

# Discourse and Techniques – Distributional Electives

## Description

The M.Arch II program's primary vehicle for developing students' interest and abilities in architectural discourse are its course offerings in the curricular area of Discourse and Techniques. To fulfill requirements for this distributional elective, students select from a menu of courses which include coursework on design pedagogy and formal analysis, all designed around current themes and positions in architecture. The content and material for these courses include close readings of both historical and recent architecture examples which allow students to engage questions on contemporary discourse. Outcomes of a Discourse and Techniques course might consist of written papers, participatory group discussions, design of a curriculum, written studio project briefs, and techniques for novel design exercises.

## Archive of Past Approved Courses

*Note: For a course to count towards a requirement, it must be taken in the year that it was listed as valid.*

### Spring 2026

3352 Type and the Idea of the City: Architecture's Search for what is Common	Christopher Lee
3514 African Landscape Architecture: Alternative Futures for the Field	Gareth Doherty
3516 Contextual Capacities	Dan Stubbergaard
3517 Redefining Urban Design	Joan Busquets
3532 The Art Museum: Typological Trajectories	Jhalen Hernandez-Eli
3533 Discourse Practices	James Graham
3540 Architecture's Audience	Don O'Keefe
3542 Contingent Grounds: Site Analysis for the 21st Century	Elizabeth Christoforetti
4377 Competing Visions of Modernity in Japan	Seng Kuan
5440 Public Finance for Planners: Creating Equitable & Sustainable Communities	Lourdes German
5441 Policy Analysis: A Tool for Evidence-Based Decision Making	Rachel Meltzer
5509 Spatial Design Strategies for Climate- and Conflict- Migration	Malkit Shoshan
6372 Circuits, Circles, and Loops: Towards a Regenerative Architecture	Jonathan Grinham
9203 Thesis project / Project Thesis	John May

### Fall 2025

2471 Architecture of Time	Clara Kraft
2484 Interdisciplinary Art and Design Practices	Malkit Shoshan
3241 Theories of Landscape as Urbanism	Gareth Doherty, Charles Walheim
3348 The Idea of Environment	Abby Spinak
3365 Material Practice and its Agency	Toshiko Mori
3389 The Fifth Plan	Ron Witte
4141 Histories of Landscape Architecture I: Textuality and the Practice of Landscape Architecture	Edward Eigen
4384 Building and Urban Conservation and Renewal – Assessment, Analysis, Design	David Fixler
4399 Architecture and Construction: From the Vitruvian Tradition to the Digital	Antione Picon
4454 The Project and the Territory: Japan Story	Mohsen Mostafavi
4518 De-Centering the Canon: Architecture and Urbanism	Rahul Mehrotra
4521 Translations and Negotiations: The Roman Landscape in the Modern World	Kaja Tally-Schumacher

### Spring 2025

2356 Off: On a Tangent	Sean Canty
2466 Place-Based Scenario Planning for the Climate Emergency	Kira Clingen
3485 Appearance	Ron Witte
3514 African Landscape Architecture: Alternative Futures for the Field	Gareth Doherty
3516 Contextual Capacities	Dan Stubbergaard

3517 Redefining Urban Design	Joan Busquets
3529 Architecture & the Death of Carbon Modernity	Elisa Iturbe
3532 The Art Museum: Typological Trajectories	Jhalen Hernandez-Eli
4377 Competing Visions of Modernity in Japan	Seng Kuan
4486 Displaced Becomings --The Many Faces of Modern Architecture in Sinophone Asia	Chuntei Tseng
4512 Fight or Flight: Space Colonization and the Future of Landscape Architecture	Ignacio Bunster-Ossa
4528 Transition as Condition _ In Time of War _ Reconstruction as Strategy and Practice	Eve Blau
5394 Travel Behavior and Forecasting	Carole Voulgaris
5440 Public Finance for Planners: Creating Equitable & Sustainable Communities	Lourdes German
5441 Policy Analysis: A Tool for Evidence-Based Decision Making	Rachel Meltzer
5509 Spatial Design Strategies for Climate Migration	Malkit Shoshan
6489 Climate Positive Design Lab	Pamela Conrad
9203 Thesis project / Project Thesis	John May, Anda French, J. Jih

