

The University of Memphis

Department of Architecture

The Department of Architecture is known for its community engagement activities, emphasis on holistic city building, and focus on sustainability. In addition to our academic programs, we are home to the Center for Sustainable Design and are a partner (with the Department of City + Regional Planning) in the University of Memphis Design Collaborative.

The Department offers three degree programs:

Master of Architecture (professional)
Bachelor of Fine Arts in Architecture pre-professional)
Bachelor of Fine Arts in Interior Architecture (professional)

memphis.edu/architecture

What About Memphis? / Memphis AF

Urban Environment

The Memphis urban area and Mid-South region provide a unique historical and cultural context for collaborative research, community engagement, and multi-disciplinary practice.

Holistic Design

Focusing on design as a holistic and interdisciplinary activity engages integrative practice and prepares students for a future of collaborative professional practice.

Student—Faculty Engagement

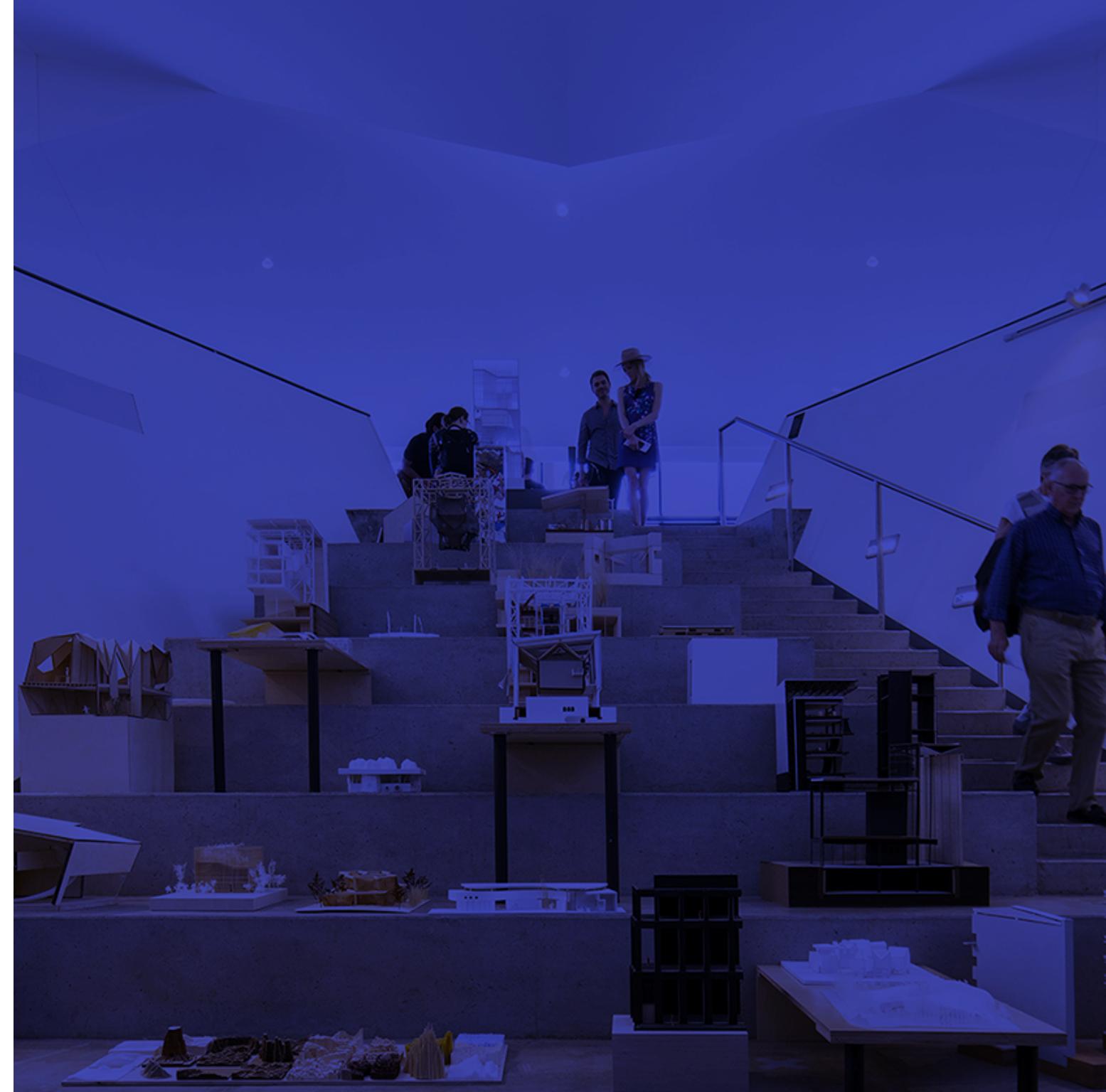
The low student to faculty ratio and shared studio environment provide students with opportunities to collaborate with faculty and peers.

