College of Architecture
Illinois Institute of Technology
Chicago, Illinois

Ph.D. Program
Guidelines and Policies
2014-15

Director:
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I. Introduction

The degree "Doctor of Philosophy in Architecture," the highest degree awarded in academe, is conferred upon those students who have fulfilled the requirements of mastering a specialized area of study and making an original contribution to the field of architecture. The dissertation represents a product of sustained and systematic research in service to new design solutions and new knowledge. Research into the issues confronting the designer and the various material components that shape our built environment are therefore the twin components of the doctoral program at IIT, accessed through the two paths of "History, Theory, and Criticism" (HTC), and "Technologies of the Built Environment" (TBE).

The HTC path accommodates traditional historical investigations within the rich legacy of architectural theory and practice, as well as issues that have importance to contemporary design and urban thinking. These may include a range of theoretical issues from design methodologies to research into human perception, emotion, culture, and aesthetics—or more generally, what makes a city or a habitat livable. Succinctly, its main concern is with how human beings think about or engage the built environment.

The TBE path focuses on material, structural, and sustainability issues, as well as on the planning technologies needed in contemporary practice to forge an integrated approach to practice. It encompasses such themes as the elements of the urban infrastructure, planning and building techniques, systems simulation, and the implementation or design of new materials and technologies.

The goal of both paths of study, administered within the Miesian masterpiece of Crown Hall, is to provide the student with a sophisticated knowledge of the architectural world, together with the strategies needed to take on the complex issues of our global urban culture. In this regard the metropolis of Chicago, with its many architectural offices engaged in international practice, provides an invaluable experimental lab for such research. The new doctoral program cultivates and maintains close ties with many of these offices and thus draws upon their firsthand experience.

For those wishing to place a greater emphasis on engineering in their curricular pursuits, the College of Architecture also offers collaborations with the College of Engineering's Department of Civil, Architectural, and Environmental Engineering.

II. Course Work

a) Application to the Program
An applicant to the doctoral program generally must hold a professional Master of Architecture degree (M.Arch.), Master of Science in Architecture (M.S.Arch), or Master of Landscape Architecture (M.LA) from an NAAB-accredited U.S. university or the foreign equivalent. Students with graduate degrees in allied fields, such as engineering and art history, may also apply to the program. Students holding a Bachelor of Architecture (B.Arch) can apply through the Master of Science program at the College of Architecture.

The applicant should meet all entrance requirements of IIT's Graduate College, plus a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.5 on a 4.0 scale, a minimum revised GRE score of 144 in quantitative reasoning, 153 in verbal reasoning, and analytical writing of 4.0, and a TOEFL score of 550/213/80 (paper based/computer based/internet based test), or a minimum IELTS score of 6.

The applicant should submit:
— Three letters of recommendation from immediate supervising professors or other references able to attest to the applicant's capability.
— A statement of purpose indicating a proposed area of study.
— A portfolio of academic writing, research projects, and/or design work demonstrating his or her accomplishments and expertise.

International applicants should also submit:
— A financial affidavit
— Foreign Language (TOEFL) scores

Applications for Fall 2015 admission to the Ph.D. in Architecture program are due by January 2, 2015. Supporting materials should be sent to IIT College of Architecture, Graduate Admission, Crown Hall, 3360 S. State Street, Chicago, IL 60616-3793.

b) Curricular Requirements
For a completion of a doctoral program, IIT's Graduate College requires a minimum of 84 credit hours beyond the conferral of a Bachelor's degree, with a minimum of 52 credit hours being taken within the doctoral program. Students must also pass a Qualifying Examination, a Comprehensive Examination, and a Dissertation Defense. Students enrolled in the HTC component of the program should also display a reading mastery of two foreign languages beyond their native language.

The make-up of the 52 credit hours can be flexible, following upon individual needs, but students in the HTC component of the program will generally take up to 36 credit hours of coursework, while students in the TBE component will take a minimum of 26 credit hours of coursework, with the remaining credit hours being devoted to applied research. Students coming into the program with Master of Architecture degrees can be given advanced standing for relevant coursework, but this will be done on a case-by-case basis.