**Fall 2024**

2469 Public Space, Memory, and Social Dialogue	Krzysztof Wodiczko
2470 Atmospheric Encounters: Visualizing the Invisible	Craig Douglas
2471 Architecture of Time	Clara Kraft
2472 Curatorial Practices in the Public Realm: Working Outside the Box	Pedro Alonso
2484 Interdisciplinary Art and Design Practices	Malkit Shoshan
3241 Theories of Landscape as Urbanism	Gareth Doherty
3348 The Idea of Environment	Abby Spinak
3352 Type and the Idea of the City: Architecture's Search for what is Common	Christopher Lee
3389 The Fifth Plan	Ron Witte
3459 Proximities / or Readings and Methods with Reflexive Formalism	Jonathan Lott
4105 Studies of the Built North American Environment: since 1580	John Stilgoe
4141 Histories of Landscape Architecture I: Textuality and the Practice of Landscape Architecture	Edward Eigen
4304 North American Seacoasts and Landscapes: Discovery Period to the Present	John Stilgoe
4358 Authority and Invention: Medieval Art and Architecture	Christine Smith
4362 Structuring Urban Experience: From the Athenian Acropolis to the Boston Common	Christine Smith
4384 Building and Urban Conservation and Renewal – Assessment, Analysis, Design	David Fixler
4399 Architecture and Construction: From the Vitruvian Tradition to the Digital	Antione Picon
4454 The Project and the Territory: Japan Story	Mohsen Mostafavi
4488 Making the American City: Form and Society	Alexander von Hoffman
4518 Expanding the Canon: Architecture and Urbanism	Rahul Mehrotra
4519 Contested Spaces: Architecture and Power	Ana Leon Crespo
4520 Tactile Architecture	Divya Subramanian
4521 Translations and Negotiations: The Roman Landscape in the Modern World	Kaja Tally-Schumacher
4522 Essaying Architecture	James Graham
4523 Symptomatic Reading of Architecture	K. Michael Hays

**Spring 2024**

2466 Place-Based Scenario Planning	Kira Clingen
2467 Images of the Environment: Terror and Beauty	Min Yeo
2468 Territorial Commons: Mapping Narratives in the Shifting Extractive Landscapes of the Antipodes	Rosalea Monacella
3347 Wild Ways: The Nature of Wilderness, Wild-ness and Wild Being(s) in the Anthropocene	Nina-Marie Lister
3365 Material Practice and its Agency	Toshiko Mori
3485 Appearance	Ron Witte
3514 African Landscape Architecture: Alternative Futures for the Field	Gareth Doherty

3516 Contextual Capacities	Dan Stubbergaard
3517 Redefining Urban Design	Joan Busquets
4377 Competing Visions of Modernity in Japan	Seng Kuan
4468 On Architecture and Property	Lisa Haber-Thomson
4486 Displaced Becomings --The Many Faces of Modern Architecture in Sinophone Asia	Chuntei Tseng
4510 Transition as Condition: Ukraine Research- Urbanism, Environment, Infrastructure	Eve Blau
4511 Case Studies in Urban Conservation: Principles & Narratives of an Emerging Discipline	David Fixler
4512 Fight or Flight: Space Colonization and the Future of Landscape Architecture	Ignacio Bunster-Ossa
4513 Architecture and Poststructuralism	K. Michael Hays
4514 Critical Boston: Challenge and Opportunity in a City Undergoing Rapid Change	Mark Lamster
4515 The Picturesque: Nature // Artifice	Divya Subramanian
4517 Writing and Urban Life (at FAS)	Bruno Carvalho
5440 Public Finance for Planners: Creating Equitable & Sustainable Communities	Lourdes German
5461 Urban Adaptation	Hannah Teicher
5462 Untangling Climax Change	Pedro Clara do Carmo Gadanho
5463 Planning for Pedestrians and Cyclists	Carole Voulgaris
5509 Spatial Design Strategies for Climate Migration	Malkit Shoshan
6483 Procedural Fields: Functional Design of Discrete Hyperdimensional Spaces	Jose Luis Garcia del Castillo Lopez
6489 Climate Positive Design Lab	Pamela Conrad
6502 EMBODIED CARBON- Material Cycles, Circularity, and Advances in Reverse Engineering	Hanif Kara
9158 From Inception to Realization: Three Museum Case Studies	Moshe Safdie
9203 Thesis project / Project Thesis	John May, Eric Howeler