Accreditation

The professional Master of Architecture degree is accredited by NAAB and the program is STEM-designated.

Professional Collaborations

Our student organizations (AIAS, CSI-S, IIDA, and NOMAS) provide opportunities to become more involved in the department and create connections with local design professionals. An award-winning partnership with AIA Memphis provides professional development, internships, and employment opportunities.



Mission & Goals

Our Mission

The mission of the Department of Architecture is to prepare graduates to enter the professional practice of architecture and/or interior design and to serve the Memphis and Mid-South region through research, engaged scholarship, interdisciplinary collaboration, and creative expression that contributes to sustainable, stable communities and enhances the quality of life for all citizens.

Our Goals

To provide the highest quality professional education through a well-rounded discovery-based curriculum in both the art and science of design with emphasis on process, professional standards, and the practical application of design and technology.

To provide research opportunities for faculty and students with emphasis on "hands on" multi-disciplinary projects through which students gain valuable professional experience while providing services to the citizens of the region.

To expand opportunities for students in the Department by bringing them together with faculty and students in City Planning and other programs to address public issues, support stable and sustainable neighborhoods, and develop community visions throughout the region.



Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Our Statement

The Department of Architecture is committed to equity, diversity, and inclusion to create a better environment for all students, faculty, and staff as well as the community partners and others with whom the Department is engaged. As such, the Department supports active, open dialogue in the design studios and other environments where diverse life experiences and opinions are shared and the contributions of those who bring diverse experiences, views, and needs into the design process are valued.

Our culture of respect and open inquiry supports the life-long learning process that begins in architecture and design school regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, physical abilities, or religious practices. In addition to promoting social and cultural diversity, we also encourage students of different academic levels to collaborate with one another to participate in mutually beneficial learning experiences.



Graduate Program

Master of Architecture

The first professional Master of Architecture degree is for individuals with a pre-professional degree in architecture, environmental design, or equivalent program of study. The professional curriculum comprises the four-year Bachelor of Fine Arts in Architecture and the two-year Master of Architecture degrees.

The University of Memphis Department of Architecture offers the following NAAB-accredited degree program:

M.Arch. (pre-professional degree + 60 graduate credits)

The program of study for the Master of Architecture encompasses both the art and the science of design and is structured to engage students in the processes and professional standards of architecture and design. Through a series of professional core and elective courses, students (1) become competent in a range of intellectual, spatial, technical, and interpersonal skills; (2) understand the historical, socio-cultural, and environmental context of architecture; (3) are able to solve architectural design problems, including the integration of technical systems and health and safety requirements; and (4) comprehend the roles and responsibilities of the architect in society.

[View our M.Arch Course Catalog](#)

Serving others to improve the built environment is at the heart of who we are. We are driven through design to enhance the city of Memphis and the lives of those who live here.



How to Apply

Entry to the first professional Master of Architecture degree program requires an approved pre-professional undergraduate degree in Architecture, Environmental Design, or the equivalent. In addition to an application to the Graduate School, all persons making application to the M.Arch degree program must submit the following materials:

Portfolio

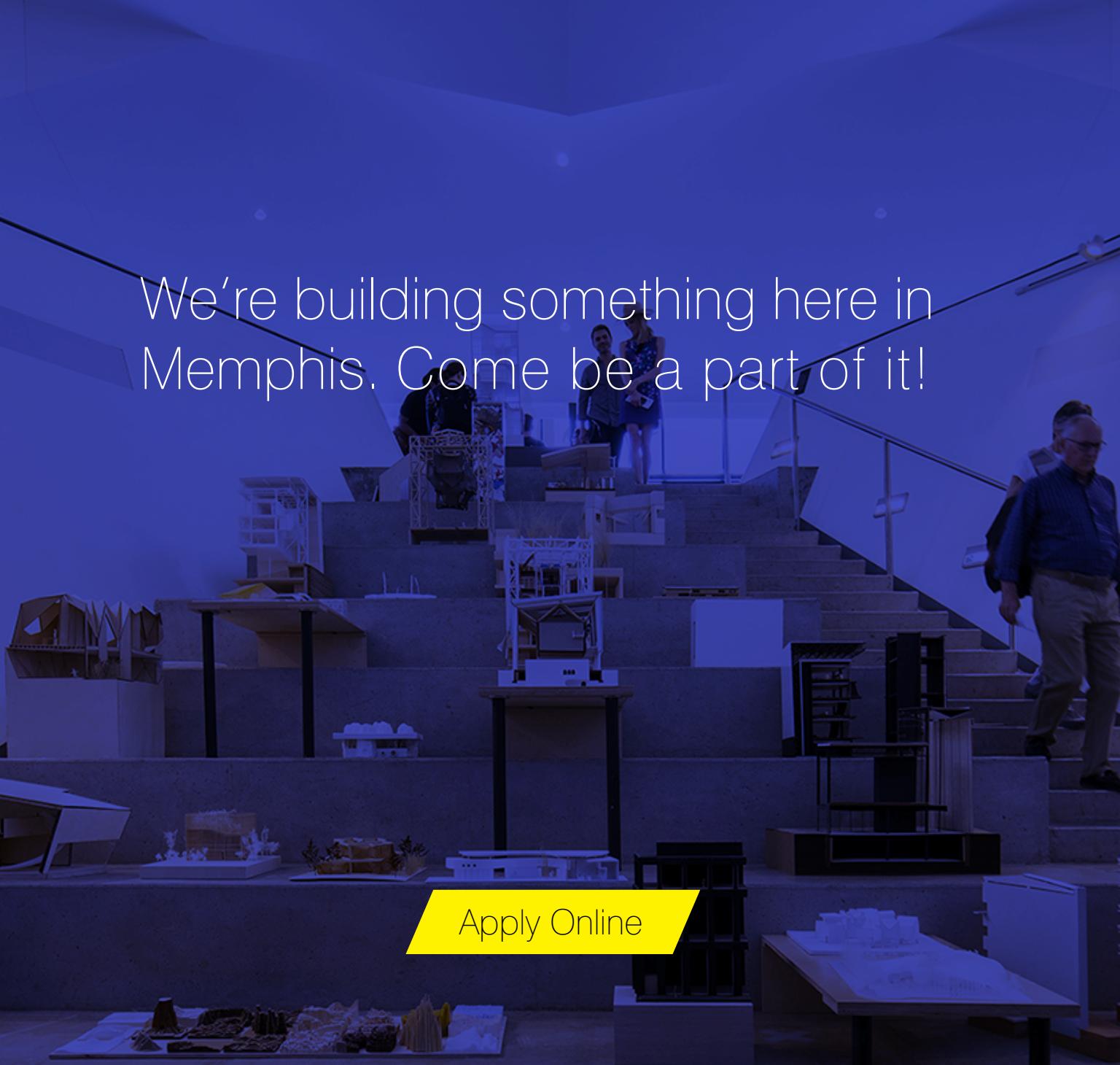
Applicant portfolios are reviewed for demonstration of aesthetic judgment, basic design ability, visual investigation skills, and abilities in architectural design, including identification of building elements and an understanding of their assembly, integration of building systems, a knowledge of building structure, and other evidence of understanding and abilities conforming to NAAB performance criteria.

Letters of Recommendation

Three letters of recommendation are required.

Statement of Intent

Applicants must submit a two-page essay describing professional background, objectives, and motivation for pursuing graduate study in Architecture. This brief statement should reflect an individual interest in this graduate program and provide some indication of professional goals or intentions.



We're building something here in Memphis. Come be a part of it!