The curricular part of the program is expected to take a minimum of two years, with the Comprehensive Examination being administered at the end of the second year or the beginning of the third year. The dissertation must be completed within six years after admission to

doctoral candidacy, which begins with the passing of the Qualifying Examination. Students must be in residence and registered as full-time students until they complete the course requrements and pass the Comprehensive Examination.

c) Course Selection
All course work must be approved by the student's academic advisor. Students in both tracks of the program are required to enroll in two courses: "Doctoral Methodology Seminar" (ARCH 601) in the Fall semester of the first year, and "Dissertation Proposal" (ARCH 602) in the Spring semester of the second year. Students enrolled in the HTC track are also required to take the two "History of Ideas" courses (Arch 500/501) and two advanced seminars (Arch 502/503). The academic advisor may request that students take one or more courses in areas necessary for the pursuit of their chosen topic of study. For instance, students with insufficient language skills will be encouraged to take language courses (credit or non-credit) with an institution inside or outside of IIT. Students who have done advanced graduate work on their topic of interest at IIT or at another institution are eligible for a transfer of up to six credit hours.

d) Content of Course Work
The selection of course work will vary following the dual paths of the program. One of the unique features of the program, is that students May take special design studios—the so-called 'Cloud' studios. These are advanced research-focused studios dealing with complex design problems related to the city or to technological concerns requiring complex inter-disciplinary teams. They are attended by groups of students at all levels of their design education and doctoral students are expected to become leaders on these teams. In the second semester of the first year students will also take a "Readings & Special Projects" (Arch 597), which is intended to be a preparatory course for the Qualifying Examination. The College of Architecture offers coursework in several other areas, and HTC students are also encouraged to look at other advanced courses offered in the College of Human Sciences and the Institute of Design. Those following the TBE track are encouraged to avail themselves of the many advanced technology and computational courses offered by the various departments of the Engineering College

In addition, individually guided "Readings and Special Projects" can be arranged with individual professors, pending the approval of the student's advisor and the program director. To enroll in these courses the student, prior to the start of the semester, must provide an abstract of the work to be undertaken and spell out specifically the responsibilities of the faculty leader or leaders. At the conclusion of the semester the student should also provide the Ph.D. department with a digital file of the work performed.

Upon passing the Comprehensive Examination, the students in both tracks will undertake the remainder of his or her research under the course heading "Doctoral Research" (Arch 691). This heading is reserved solely for the preparation and writing of the dissertation.

e) Academic Standing
While taking course work, students are expected to make satisfactory progress toward graduation, while maintaining a grade-point average (GPA) of 3.0 on a 4-point scale. Those students not making satisfactory progress will be placed on academic probation and will not be eligible to sit for examinations. Students who do not maintain a GPA of 3.0 over the period of one academic year will be required to withdraw from the program. Additionally, any student who

receives an Incomplete (I) in a semester will be required to reduce his or her course work in the next semester by the number of uncompleted credits. Students must be in residence and registered as full-time students until they complete all of the course requirements and pass the Qualifying Examination.

III. Advising and Committees

Fulfilling the requirements for a Ph.D. in architecture requires an intense commitment on the part of the student. Whereas much of this research is self-directed, the student will be assisted by a committee of advisors selected for his or her specialization. The process begins with the application review committee, as professors holding Ph.D.s will commit themselves to guiding students within their specialized areas of interest. This dissertation advisor will initially counsel the student on administrative matters, such as planning the curricular program of study. The dissertation advisor will arrange the language examinations (where required) and judge whether requests for changes to the curriculum are in the best interest of the student and the program.

Toward the end of the second semester, the dissertation advisor and student will select the members of the dissertation advisory committee. It will consist of a minimum of four members (including the dissertation advisor), three of whom are from the College of Architecture (tenured, tenure-track, or adjunct faculty), and one from outside of the college. The dissertation advisor will generally chair this committee, and the purpose of the committee is to bring additional guidance to the student, conduct periodic reviews of progress, evaluate the Comprehensive Examination, and preside at the final thesis presentation or Dissertation Defense. In special instances, the student may request a substitution for members of the committee.

III. Examinations

Illinois Institute of Technology requires three examinations for the fulfillment of the Ph.D. degree: a Qualifying Examination, a Comprehensive Examination, and the Dissertation Defense. The HTC component of the architecture program also requires a reading competence in two languages outside of their native language. The rationale for this requirement is intrinsic to the nature of this degree. Archival and other first-hand research often demand a reading ability in other languages, and published material in architectural history and theory commonly appears in other major European languages. Because IIT offers a limited number of language courses, it is recommended that students acquire these skills prior to coming into the program. When these skills are lacking, students are requested to take such instruction in other programs in the Chicago area.

a) Qualifying Examination
The Qualifying Examination, which must be taken at the completion of the student's first year of study, is required for all doctoral students. The exam serves two purposes. First, it allows the student to display a general and basic knowledge of the rudiments of his or her area of interest, which is important for those later pursuing a career in teaching. Second, it demonstrates that the student has the necessary skills to pursue more rigorous and highly specialized research. Because of the very different orientations of this two-track program, the natures of these exams also differ. Both exams, however, will have written and oral components, which will be kept on digital file as part of the student's record.

