Study Architecture in New York City at The City College of New York

Bachelor of Architecture

Application Deadline
February 1, 2021

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The Only Accredited Public School of Architecture in Manhattan

Volumes in Our Architectural Library
Solar Roofpod & Urban Farm

Full-Time Faculty
35,000
Adjunct Faculty
5523
Staff Members
17
Visiting Professors Each Semester
2

Students
Studios
Degrees
Granted
In 2020

Degree Programs
Fabrication Lab & Model Shop
With Wood-Working, Milling Machines, and 3D Printers

Tuition Per Semester
Bachelor of Architecture

Application Deadline
Undergraduate
February 1, 2021

ssac.cuny.edu
Welcome to the Bernard and Anne Spitzer School of Architecture at the City College of New York! Our studios involve and invite collaboration from the disciplines and programs that we offer — the professional Bachelor of Architecture, Master of Architecture, and Master of Landscape Architecture programs, and the post-professional Master of Urban Planning (Urban Design) and Master of Science in Architecture degrees. Affiliated programs in the Master of Science in Urban Sustainability and the J. Max Bond Center for Urban Futures lend expertise and focus across the curriculum. These built-environment disciplines are increasingly interconnected, and we are therefore increasingly as interested in the rich synergies among disciplines as we are in discipline-specific excellence.

We celebrate and value the unique experiences, identities, and backgrounds of our students and are committed to finding ways to translate those complex histories into our teaching practice. This is the school with the highest and most intense degrees of difference — no matter how you define the word. Race, class, ethnicity, identity, ancestry, language, belief, history, life experience — it's all here. This difference shapes, changes, alters, tests, and enriches what we think we already know. For all of us teaching and working here, we see this school's diversity as its most precious gift.

We favor dialogue, discussion, and conversation over top-down teaching where you're told what to learn and do. We recognize that communication skills and the ability to collaborate under fluid and sometimes challenging conditions are highly important and valuable in today's job market. We produce thought-leaders as well as practitioners, professionals for whom the common, public good lies at the heart of their endeavors. We are interested in helping shape the student of the future, who in turn will shape our future world.

Lesley Lokko, Dean and Professor
The architecture program is dedicated to the understanding of the complex systems of the city’s urban fabric and a desire to make the city work well for the people who live and work there. The location of the school in Manhattan allows for direct access to a vibrant and exciting urban resource, which the program uses to the fullest extent.

Typical Courses in the Major

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall Term 1</th>
<th>Spring Term 2</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Core Studio 1</td>
<td>Core Studio 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Visual Studies 1</td>
<td>Visual Studies 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pre-calculus</td>
<td>The Built Environment of NYC</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall Term 3</th>
<th>Spring Term 4</th>
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<tr>
<td>Core Studio 3</td>
<td>Core Studio 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Survey of World Architecture 1</td>
<td>Portfolio Review</td>
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<tr>
<td>Physics for Architects</td>
<td>Survey of World Architecture 2</td>
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<td>Site Technology</td>
<td>Structures 1</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Fall Term 5</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Core Studio 5</td>
<td>Core Studio 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Survey of World Architecture 3</td>
<td>Survey of World Architecture 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Construction Technology 2</td>
<td>Structures 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Structures 2</td>
<td>Construction Technology 3</td>
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<th>Fall Term 7</th>
<th>Spring Term 8</th>
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<tr>
<td>Advanced Studio (1 of 4)</td>
<td>Advanced Studio (2 of 4)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Advanced Computing</td>
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<th>Fall Term 9</th>
<th>Spring Term 10</th>
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<tr>
<td>Advanced Studio (3 of 4)</td>
<td>Advanced Studio (4 of 4)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Professional Management</td>
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“Educating young minds became such a fun, special, and fulfilling mission. Slowly, with the great help of the Zahn Center, we identified the problems of the underserved and underfunded communities, and after some pivots, we arrived at our current platform and business model.”

Wei Ying Zhang, B.Arch ‘18
Winner, Zahn Entrepreneur Competition

East Harlem Recreation Center. Dorian Pulvermacher & Judy Sanchez with Professor Suzan Wines
The architecture program leads students through the artistic, technical, intellectual, and social process of designing buildings, communities, and open spaces. Students may enroll in this course of study, which leads to the 5-year Bachelor of Architecture (NAAB-accredited professional degree), or complete the first 4 years of study to receive a Bachelor of Science in Architecture.

“The experience I had at City College helped me set the strongest foundation for my future, and allowed me to really flourish in a way that would have never happened elsewhere. And it was because of this strength that I felt enough courage to apply to Harvard and eventually MIT for graduate school.”

Chrisoula Kapelonis, B.Arch ’16

“Spitzer truly serves as a one of a kind place in New York City. It’s a center for students from so many different circumstances and spaces to discover Architecture but also the different origins their colleagues come from.”