[Apply Online](#)

Graduate Student Portfolio

1 Antonio Tirado

Empathic Design: Using Kinesthetic Architecture to Empower Children with Autism

2 Andrea D. Jimenez

Memphis Low Line and Community Hub: Creating a Place for Refuge

3 Brock Terwilleger

Raising Critical Consciousness through Disorienting Dilemmas in Architecture

4 Dakota Wyatt

The HUB: Humans United in Binghamton

5 Farnaz Sadeghi

Architecture of Mindfulness: How Architecture Engages the Five Senses

6 Holly-Lynn Tedder

Between Earth and Sky: Crafting an Architecture of Presence

7 Jeevan Thapa

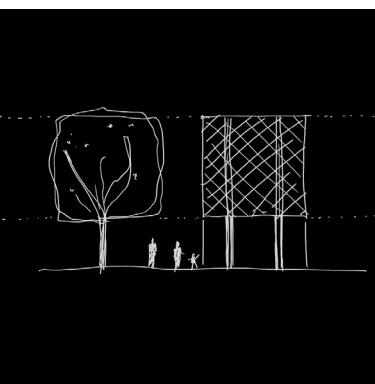
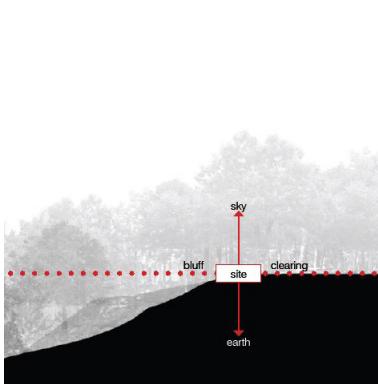
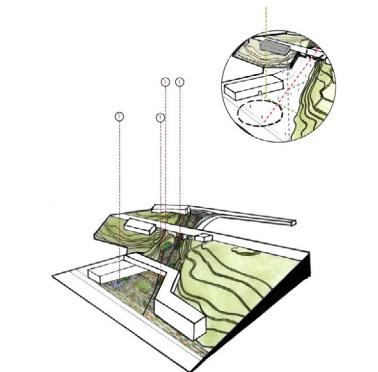
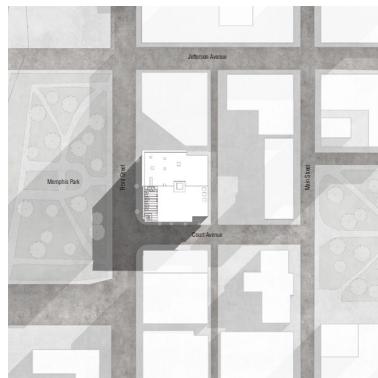
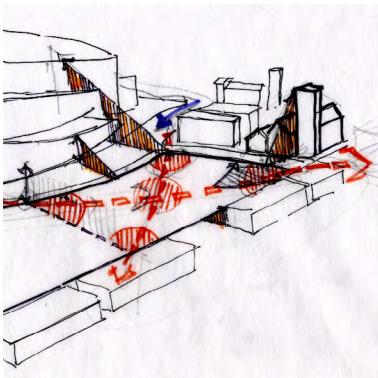
Center of Hope: An Architectural Typology for Social Mixing

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The Modern Agora: A Social Metamorphosis through Architecture



Empathic Design: Using Kinesthetic Architecture to Empower Children with Autism

Antonio Tirado

While designing, architects tend to focus more on physical disabilities than on mental disabilities, often creating environments unsuitable for people with varying mental abilities. One marginalized group that has varying physical and mental abilities is children with autism. In order to create a better environment for these users, architecture requires empathetic designers. This thesis focuses on creating an autism center, Memphis ABLE, to provide a place that offers environments for learning, discovering, and communicating by employing strategies aimed at improving children's social development, helping them to reconnect with their kinesthetic awareness and with their environment through empathic design. Beyond empathic design and kinesthetic architecture, additional ideologies used for this thesis include psychology of space and the ASPECTSS Index.

