Architecture Core Prep
Harvard GSD, Summer 2017

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Teaching Assistants: Julia Roberts, Igsung So, David Solomon

Introduction

Architecture Core Prep is a rigorous introduction to architectural design. It prepares students for the core studio sequence in Architecture at the Harvard Graduate School of Design. The course is designed especially for members of the incoming M. Arch I class without an undergraduate degree in architecture, although it is also expected that students of all levels will find it to be an enriching and challenging preparation for Fall term.

The acquisition of technical skill is one of the primary concerns of Core Prep, as First Semester Core studio assumes that every student possesses a degree of facility in drawing, model-making, and the use of design technologies. (While students will find their technical skills continue to accrue in the Core Studio Sequence, it is expected that most learning of this kind will happen outside of studio – in elective courses, in supplementary workshops offered every term at the School, and via informal exchanges between classmates.) Core Prep introduce common design software (Rhino, Vray, Illustrator, Photoshop, and InDesign), drawing techniques (orthographic, axonometric, and perspectival projection, as well as rendering and mixed-method drawing), model-making techniques, and basic CNC fabrication technologies for model-making (laser cutting and 3D printing). Students will also be oriented to the model shop and large-format printing facilities.

The second, and perhaps more important concern of Core Prep is an introduction to the intellectual framework of design as it is taught at the GSD. Clarity of thought and argumentation are paramount. Students will learn to design with the aid of rigorous geometric structures, then argue on behalf of their work through drawing, modeling, and verbal description.

Attendance and Grading

Studio will be held 10:00 – 6:00 Monday-Friday. Additional TA-supervised working hours will be held on the weekend of August 12th and 13th. Supervised work in studio will be supplemented with a daily schedule of lectures, reviews, and hands-on demonstrations. Students are required to attend all scheduled class sessions. Most students will find that additional time working in studio outside of regularly scheduled hours in order to successfully complete the design exercises.

Core Prep is not for-credit. Grades are not awarded.

Required Equipment

All students are expected to bring their own laptops to studio on the first day. Laptops must run Windows in order for students to receive support from the IT staff and instruction from the TA’s. Apple laptops are fine, but only if they are running BootCamp. Emulation and virtualization software is discouraged: most find it too slow for the required software. If students choose to use Bootcamp, the
computer should be partitioned prior to arrival at the GSD. IT staff will not be able to help with this process.

The GSD provides access to Rhino and VRay and will provide installation instructions along with a troubleshooting clinic for anyone who needs extra technical assistance. Students should plan on purchasing their own monthly subscription to Adobe Creative Cloud.

**Harvard ID**

Students will need to have a Harvard ID in order to access the building after the first day of class. Admissions will run a walk-in clinic 1:00 – 2:00pm on Monday the 7th so that students can pick up their ID cards. Please remember to bring a government-issued form of identification; Admissions needs to see it before they can release a Harvard ID.

**Course Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Agenda</th>
<th>Due</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8/7</td>
<td>10:00 Welcome (Piper Auditorium) &lt;br&gt; 11:00 IT Orientation &lt;br&gt; 11:30 Introduction to Project 1 &lt;br&gt; 12:30 Studio Break-Out &lt;br&gt; 2:00 – 3:00 Student ID Walk-In Clinic &lt;br&gt; 2:00 – 5:00 IT Troubleshooting Clinic &lt;br&gt; 3:00 Lecture: Rhino 1 &lt;br&gt; Working Hours</td>
<td>Project 1, Part 1</td>
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<td>8/8</td>
<td>10:00 Pinup &lt;br&gt; 11:30 Project 1 Part 2 &lt;br&gt; Lecture: Rhino 2 &lt;br&gt; Lecture: Illustrator 1 &lt;br&gt; Lecture: Scale and Line Weights &lt;br&gt; Working Hours</td>
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<td>8/9</td>
<td>10:00 Pinup &lt;br&gt; 11:30 Project 1 Part 3 &lt;br&gt; 2:00 – 3:00 Laser Cutter Orientation Demonstration: Laser cutters &lt;br&gt; Lecture: Illustrator 2 &lt;br&gt; Lecture: VRay 1 &lt;br&gt; Working Hours</td>
<td>Project 1, Part 2</td>
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<td>8/10</td>
<td>10:00 Project 1 Final Pinup &lt;br&gt; 1:00 Intro to Project 2 &lt;br&gt; 2:00 Lecture: Rhino 3 &lt;br&gt; 3:00 Lecture: Drawing Conventions 2 &lt;br&gt; Working Hours</td>
<td>Project 2, Part 1</td>
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8/11
1:30 – 3:00 Group 1 Shop Orientation
3:30 – 5:00 Group 2 Shop Orientation
Lecture: Rhino 3D (B)
Lecture: Model-Making
Orientation to the model shop
Demonstration: 3D Printing
Working Hours

8/12
TA-Supervised working hours 11:00 – 4:00

8/13
TA-Supervised working hours 11:00 – 4:00

8/14
10:00 Pinup
Lecture: Rhino 3D(C)
Lecture: VRay (A)
Lecture: Photoshop (A)
Working Hours

8/15
Lecture: VRay (B)
Lecture: Photoshop (B)
Working Hours

8/16
Lecture: InDesign
Lecture: Drawing (C) (Convention)
Demonstration: Model Photography

8/17
Working Hours

8/18
Working Hours
Final Pinup