

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE: An Introduction

"There clearly is a desperate need for professionals who are conservationists by instinct, but who care not only to preserve but to create and manage. These persons cannot be impeccable scientists for such purity would immobilize them. They must be workmen who are instinctively interested in the physical and biological sciences, and who seek this information so that they may obtain the license to interpose their creative skills upon the land. The landscape architect meets these requirements." -Ian McHarg, FASLA

...Always an environmentally conscious profession, today landscape architects are at the forefront of a movement to create livable communities--practical, sustainable, and enjoyable developments that protect the natural world. In increasing numbers, landscape architects are called upon to design large-scale conservation plans, reclaim neglected inner city brown fields, and restore damaged wetlands and forests.

The profession has never been in so much demand.

A Profession in Demand

Landscape architecture is a comprehensive discipline of land analysis, planning, design, management, preservation, and rehabilitation. Typical projects include site design and planning, town and urban planning, regional planning, environmental impact plans, garden design, historic preservation, and parks design and planning. Landscape architects hold undergraduate or graduate degrees and are licensed in 46 of the 50 states.

Landscape architects take steps to forecast what the long-term impacts of a project will be. Through the design and planning of places, they encourage the adoption of healthy, environmentally sound, and responsible attitudes by people who inhabit or use them. These professionals also generate design, planning, management strategies, and policy from the basis of the cultural context and the ecosystem to which each landscape belongs. They strive to maintain, conserve, or reestablish the diversity of biological systems and are committed to the use of native and compatible materials and plants.

Furthermore, landscape architects strive to develop and use building products and materials that exemplify the principles of sustainable development. They ensure that construction is of the highest quality, that site protection is integral to the project, and that low-impact construction technology is used during all phases of the process. Where waste exists, landscape architects reuse, recycle, and transform.

The practice of landscape architecture involves numerous processes, each with their own methodology. The processes vary depending on the scale of the project, its stage of development, the client and/or community groups involved, the product, and the planning, design and communication tools selected.

Some examples of typical landscape architectural processes and products include:

- * Feasibility studies*
- * Environmental impact studies*
- * Environmental planning*
- * Wetlands mitigation, preservation or replacement*
- * Storm water management*
- * Land reclamation*
- * Comprehensive plans*
- * Master plans*
- * Digital design services and 3D visual modeling*
- * Historic preservation*

- * *ADA compliance and accessibility plans*
- * *Renderings and scale model construction*
- * *Site analysis and evaluation*
- * *Schematic design*
- * *Design development*
- * *Construction documents*

The preceding information from:
 LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE FOUNDATION
www.LAprofession.org

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | FIU | Undergraduate Program

Bachelor of Landscape Architecture

The Landscape Architecture Department at Florida International University offers a first professional degree curricula leading to the Bachelor of Landscape Architecture.

The focus of the program is the development of the basic knowledge, skills, and abilities appropriate to the practice of Landscape Architecture, with a special emphasis on tropical and sub-tropical landscapes. Elective course work within an interdisciplinary context in allied areas including Environmental Studies, Biological Sciences, Civil and Environmental Engineering, Geology, Geography and others, is encouraged. Directed Electives and Special Topics courses are aimed at providing students with a well-rounded curriculum that facilitates their entry to the profession.

The program requires a total of 128 credit hours. Discipline-specific courses in the Lower Division of the program will be aligned and cross-listed with current undergraduate offerings within the School of Architecture programs in architecture and interior design. Interdisciplinary education is part of the mission and goal of the School of Architecture—and a desired structure in national standards for Undergraduate Education in all disciplines. Selected Upper Division courses are offered as combined courses with the existing graduate program in landscape architecture. This interaction within the structure of the school provides a unique opportunity to strengthen the educational requirements of both the undergraduate and graduate students.

The Bachelor of Landscape Architecture degree will prepare graduates with the necessary knowledge, skills, and abilities to work in a broad range of environments. Among such opportunities are:

- Public sector employment in municipal and regional planning agencies, community development department, and parks and recreation departments
- Federal agencies including the National Park Service; the US Forest Service; the Bureau of Land Management; and the US Army Corps of Engineers
- Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) such as The Trust for Public Lands and The Nature Conservancy
- Environmental protection and conservation organizations such as the Sierra Club, the Audubon Society, and the Izak Walton League
- Private practice, both in landscape architectural offices and in architectural and engineering firms, working on a broad range of projects
- Landscape architects will be increasingly involved in preserving and restoring wetlands and other environmentally sensitive sites. (Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Outlook Handbook 2004-05)

- In addition to work related to new development and construction, landscape architects are expected to be involved in historic preservation, land reclamation and refurbishment of existing sites.