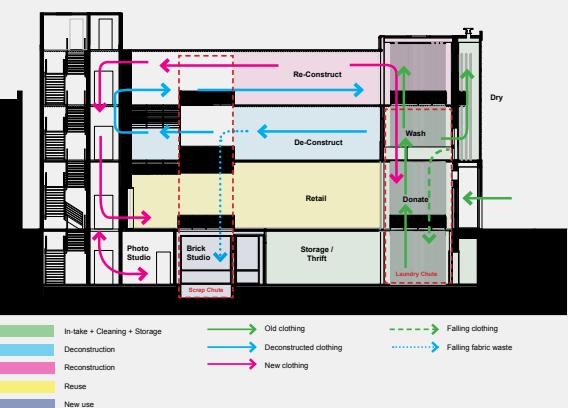
Antonio's thesis won the **2019 Outstanding Master's Thesis Award** conferred by the Tennessee Conference of Graduate Schools. This prestigious award recognizes the best graduate thesis prepared in Tennessee institutions of higher-learning over the past year. Membership in the Tennessee Conference of Graduate Schools includes over 40 institutions in Tennessee which have regional or professional accredited status and offer graduate degree programs.



Raising Critical Consciousness through Disorienting Dilemmas in Architecture

Brock Terwilleger

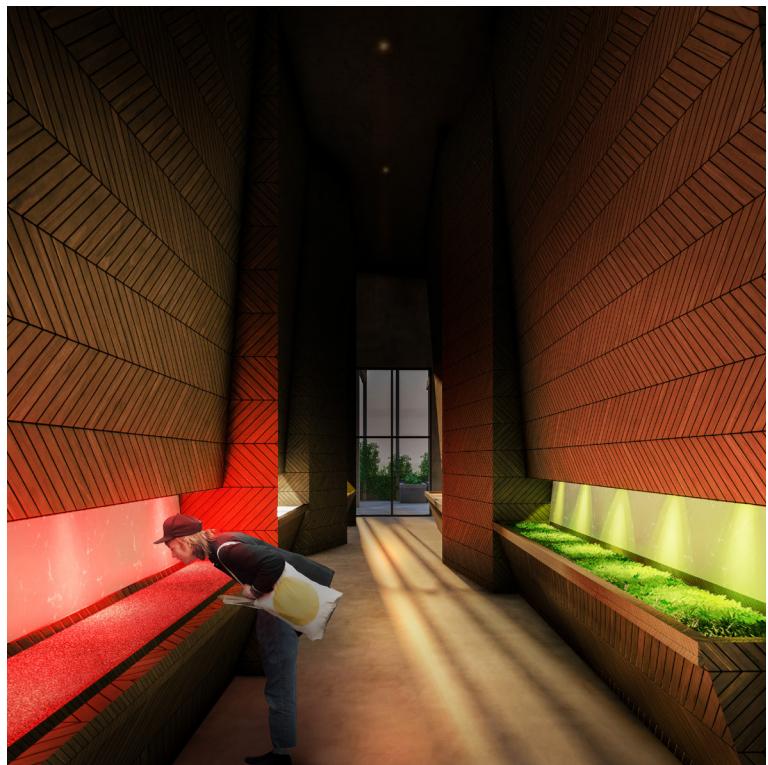
This project examines the use of disorienting dilemmas in architecture to affect behavior change. A concept from the field of education, disorienting dilemmas are moments that cause people to reassess their worldview. Embedding disorienting dilemmas in architecture can make people more conscious of the systems that produce reality. The goal is to find ways to prompt disorienting dilemmas through architecture that lead people to understand the impact of their behavior on the built environment. The research process starts with material experiments that produced bricks made of fabric waste, which act as disorienting dilemmas in the architectural project. The client is a sustainable clothing store and workshop that produces fabric bricks from the workshop's fabric waste. The design explores ways of helping visitors understand that the activities in the building produce the elements of the building, and that visitors' behaviors contribute to that process.