**Fall 2023**

3389 The Fifth Plan	Ron Witte
3512 Rational Form Making	Angela Pang
5441 Policy Analysis: A Tool for Evidence-Based Decision Making	Rachel Meltzer
5443 The (New) Image of the City	Alex Yuen
6485 Introduction to Generative Artificial Intelligence	Sabrina Osmany

**Spring 2023**

2348 Representation First (!!!), Then Architecture	Jennifer Bonner
3357 Experiments in Public Freedom	Sergio Lopez-Pineiro
3485 Appearance	Ron Witte
3499 The Aperture Analyzed: The Form and Space of Openings	Grace La
4377 Competing Visions of Modernity in Japan	Seng Kuan
4395 Environmentalism II: How to Have a Politics?	John May
5394 Travel Behavior and Forecasting	Carole Voulgaris
5439 Land Loss, Reclamation, and Stewardship in Contemporary Native America	Daniel D'Oca, Eric Henson, Philip Deloria
5440 Public Finance for Planners: Creating Equitable & Sustainable Communities	Lourdes German
5442 New Towns and Housing Development in Africa	Richard Peiser
5443 The (New) Image of the City	Alex Yuen
6384 Towards a New Science of Design?	Juan Ugarte
6483 Procedural Fields: Functional Design of Discrete Hyperdimensional Spaces	Jose Garcia del Castillo Lopez
6485 Unsupervised Machine Learning for Designers	Sabrina Osmany
7451 Design Teaching Lab (DTL)	Megan Panzano, Ian Miley
9203 Thesis Project/ Project Thesis	Eric Howeler, Lisa Haber-Thomson

**Fall 2022**

3389 The Fifth Plan	Ron Witte
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3399 Extracanonical Buildings  
4387 Topology and Imagination: Between Chinese Landscapes and Architecture  
4468 On Architecture and Property

Ajay Manthripragada  
Stanislaus Fung  
Lisa Haber-Thomson

### Spring 2022

2361 Discourse and Advocacy in Spaces of Curation  
3347 Wild Ways: Thinking, Relating and Being with/in Wilderness, Wild-ness  
and Nature in the Anthropocene  
3357 Experiments in Public Freedom  
3399 Extracanonical Buildings  
3451 Investigating Normal: Assistive and Adaptive Design for  
Interdependent Futures  
3485 Appearance  
3488 Institutions & Impact: Mental Health: Do institutions need to  
hybridize to have more impact tomorrow?  
3505 Machine Learning and the Image of the City  
3506 Homes on Fields  
4395 Environmentalism II: How to Have a Politics?  
4468 On Architecture and Property  
4480 Eco Folly - History and Technology  
4484 Otherness and the Canon: Episodes of a Dialogic  
Reading of the History of Architecture  
5394 Travel Behavior and Forecasting  
5438 Designer Developer  
5439 Land Loss, Reclamation, and Stewardship in Contemporary Native America  
  
5440 Public Finance for Planners: Creating Equitable & Sustainable Communities  
5441 Policy Analysis: A Tool for Evidence-Based Decision Making  
5442 New Towns and Housing Development in Africa  
5443 The (New) Image of the City  
5444 Typologies of Liberation  
6384 Towards a New Science of Design?  
6385 Automation in Practice  
6483 Artifacts as Media: Signals, Data, Information and Technology  
6484 Data Science for Building Performance Simulation and Architectural  
Design Optimization  
6485 Introduction to Machine Learning for Designers  
9203 Thesis Project/ Project Thesis

Mark Pasnik  
Nina-Marie Lister  
  
Sergio Lopez-Pineiro  
Ajay Manthripragada  
Sara Hendren  
  
Ron Witte  
David van der Leer  
  
Charles Waldheim  
Charlotte Malterre-Barthes  
John May  
Lisa Haber-Thomson  
Erika Naginski, Grace La  
Jorge Liernur, Yazmin Crespo  
  
Carole Voulgaris  
Weijia Song  
Daniel D'Oca, Eric Henson, Philip  
Deloria  
  
Lourdes German  
Rachel Meltzer  
Richard Peiser  
Alex Yuen  
Oana Stanescu, Bryan Lee  
Martin Bechthold, Juan Ugarte  
Nathan King  
Jose Garcia del Castillo Lopez  
Ellie Han  
  