The Curriculum

During the first two years landscape architecture, architecture and interior design students share the same curriculum composed of common core coursework. In these courses students work side by side to learn basic design, design history, and building practices.

The trans-disciplinary curriculum provides landscape architecture students with the opportunity of developing creative and critical thinking abilities, essential skills needed for effective design thinking, and understanding of environmental and social issues that impact the profession.

Design Studio Sequence_Lower Division

The undergraduate programs at the School of Architecture are built around a series of eight design studios to be taken in sequence. Beginning in the fall term the first four studios in the lower division are taken along with the common core program. During the spring semester of the second year students interested in continuing in the landscape architecture program must pass selective admissions before continuing on to upper division.

Professional Curriculum_Upper Division

Students entering the upper division of the landscape architecture program will graduate with skills to:

- Demonstrate a proficiency in the areas of site, community, and regional design planning.
- Possess a clear understanding of the importance of quality of life issues as related to the creation of designed environments that are compatible with the natural environment, as exemplified by their executed works.
- Have a significant understanding of and respect for natural and cultural systems. They will possess the necessary tools to address such issues appropriately.
- Have the capacity to engage their knowledge, skills, and abilities independently, in a multiplicity of problem-solving scenarios.
- Reflect an appreciation for diversity; a demonstrated capacity for oral, graphic, and written presentation; and a proficiency in the implementation of appropriate technologies related to the discipline.

The BLA course distribution at the Upper Division is structured to satisfy the accreditation requirements in the following areas:

- Landscape architecture history and theory
- Design
- Landscape planning and management at various scales and applications
- Communication in written, verbal and visual applications
- Plants and ecosystems at various scales and situations
- Construction materials, methods and technologies
- Professional practice methods, values and ethics
- Computing applications and other advanced technologies

Electives and Directed Elective credits may be used independently or can be used as part of the Fall Study Abroad Option.

Study Abroad: The School of Architecture in Italy

GENOA ITALY

The Landscape Architecture Department offers education abroad opportunities at the school's facility in Genoa, Italy. Students may opt for a full semester abroad or a 6 weeks stay during the summer. Over the course of the fall semester, students will study artistic, urban, landscape and architectural models of exceptional and enduring value to Western culture. The students' cultural exposure while living in Genoa will provide the background necessary to appreciate an architectural and urban environment, which has continuously reflected Italian social, intellectual and artistic values. Genoa remains one of the very few cities in Italy that maintains both an extraordinary range of historically significant works of architecture and landscape architecture, as well as an ever-increasing wealth of major contemporary works by the world's foremost designers.

The education abroad program is trans-disciplinary with Architecture and Interior Design students from the School of Architecture.

CREDITS 13-15

COURSES

Italian Language and Culture (3 credits)
Architecture and the City (3 credits)
Modern Art and Italy (3 credits)
Design Studio (4 credits)

FACULTY Professor Matthew Rice, in conjunction with UNIGE faculty, and the staff of the Wolfsonian Museum.

Program **Contact Information**

Office of Education Abroad, DM442
T: 305.348.1913 E: ois@fiu.edu
W: <http://ois.fiu.edu>

Certificate in Landscape Architecture

The Landscape Architecture Department has identified a need for variable options for our under graduate student body. The certificate program will require 18 semester credit hours chosen from different course areas within the landscape architecture program.

This program is for students currently enrolled in the School of Architecture undergraduate programs, however motivated undergraduate students in related areas of study are permitted to pursue this certificate as approved by the undergraduate student advisor and department chair.

Application Process

Admission is competitive and is not automatically guaranteed to applicants who meet minimum requirements. Admission will be offered on a space available basis to those applicants judged by the Faculty Admissions Committee to have the greatest potential for successful completion of the program.

The school of Architecture maintains a controlled enrollment process to enhance the quality of its programs. Physical space is limited, thus limiting the number of students who may be accepted into the majors.