Architecture of Mindfulness: How Architecture Engages the Five Senses

Farnaz Sadeghi

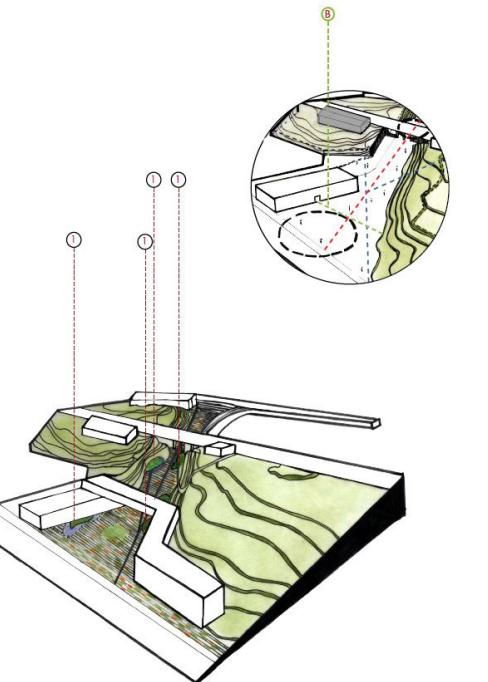
Today's technological world is causing further separation between the mind and body, resulting in physiological and psychological issues. Mindfulness blurs this duality and helps people to be aware of their present life. This thesis explores the idea of presence and how architecture can play a role in creating moments of awareness. It investigates the ways architecture can engage the five senses through form, material, light and shadow, and connection to nature.



Memphis Low Line and Community Hub: Creating a Place for Refuge

Andrea D. Jimenez

In today's society, when people migrate to a new setting, it can either be a welcoming or neglecting experience. It affects one's sense of place, his or her relationship to the community and, therefore, his or her being. The challenge is to work toward the restoration of the site and respect the old, while still embedding a sense of refuge and identity to the place. The intent of this thesis is to create intimate and social gathering spaces with multi-sensory experiences that produce a meaningful attachment to place, community, and oneself. The design process of this thesis demonstrates that the key to design thinking is integration of both the poetic image and the rational. This is explored through the adaptive reuse of an existing building and a ravine located in the Edge District of Memphis, Tennessee. Additionally, a new building is designed as transitional residences.

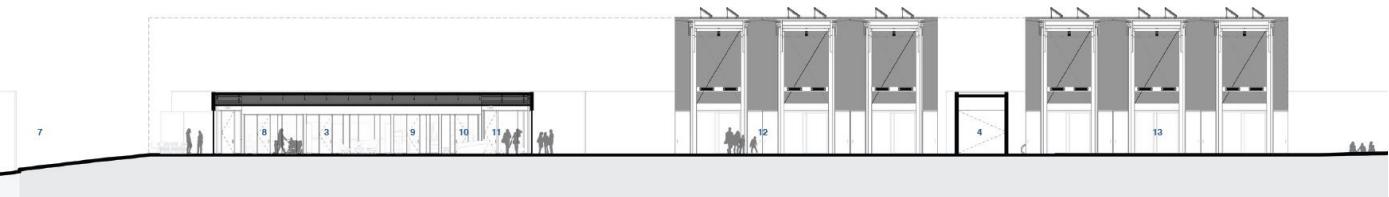
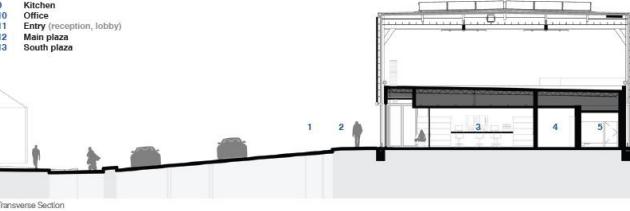


The HUB: Humans United in Binghampton

Dakota Wyatt

Architecture should go beyond the requirements to preserve human health, safety, and welfare. Architects have the ability, and therefore responsibility, to manifest architecture that heals people and communities in every sense of the word. This thesis studies and implements two proven ways to achieve this. The first way is through the process of design and construction that builds something by the community, for the community, to bring ownership, identity, and dignity to the project, connecting the community members together. The second way is by giving people more access to nature using the theories of biophilic design. With biophilic design, architecture is able to improve the well-being of its users and expedite healing. These theories are utilized and implemented in the design of a multi-use community hub, which aims to be a shared location for human interaction and community growth located in the Binghampton neighborhood of Memphis, Tennessee.

