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

Bachelor of Architecture

Michael Miller
Director of Undergraduate Affairs
212.650.5454
mmiller@ccny.cuny.edu

Annemarie (Amy) Daniel
Assistant Director of Undergraduate Affairs
212.650.8748
adaniel@ccny.cuny.edu

Application Deadline
Undergraduate
February 1, 2022
Welcome to the Bernard and Anne Spitzer School of Architecture at the City College of New York!

True to the unique spirit of New York City, our studio network offers dynamic core training in specific programs with many opportunities for interdisciplinary collaboration and partnership.

We offer:

Professional Degrees
- Bachelor of Architecture
- Master of Architecture
- Master of Landscape Architecture

Post-Professional Degrees
- Master of Urban Planning (Urban Design)
- Master of Science in Architecture

Our Master of Science in Urban Sustainability and J. Max Bond Center for Urban Futures affiliated programs lend expertise and focus across the curriculum.

Much as our disciplines have been designed to increasingly interconnect, enriching natural synergies between focus of study, our community celebrates the unique experience and identity of each student.

Our faculty and staff are committed to continually evolve our teaching practice to include more of the cultures and history of our student body; this diversity shapes, refocuses, and tests tradition, emboldening new direction and purpose in our field.

We favor dialogue, discussion, and conversation over top-down teaching where you’re told what to learn and do; communication is the foundation of effective and responsible creation. We emphasize the skills required to collaborate under fluid and challenging conditions to underline their absolute value in today’s job market.

The Spitzer School cultivates thought-leaders as well as practitioners, practical and empathetic professionals for whom the common, public good lies at the heart of their profession.

We shape the students of the future. In turn, they shape the future.
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

**Fall Term 1**
- Core Studio 1
- Visual Studies 1
- Pre-calculus

**Spring Term 2**
- Core Studio 2
- Visual Studies 2
- The Built Environment of NYC

**Fall Term 3**
- Core Studio 3
- Survey of World Architecture 1
- Physics for Architects
- Site Technology

**Spring Term 4**
- Core Studio 4
- Portfolio Review
- Survey of World Architecture 2
- Structures 1
- Construction Technology 1

**Fall Term 5**
- Core Studio 5
- Survey of World Architecture 3
- Construction Technology 2
- Structures 2

**Spring Term 5**
- Core Studio 5
- Survey of World Architecture 4
- Construction Technology 3
- Structures 3

**Fall Term 7**
- Advanced Studio (1 of 4)
- Advanced Computing

**Spring Term 8**
- Advanced Studio (2 of 4)

**Fall Term 9**
- Advanced Studio (3 of 4)
- Professional Management

**Spring Term 10**
- Advanced Studio (4 of 4)

- "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

East Harlem Recreation Center. Jenine Shane Mangubat & Moriah Amesbury with Professor Jason Kim
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.
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.
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>
</tr>
</thead>
<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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current CCNY Student</td>
<td>February 1st</td>
<td>Creative Challenge, CCNY Transcript</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<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>
</tbody>
</table>

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.
About SSA & CCNY

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

“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 backgrounds and life experiences has always been the lifeblood of our singular American genius.”

Michelle Obama
First Lady of the United States
CCNY Commencement 2016

Career Development & Job Opportunities

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.

About SSA & CCNY

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

“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 backgrounds 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
- **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
- **101** Degrees Granted In 2021

**The City College of New York**

Michael Miller
Director of Undergraduate Affairs
212.650.5454
mmiller@ccny.cuny.edu

Annemarie (Amy) Daniel
Assistant Director of Undergraduate Affairs
212.650.8748
adaniel@ccny.cuny.edu

**Study Architecture in New York City**

The Only Accredited Public School of Architecture in Manhattan

Volumes In Our Architectural Library

Solar Roofpod & Urban Farm

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

135,000 ft² Building with Roof-top Amphitheater

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

1 Solar Roofpod & Urban Farm

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

101 Degrees Granted In 2021