



Graduate Study in Design and Environmental Analysis

Master of Arts in DESIGN Concentration: INTERIOR DESIGN

Two-Year Graduate Program

AREA OF STUDY: Design History, Theory and Criticism

The Master of Arts program in **Design History, Theory and Criticism** at Cornell University examines the meaning of form and objects, spaces and interior environments as a material expression of society. The aim of our program is to advance design knowledge through historical research by engaging theoretical explorations and critical assessment. We place a strong emphasis on historiography and analytical methodologies. Graduates advance into design practice and intellectual careers in universities and other scholarly organizations.

Associated faculty members come from diverse academic backgrounds and explore salient design practices, cultural constructs and significant shifts over time. Course offerings vary according to student interest and may feature allied disciplines of architecture, art history, anthropology, hotel administration, performing arts and landscape architecture.

One of the most prolific and notable research studies in the Department of Design and Environmental Analysis is the *Intypes Teaching and Research Project*. Intypes identify ideal examples of historical and culturally determined practices of interior design. The project creates a typology of contemporary design practices that have not been named, generates a design-specific vocabulary and produces a new knowledge base from practice-led research. Research is disseminated through a free, open, searchable web database: intypes.cornell.edu. The web site was launched at NeoCon in June 2009 in conjunction with founding partners, the International Interior Design Association (IIDA) and *Interior Design*.

"The breadth, depth & scope of this [Intypes] project represent a boundary stretching leap for the interior design profession."

-- Cheryl Durst, Fellow, Executive Vice President/CEO, IIDA

CAREERS

History, theory and criticism studies of contemporary interior architecture and interior design sharpen design skills, teach critical thinking, and lead to analytical and interpretative writing. Most students enter professional practice in medium to large interdisciplinary architectural firms. Three former graduate students teach in interior design programs.

M.A. REQUIREMENTS for Design History, Theory and Criticism

DEA field courses required or recommended:			
DEA 2550	Design Strategy and Management	<i>Recommended</i>	3 credits
DEA 4500	Policy Meets Design: High-impact Facilities of the 21 st Century	<i>Recommended</i>	3 credits
DEA 6100	Studies in Design Thinking	<i>Required</i>	3 credits
DEA 6200	Studies in Human-Environment Relations	<i>Required</i>	3 credits
DEA 7100	DEA Graduate Pro Seminar	<i>Required</i>	*1 credit (*each semester)

Research & Design Methods courses: (choose 2; 1 research method and 1 design method)		
DEA 2730	Human Centered Design Methods (design method)	3 credits
DEA 6500	Problem-Seeking through Programming (design method)	4 credits
EDUC 6940	Case Study Methodology: Designs, Methods & Inferences (research method)	3 credits
Various	Architectural/Art History/Criticism (research method)	4 credits

Behavior & social responsibility courses: (choose 1 course)		
DEA 4100	Diversity and Facility Design	3 credits
DEA 4220	Ecological Literacy and Design	3 credits
DEA 6520	The Ambient Environment	4 credits
DEA 6550	Healthcare Innovations	3 credits

Studio-based courses: (choose 1 course)		
DEA 4210	Interactive and Adaptive Environments	4 credits
DEA 4402	Disruptive Design: Competitions Studio	4 credits
DEA 6000	Special Problems for Grads (project-based)	varies
DEA 5540	Workplace Strategies Studio	4 credits

History, Theory & Criticism course:		
Various	Architectural/Art History/Anthropology ⁱ	4 credits

Thesis course:		
DEA 8990	Master's Thesis *	8-12 credits

Summary of Curriculum	Number of Courses	Total Credits
Required DEA field courses	6	10 (6 +1/ semester)
Research & Design Methods Required Courses	2	6-8
Behavior & Social Responsibility Courses	1	3-4
Studio-based Courses	1	4
History, Theory & Criticism Course	1	4
Master's Thesis *	1-2	8-12
Minor and Specialization Courses	3	9-12
Additional Courses (if not TA)	1-3	3-9
Total Courses: 16-19		Total Credits: 47-63

*Thesis research is typically taken in each of the two semesters of the second year, with 3 credits in the third semester, and 7 credits in the fourth semester. This can vary and should be determined in consultation with the student's Chair.

NOTE: A minimum grade of B- is required for courses taken within the major.

SUGGESTED COURSEWORK

In addition to the M.A. requirements listed below, the following courses count towards the 9-12 credits in the research specialization. Courses are selected in consultation with your graduate thesis chair and committee. Suggested courses in research specialty vary considerably and students are encouraged to identify courses in addition to those listed that will enhance their focus of study. Consult the university's online Courses of Study for current course offerings.

Suggested Courses: Research Specialty (*not offered every year; ** offered in summer only; *** no longer offered)	
ARCH 6401	Architecture in its Cultural Context I
ARCH 6402	Architecture in its Cultural Context II
ARCH 6816	Seminar in Special Topics in the History of Architecture
ARTH 3650	History and Theory of Digital Art
ARTH 4508	Exhibiting Cultures: Museums, Monuments, Representations, and Display
ARTH 4602	Buildings and Bodies: Constructing Spaces in Early Modern Art
ARTH 4818	Exhibition Seminar
ARTH 6144	Responsive Environments
EDUC 4402	Anthropology of Education
EDUC 6610	Complex Organizations, Education and Development*
HADM 4510	Restaurant Development
HADM 4570	Hotel Development
HADM 6020	Spa and Spa Hotel and Resort Development and Management
LA 4860/7910	Placemaking by Design

ⁱ ANTHR 6401 Material Theory I: Landscape and Place
 ANTHR 6402 Material Theory II: Assemblage and Object
 ANTHR 6452 Evidence: Ethnography and Historical Method
 ARCH 5301 Theories and Analyses of Architecture I
 ARCH 5302 Theories and Analyses of Architecture II
 ARCH 6305 Theory and Criticism in Architecture
 ART 6000 Graduate Seminar: Contemporary Theory and Art
 LA 5900 Theoretical Foundations

PMA 6610 Theorizing Media and Performance
 PMA 6835 Performance Studies: Theories and Methods