- 1 Bus stop
- 2 Community info kiosk
- 3 Maker lab
- 4 Storage
- 5 Restroom
- 6 Shared parking
- 7 North plaza
- 8 Meeting room
- 9 Kitchen
- 10 Office
- 11 Entry (reception, lobby)
- 12 Main plaza
- 13 South plaza



The Modern Agora: A Social Metamorphosis through Architecture

Priyanka A. Kinikar

Embracing and enriching human connections and a sense of belongingness are the fundamental qualities of architecture. Strengthening the human nexus involves the emotional and psychological needs of humankind; to transform these intangible aspects into palpable forms is a challenge for architects. This thesis is an attempt to unfold this challenge to manifest the idea of linking architecture with society by strengthening human bonds. This intent of linking architecture, society, and human connection is pursued by researching phenomenological aspects of architecture that illustrate the relationship between perception of the human body and space and how this experience invokes a sense of belongingness. The applicability of these ideological explorations is then sought through the design of a Modern Agora that gives people an opportunity to be together and collectively experience the journey, where the spatial experience is transformed from exploring the sense of community to the realization of one's own presence.



Regenerative Architecture: The Symbiotic Relationship between Humans and Nature

Nestor Lobos

Architecture today often features building technology that is degenerative and becomes rapidly obsolete. A solution to this dispirited situation is regenerative architecture. Regenerative architecture is a theory based on engaging the natural environment by responding to, and using, living and natural systems to guide the architectural design. The goals of regenerative architecture include focusing on the health and well-being of inhabitants, environmental conservation, reduction of environmental impacts through building design, and aiding the restorative process of the natural world. This project investigates and establishes the symbiotic relationship between humans and the natural environment through regenerative architecture by investigating Nature Deficit Theory, while exploring the concepts of Biophilic Design and Psychology of Space. This project is an illustration of how regenerative architecture can create awareness and responsibility toward the natural environment.

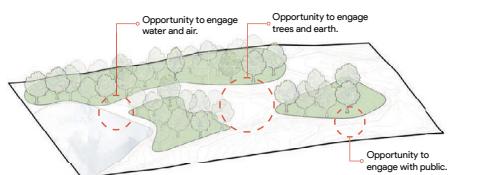


Figure 12 Concept Diagram 1. In order to minimize building footprint, the project was divided into three structures where it was least disruptive to the environment. Fortunately, the site provided pockets of spaces where tree density was lower.

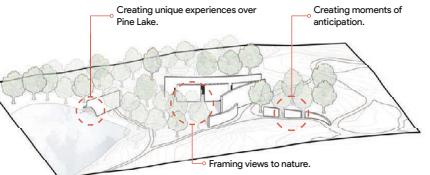


Figure 14 Concept Diagram 3. The building facades continue to adapt to the site but now begin to frame views in order to maximize exposure to nature.

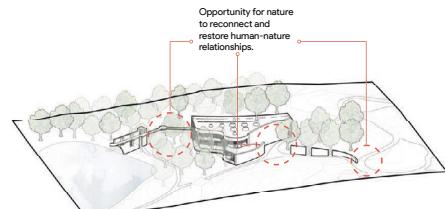


Figure 15 Concept Diagram 4. Ultimately, to enhance the users' experience, the project provides multiple opportunities to create powerful moments where users can experience Shelby Farms Park through new perspectives.

Center of Hope: An Architectural Typology for Social Mixing

Jeevan Thapa

This thesis engages with the issue of homelessness in the city of Memphis. It manifests a realization that the solution to the problem of homelessness is not just providing necessary facilities (to include emergency, transitional, and permanent shelter). Rather, the challenge is to empower and encourage those in homelessness so that social relationships can be strengthened. This thesis proposes an architectural typology for a common place that can inspire social change. It not only serves as a hub for a large network of support, but also encourages social mixing as a platform against segregation, stigma, and exclusion. This is accomplished through a sustainable urban renewal process that includes the economic, environmental, and social redevelopment of a neglected urban neighborhood.



Between Earth and Sky: Crafting an Architecture of Presence

Holly-Lynn Tedder

A duality exists within the experience of architecture. For many years, architects have privileged the intellectual or conceptual dimensions of design over the haptic experience of architecture, compounding a split between mind and body within our highly technologized society. We need an architecture that brings us back to the present moment. By uniting haptic experience with intellectual understanding of place, an Architecture of Presence can create a complete human experience. Explored through the design of an ecological research field laboratory in Shelby Forest, thoughtful crafting of spatial experience using material and light, modulated by contrast, leads to increased awareness, and brings the perceiving human into the present moment. The key to creating a complete architectural experience lies in the unity of mind and body. Through the unification of the perceptual modes of experiencing architecture with the conceptual basis of design, a complete understanding of experience emerges.



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