Sabrina Osmany  
Andrew Holder, Eric Howeler, Jon Lott

### Fall 2021

2348 Representation First (!!!), Then Architecture  
3365 Material Practice and its Agency  
3389 The Fifth Plan  
3487 Interpreting an Archive  
  
4377 Competing Visions of Modernity in Japan  
4387 Topology and Imagination: Between Chinese Landscapes and Architecture

Jennifer Bonner  
Toshiko Mori  
Ron Witte  
Jorge Silvetti, Mark Lee, Ines  
Zalduendo  
  
Seng Kuan  
Stanislaus Fung

### Spring 2021

2348 Representation First (!!!), Then Architecture  
3357 Experiments in Public Freedom  
3365 Material Practice and its Agency  
3381 Artificial Intelligence in Contemporary Design Practice  
3389 The Fifth Plan  
3393 Regarding an Archive  
9203 Thesis project / Project thesis

Jennifer Bonner  
Sergio Lopez-Pineiro  
Toshiko Mori  
Paola Sturla  
Ron Witte  
Jorge Silvetti, Mark Lee  
Andrew Holder, Eric Howeler, Jon Lott

**Fall 2020**

4356 Screens- Projecting Media and The Visual Arts Giuliana Bruno  
4387 Topology and Imagination: Between Chinese Landscapes and Architecture Stanislaus Fung  
4395 Environmentalisms II: How to Have a Politics? John May

**Spring 2020**

2355 Book Project Number Zero Pier Paolo Tamburelli, Thomas Kelley  
3357 Experiments in Public Freedom Sergio Lopez-Pineiro  
3365 Material, Atmosphere, and Ambiance Toshiko Mori  
3377 Style Worry or #FOMO Max Kuo  
3380 Factory of the Sensible and the Political Catherine Ingraham  
3389 The Fifth Plan Ron Witte  
4377 Competing Visions of Modernity in Japan Seng Kuan  
4381 Bramante is better than Alberti... Jorge Silvetti  
4391 Palladio and Raphael: An Innovative Learning Experience Guido Beltramini, Howard Burns  
4475 Conservation, Destruction, and Curating Impermanence Natalia Escobar Castrillon  
9203 Thesis project / Project thesis Andrew Holder, John McMorrough, Jon Lott

**Fall 2019**

3382 Domestic Architecture: (Groups of Residences) Dave Hickey, Max Kuo  
4387 Topology and Imagination: Between Chinese Landscapes and Architecture Stanislaus Fung  
4394 One Century of Modernization in Latin America: 1880-1980 Jorge Liernur  
4395 Environmentalisms John May  
4428 Visionary Architecture Erika Naginski  
4453 Manfredo Tafuri and The Historiography And Criticism of Architecture 1960-1990 Jorge Liernur

**Spring 2019**

3365 Material, Atmosphere, and Ambiance Malkit Shoshan  
3380 Factory of the Sensible and the Political Catherine Ingraham  
4377 Competing Visions of Modernity in Japan Seng Kuan  
4389 (A Secret History of Italian Design) Jeffrey Schnapp  
4391 Palladio and Raphael: An Innovative Learning Experience Guido Beltramini, Howard Burns  
4476 Architecture's Bodies: Agency and Biopolitics Lisa Haber-Thomson  
9203 Thesis project / Project thesis Andrew Holder, John McMorrough, Jon Lott

**Fall 2018**

2348 Representation First (!!!), Then Architecture Jennifer Bonner  
3374 Werewolf: Architectures of Change Caroline O'Donnell  
3376 Selected Current (and Recurrent) Topics in Architecture Theory and Design Practice Jorge Silvetti  
3376 Style Worry or #FOMO Max Kuo  
4376 Signal, Image, Architecture III: The Automatic Present John May

**Spring 2018**

4373 Bavarian Rococo: Heterotopias Andrew Holder  
4381 Bramante is better than Alberti... Jorge Silvetti  
4475 Conservation, Destruction, and Curating Impermanence Natalia Escobar Castrillon

**Fall 2017**

3290 Teaching Techniques Scott Cohen  
4379 Practical Wisdom 2 Peter Carl