced 3D views (including animation possibly)
 - Structural systems
 - Conceptual mechanical systems
 - Conceptual environmental systems
 - Complete choice of materials
 - Model-making
 - Professional oral presentation
- 2- Connect and develop an architectural project with a theoretical body of work (Thesis I):
 - Present both the theory and the architecture as one body of work.

COURSE PHILOSOPHY

Design Thesis II (Final Year Project) is the culmination of undergraduate education in Architecture. This course is the second half of a year-long design thesis project. It consists of a detailed response to the issues raised in Thesis I, articulated in an architectural intervention and an expansion and development of those same issues through design.

In this process, you are required to take the issues and design investigations that you have initiated in Thesis I and to develop them into a comprehensive design project that is mature, complete, and professionally presented.

COURSE CALENDAR

Students work individually on their Theses and should normally meet with their advisors on a weekly basis. During the term, students are encouraged to consult with other advisors, from within the pool of available faculty, but also outside that pool. Please note however that advisors and faculty will accommodate students' requests for meetings in accordance with their schedule.

In addition, technical advisors are available to students during the semester, to assist in the choice of systems and their incorporation in the design. Three Panel Reviews are planned throughout the semester before the Final Presentation. The Second and Third reviews, along with the Final Presentation, incorporate structural and mechanical considerations.

Touch-Base Tuesday, September, 30th at 2:00PM

Review #1: Thursday, October 30th Starting at 10:30AM.



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Preliminary Design: Full Site Analysis, including code, zoning and environmental analysis and accurate base documents, Full Program Development and analysis, Project vision on Site (whether through perspective sketches, models, schematic sections or a combination of those), Preliminary Design investigation and *parti* development. Preliminary Schematic design – and/or variations if needed – shall be presented, that meets the program and zoning and code considerations, and clearly demonstrates site development considerations. A site model, which at this point may be a working model, is required. This review should be accompanied by a conceptual presentation of the thesis and a brief summary of the thesis document.

Review #2: Thursday, November 20th Starting at 10:30AM.

Design Exploration: Exploration of a particular design direction based on a selected scheme or combination of schemes from Review #1. Presentation should include full plans, elevations, sections, site design and a demountable study model. Structure, mechanical systems related to sustainable or natural systems and site shall be proposed and illustrated, along with other presentation drawings. Perspective views, at least in sketch form, shall be included. A written summary of the project and its relationship to the thesis is also required.

Review #3: Thursday, December 11th Starting at 10:30AM.

Design Development: Fully developed site design integrating building and terrain/vicinity. Detailed design of all aspects of the project, including resolution of schematic issues raised at review #2. This phase includes exploration, explanation, and integration/application of key building technology systems (structure, materials, energy efficiency, and mechanical systems). Some presentations may require material boards and samples. 3D presentations of the building and key aspects of its design (these may be parallel drawings, perspectives and models). In addition, a list of what will be presented at the final jury must be included, ideally a design, to scale, of the final presentation. This Presentation should be worthy of any fully developed architectural submission, and be composed to be self-explanatory (even though the students will make a verbal presentation that is professionally delivered and within the time allotted.)

Review #4: Monday, February 2nd, Time TBD.

Final Presentation: A full architectural representation of the architectural intervention, including **all** plans, elevations and sections at appropriate scales, a presentation model, materials boards, structure and mechanical systems design, two full building wall sections and key building details. In addition, one space or aspect of the project shall be designed and presented at a greater level of detail, fully integrating design, structure and technology with architectural documents representing the furnished plan, interior elevations and reflective ceiling plan of the space and its materiality. This Final Presentation should be worthy of any fully developed architectural competition submission, where the craft of presentation and graphics is apparent. As with the previous presentation, it should be composed to be self-explanatory.

EVALUATION

Students have to address all of the above deliverables in their investigation though they can decide to anchor a selection of these items. The choices shall be taken in agreement with the advisor and shall be informed by the feedback of the panel of reviewers, depending on the project and scale of intervention. Evaluation of the work, at every review, may include-but is not be limited to- addressing user



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groups, site/context, program, spatial organization and experience, structures and materials, electro-mechanical systems, safety code, environmental impact, accessibility, zoning, orientation, climate control, etc.

Panel Reviews are aimed to expose students to a variety of approaches in addition to teaching them through observing their peers. Thus, the attendance of panel reviews by all students is a must. Note that no shows on the panel reviews lead to a zero. Dates could be subject to modification and will be re-confirmed.

Defined deliverables are only one aspect setting the framework of an architectural design project. Students are encouraged to present, in addition, what they deem necessary to fully understand their thesis, their design project and the singularity of their architectural contribution. The “design” of the presentations will be taken into consideration in the evaluation and feedback at the various stages of the process, in preparation for the Final Presentation.

GRADING DISTRIBUTION

Review #1:	10%
Review #2:	10%
Review #3:	10%
Review #4, Final:	70%

Total:	100%
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GRADING SCHEME

30% Primary advisor

70% Others (including other advisors, technical advisors, and guests from AUB and from outside AUB)