For students pursuing the HTC track, the written and oral portions of the exam will be based on a general knowledge of architectural history and theory. Upon entry into the program students will be given a list of books that (while not all-inclusive) constitute essential moments in theory and historiography. Over the course of the first year, students are expected to master these texts, for which the "Reading and Special Projects" course (Arch 597) in the second semester is expected to assist.

For students pursuing the TBE track, the written portion of the exam will consist of a substantial research paper on a topic of the student's choosing, generally based on a seminar or directed research. The paper should be written in a language and with a methodology appropriate to publication in a scientific or scholarly journal. The oral component of the exam will consist of a defense of the paper before the dissertation committee.

If the student fails the Qualifying Examination, the examining committee may recommend a re-examination at the start of the following semester. The second chance for taking the Qualifying Exam is regarded as final.

b) Comprehensive Examination
The Comprehensive Examination will generally take place at the conclusion of the second year or at the beginning of the Fall Semester of the third year, and is required to be administered at least one year prior to the intended date of graduation. The heart of the examination is the dissertation proposal, which the student will prepare under the guidance of the dissertation advisor and the dissertation advisory committee. The nature of the proposal will vary with the topic to be investigated, but in all cases it will consist of three parts: 1) the main argument or general statement of what is to be explored, 2) the significance of this research and its contribution to the literature of the field, and 3) the methodology, means, and schedule by which the writing of the dissertation will be completed. Although this proposal is prepared for both the student and the dissertation advisory committee, it should be written so as to be as informative for potential grant-giving agencies.

The main argument or theme of study should be presented in the form of an abstract, detailing succinctly the range of the investigation, a table of contents of chapters or sections, and the relative length of each component.

The significance and contribution of the proposed research can be indicated by critically surveying existing studies in related areas, and their limits to the specific problem to be explored. In all cases the proposed research will be original and relevant—a fundamental prerequisite to a dissertation. Because it is the centerpiece of the student's work, the topic should be chosen with the greatest care.

The methodology of the proposed research should conform to accepted methods used in the relevant field of study. For instance, those students choosing a topic in TBE will follow standard scientific guidelines for research and publication, while those students pursuing the HTC path should be fully aware of the breadth of research related to their topic and appropriate historiographic models. The various steps to conduct the research—such as visits to sites, laboratories, libraries, and archives—should be noted, as well as funding needs and possible sources. A timetable and an annotated working bibliography of at least 150 entries should be included.

The dissertation proposal should be titled, dated, and list the members of the committee and supervisor. It should be a clear and concise document and a draft should be submitted to the members of the student's advisory committee at least two weeks prior to the examination date. The work will be prepared through the self-directed "Dissertation Proposal" (Arch 602) under the close supervision of the dissertation advisor and other faculty.

The oral examination, in which the examiners will evaluate the student's ability to proceed with dissertation research, will constitute the formal acceptance or rejection of the proposal. A student receiving a failing grade may be asked to improve aspects of their proposal and resubmit it the following semester. A student who fails the examination twice will be asked to terminate graduate study at IIT. In unusual or extenuating circumstance, the Academic Unit head may show cause why a third examination should be given, but a failure of the third examination will result in termination without recourse.

d) Dissertation Defense
The final examination is the oral defense of the written dissertation, which can be scheduled once the dissertation advisor and dissertation advisory committee agree that the dissertation is substantially complete. Students are strongly encouraged to meet regularly with committee advisors during the writing of the dissertation, as this can often significantly shorten the working process. A copy of the dissertation should be delivered to the members at least one month prior to the date that the defense is scheduled. A minimum of four members of the dissertation committee must participate in the defense, and one audio or visual call is allowed. The result of the committee's deliberation can be that the dissertation is accepted, accepted with revisions, or rejected. If accepted with revisions, the student must establish a time frame to make the necessary revisions. If rejected, the student may re-schedule a second (and final) defense, pending the approval of the committee members. The submittal of the final dissertation should conform to the university guidelines, as outlined in the Graduate Handbook.

For further information regarding the doctoral program, please consult the Graduate Handbook at www.iit.edu/graduate_college/academic_affairs/pdfs/Graduate_Student_Handbook.pdf.