Mohammed Gueye, B.Arch Class of ’21
Ahu Aydogan is an Assistant Professor teaching construction technology, design, and research at the City College since 2014. She conducted interdisciplinary design research as a HASS fellow at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute Center for Architecture Science and Ecology (CASE), where she received her Ph.D. in Architectural Sciences in 2012. Her current research facilitates the interdisciplinary design of sustainable systems and technologies for integration within the built environment. She addressed the complexity involved in the management of architectural design problems, which provided her an intimate understanding of the architectural design process, from the viewpoint of the architect and client, as well as the environment.

In collaboration with Elizabeth Biddinger (Professor at CCNY Grove School of Engineering), Professor Aydogan received a $40,000 endowed CUNY interdisciplinary research grant to support the continuation of their research. The title of their grant is “Plant-Based Air Filtration Using Engineered Growth Media: Formaldehyde Adsorption Dynamics.”

The project Breathe is a botanically-based air purifying system that constitutes plant-based air remediation strategies. It is a hydroponic system (plants growing without soil) that is composed of adsorbents and porous glass stones that capture and filter toxins in the air. This system can be used as a model for a self-regenerating system that would be integrated into the HVAC systems of buildings to improve indoor air quality and reduce their energy consumption profile.

Breathe brings together an interdisciplinary field of expertise including scientists, engineers, and architects.

Currently, the project is in collaboration with the Grove School of Engineering/CCNY and the Advanced Science Research Center/CUNY. With a PSC-CUNY Award, the first prototype of Breathe was fabricated and demonstrated as a standalone exhibit at the SSA graduation in May 2018. In April 2019, the project was re-assembled by Professor Aydogan’s research group and is still on display for demonstration on the 5th floor of the ASRC. This collaboration between SSA and the ASRC aims to merge researchers across disciplines including architects, engineers, botanists, and scientists.

“I am very proud to witness students develop from the time they are freshmen to their very own graduation day. Their knowledge and confidence grows day by day and it is amazing to see them graduating with all of that experience. They have lots of different stories of their own journeys and they have an ambition to be better in their own profession.”
Faculty Spotlight
Frank Melendez

Frank Melendez is an architectural designer, educator, and researcher. He is an Assistant Professor at the Bernard and Anne Spitzer School of Architecture, City College of New York, and partner at Augmented Architectures and bioMATTERS, LLC, based in New York City and London. His teaching, research, and practice focus on the advancement of architectural design through the integration of emerging digital technologies within the built environment. This work engages topics pertaining to architectural drawing, computation, ecology, digital fabrication, bio and synthetic materials, physical computing, and robotics. Frank is the author of *Drawing from the Model* (Wiley, 2019) and coeditor of *Data, Matter, Design* (Routledge, forthcoming 2020). He has held academic appointments at Carnegie Mellon University and Louisiana State University, and his work has been supported through grants, fellowships, and memberships including, the New York State Council of the Arts (NYSCA) / Van Alen Institute, the MacDowell Colony, and NEW INC.

Frank Melendez's research in biodesign explores analog and digital workflows for making and creating new materials in architecture that are based on biological systems. This research involves using living systems, computational processes, and digital fabrication methods, to "grow" architectural materials, systems, and products. This transdisciplinary research requires collaboration with scientists and experts in other disciplines, working together, in an effort to develop design and manufacturing methods that promote upcycling and sustainable design solutions in order to reduce the negative effects of climate change. Computational simulations are used to study complex geometric relationships, growth patterns, and "emergent" rule-based design solutions. Digital and robotic fabrication processes are used to shape and craft complex artifacts and assemblies that are difficult, if not impossible, to make using traditional analog methods of construction. This research has led to projects such as Meander Series by bioMATTERS, a paneling system comprised of mycelium and upcycled waste materials. The Meander Series project was recently exhibited at the Open Cell "Biodesign Here Now" exhibition, London, UK, 2019, and included in a recent article about biomaterials in *Blueprint Magazine: Issue 369, “The Materials Issue,” April 2020.

“The Spitzer School of Architecture is a unique and special place to teach, study, and have meaningful discussions about architecture and design. The diversity, energy, and strength of New York City is reflected in the students, staff, and faculty at the SSA and CCNY. I'm happy to be a part of the SSA community and the education of the students, whose work and visions continue to inspire and shape the way that I think about architecture, design, and pedagogy.”
How To Apply

Thank you for considering the five-year, accredited B.Arch program at the Bernard and Anne Spitzer School of Architecture at the City College of New York for your future studies.

The Spitzer School of Architecture only accepts students for the fall semester. There is no spring class admission.

The application process has two parts:

1. The Creative Challenge: All B.Arch applicants must complete the Creative Challenge or they will not be considered for admission to the program.
2. The CUNY Application including all materials for admission to the City College of New York.

