

ARCHITECTURE, MSD: ADVANCED ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN

This three-semester Master of Science in Design with a concentration in Advanced Architectural Design [MSD-AAD] is for architecture students with five-year professional bachelor degrees from the US and around the world. This course of study does not lead to a professional degree in architecture. The MSD-AAD program builds on its success as a program focused on innovation in architecture design.

The purpose of the MSD Advanced Architectural Design program is four-fold. First, to prepare students for high level design research in the profession or academy in contemporary issues that affect the architecture discipline. Second, to develop skills in emerging design and cross-disciplinary tools. Third, to critically engage the theoretical dimensions of the contemporary architectural discourse around these tools; and fourth, to integrate advanced digital modeling techniques into a design methodology that has direct bearing on the development of material, production, fabrication and construction processes and their aesthetics.

The advanced architectural design-based program starts with a mandatory ten-day workshop in design technique. A coordinated semester of advanced architectural design and courses follow after which the students join the Master of Architecture program for one year. During this year students pursue an individually directed course of study by choosing from a wide range of options in advanced architectural design studios, and elective courses offered within the Master of Architecture program.

For more information: <https://www.design.upenn.edu/architecture/graduate/post-professional-program-msd-aad> (<https://www.design.upenn.edu/architecture/graduate/post-professional-program-msd-aad/>)

Curriculum

First Year

Summer		Course Units
ARCH 7920	ARCH Summer Institute: Advanced Architectural Design Digital Workshop	0
		Course Units 0.00
Fall		
ARCH 7030	Advanced Architectural Design Studio	2
ARCH 7100	Contemporary Theory 1989-Present	1
ARCH 7410	Architecture Design Innovation	1

Select 1 ARCH elective		1
		Course Units 5.00
Spring		
ARCH 7050	MSD-AAD Design Research Studio	2
ARCH 7330	New Materials and Methods	1
ARCH 7150	Contemporary Aesthetic Theory	1
Select 1 ARCH electives		1
		Course Units 5.00
Second Year		
Summer		
ARCH 7070	AAD Fabrication Studio	2
ARCH 7200	Visual Literacy and its Culture	1
ARCH 7470	Robotic Fabrication	1
		Course Units 4.00
		Total Course Units 14.00

A minimum GPA of 3.00 is required for graduation.

The degree and major requirements displayed are intended as a guide for students entering in the Fall of 2025 and later. Students should consult with their academic program regarding final certifications and requirements for graduation.