The Creative Challenge may be downloaded from the SSA Admissions website. It is now submitted electronically, with detailed directions about submission on the Challenge itself.

Important Deadlines

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Applicant Type</th>
<th>Deadline</th>
<th>What to Submit to SSA</th>
<th>What to Submit to University Applications Processing Center</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Freshman (Non-Macaulay)</td>
<td>February 1st</td>
<td>Creative Challenge</td>
<td>All other application materials</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Freshman (Macaulay Honors Applicant)</td>
<td>Dec. 1 for CUNY Application, Feb. 1 for Creative Challenge</td>
<td>Creative Challenge</td>
<td>All other application materials</td>
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<td>Current CCNY Student</td>
<td>February 1st</td>
<td>Creative Challenge, CCNY Transcript</td>
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<tr>
<td>External Transfer</td>
<td>February 1st</td>
<td>Creative Challenge, Unofficial College Transcript* Portfolio only if transferring from another NAAB-accredited program</td>
<td>All other application materials</td>
</tr>
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International Students

Evaluation of non-U.S. credentials by an authorized agency are often needed by students for their application. CUNY’s preferred agencies for this purpose are ECE, Evaluation Service Inc., Josef Silny & Associates, and Transcript Research. Applicants with design backgrounds should request a course-by-course evaluation. Applicants without design backgrounds should request a general evaluation with GPA.

Please see the CCNY Admissions International Applicants page and CUNY International Students Financial Resources page for more details.

Important Transfer Information

If you are transferring from another NAAB-accredited architectural program, you will need to submit a portfolio with your Creative Challenge. The portfolio will allow our admissions team to place you in design studio. Transfer students’ credits will be evaluated after they are accepted to the university. The department and university will not tell you which courses you will receive credit for before you apply or are accepted into the program. Prospective transfer students will not be advised on which courses to take at another institution while they await acceptance at the Spitzer School of Architecture. Curricula change frequently, each school is different, and course content varies widely. Therefore, advisement with a guarantee of transfer credit is impossible. In order to expedite the transfer evaluation process, transfer students who are accepted should be ready to provide copies of syllabi, course descriptions, and writing samples or coursework. The more information you can supply to our faculty/department coordinators, the better they will be able to evaluate the work you did at your previous institution(s) and determine if you will receive transfer credit.
CCNY is one of the country’s foremost “engines of mobility” and we here at Spitzer are doing our part in Architecture to educate students with truly diverse perspectives.

Architecture is a wonderful field of study. It is so much more than designing and constructing buildings, although it is that too. It is a way of asking and answering questions about the world, through studying the built environment, and designing the places that we humans have built for our own use, our habitats or settlements.

It’s a bit of art
It’s pragmatic
It’s engineering
It’s computer programming
It’s economics
It’s sociology and geography
It’s making stuff
It’s analyzing the past
It’s imagining the future
It’s designing at all scales.

June Williamson
Architecture Department Chair and Associate Professor

With over 50 years of training students in New York City, the Spitzer School and its alumni network have vast and varied connections with city agencies, firms large and small, as well as construction companies and design firms. Each spring, there is a Career Fair that welcomes some of the city’s top employers to look for interns as well as part-time and full-time employees. Almost all employers have an SSA alumni at the table – we are proud of our representation in the city and know our students have a reputation for being well trained, thoughtful, flexible, and creative.

Internships are always paid for our students; we partner with our Career Development office and extend all opportunities to students when they come to the department.

“IT IS NO ACCIDENT THAT THIS INSTITUTION HAS PRODUCED 10 NOBEL PRIZE WINNERS ALONG WITH COUNTLESS CAPTAINS OF INDUSTRY, CULTURAL ICONS, LEADERS AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT. BECAUSE TALENT AND EFFORT COMBINED WITH OUR VARIOUS BACKGROUNDSS AND LIFE EXPERIENCES HAS ALWAYS BEEN THE LIFEblood OF OUR SINGULAR AMERICAN GENIUS.”

Michelle Obama
First Lady of the United States
CCNY Commencement 2016
The Only Accredited Public School of Architecture in Manhattan

450 Students
23 Full-Time Faculty
55 Adjunct Faculty
17 Staff Members
2 Visiting Professors Each Semester

135,000ft² Building with Roof-top Amphitheater

3,000ft² Fabrication Lab & Model Shop With Wood-Working, Milling Machines, and 3D Printers

1 Solar Roofpod & Urban Farm

The City College of New York CUNY

35,000 Volumes In Our Architectural Library

27 Average Age Of Incoming Graduate Student

$3,465 Undergraduate Tuition Per Semester

$6,485 Graduate Tuition Per Semester

31 Studios
8 Degree Programs
95 Degrees Granted In 2020