Upper Division Applicants

Students seeking admission to the Upper Division must have a cumulative GPA in all University work of 2.50, have completed a minimum of 60 credits, have completed the CLAST requirement, have completed design studio courses 1 through and including 4 with a grade of 'C' or better, and be judged by the Faculty Admission Committee to have passed a competitive portfolio review. All applicants will have their credentials reviewed prior to full admission into the program. All applicants for admission to the Upper Division must submit a portfolio for review by the established deadlines. Only grades of 'C' or higher (2.0 on a 4.0 grading scale) are accepted for transfer of applicable pre-requisite and core courses from other institutions. No grade below a 'c' will be accepted for graduation in required courses or required electives.

Freshman Applicants

Consideration for Early Freshman Admission is December 1.

Freshmen wishing to study in the School of Architecture should apply directly to the University. These students will be placed in a pre-architecture program for the Lower Division preparation toward the degree. Students will be monitored for appropriate progress toward the Upper Division. Students not making satisfactory progress will be required to meet with advisors and may be referred to the University advising center to seek a change of intended major. Admission to the pre-major does not guarantee that seats will be available in design studio courses.

Transfer Student Applicants

Transfer applicants seeking admission to the major must meet the criteria set for Upper Division applicants. Students receiving the AA degree from the architectural studies program at Miami Dade College are eligible for consideration for admission to the junior year under an agreed upon process.

All transfer applicants who do not meet the criteria for consideration for admission to the Upper Division may be admitted to the pre-major. These applicants cannot be guaranteed admission to the major and must compete for available space on the criteria set for admission to the Upper Division. Admission to the pre-major does not guarantee that seats will be available in design studio courses.

All prospective students who are considering the landscape architecture major within the School of Architecture must meet the University's general admission requirements. The landscape architecture program requires specific prerequisite preparation prior to enrollment in certain courses.

Application Deadlines

The School of Architecture considers applications for admission to the Lower Division and Upper Division majors only for the Fall Semester. The deadline for submitting applications and portfolios for review is February 1.

Upper Division Portfolio Requirements

The portfolio of creative design work should demonstrate the students' creative abilities as well as their design and graphic skills. The selection committee wants to see students' best work in order to evaluate their potential for advanced design. We encourage students to select no more than 10 examples of design work executed within the previous two years. Portfolios should be limited to work directly produced by the applicant.

The portfolio must contain:

- A selection of the student's design projects produced in studio over the last two years.

- A one-page (maximum) statement outlining the student's intentions, aspirations, and purpose in pursuing a professional degree in Landscape Architecture.

The portfolio may also contain:

- Examples of recent art and / or design projects that you have completed on your own in collaboration with others. (Please explain what your role was in the work)
- Studies of buildings that demonstrate your analytical ability.
Note: The School of Architecture admissions committee does not regard samples of architectural, landscape architectural or interior design construction documents (by hand or computer) as useful indicators of aptitude or promise in design and we discourage their inclusion in the portfolio.

Format

The portfolio format should be 8 1/2" x 11", bound or carefully packaged with a maximum thickness of 3", however, participants may include 11" x 17" sheets folded to 8 1/2" x 11". The review process cannot accommodate slides, videos, computer disks or other formats that require electric power to view. However, you may include two-dimensional storyboards (a sequence of still images that show a story), computer printouts, and photographs of small three-dimensional models/projects within the document itself.

Deadlines

Check with the School of Architecture for the portfolio submission deadline and latest information

Resources

Catalog requests online: <http://www.fiu.edu/org/register/catalogs.html>

Applications online: <http://admissions.fiu.edu/application.htm>

Financial Aid online: <http://www.fiu.edu/orgs/finaid/>

Scholarships: <http://admissions.fiu.edu/scholarships.htm>

Housing online: <http://www.fiu.edu/%7Ehousing/>

School of Architecture: 305-348-3181 www.fiu.edu/~soa

Master of Landscape Architecture

Accredited by LAAB

The Graduate Program in Landscape Architecture prepares students for research and practice while focusing on the design, planning, and management of tropical and subtropical landscapes. The unique natural and cultural environments of South Florida, tropical America, the Bahamas, and the Antilles provide firsthand experience of a wide range of landscapes; the study, enrichment, and preservation of which are emphasized through relevant course work, field trips, and service activities. The Everglades and Biscayne National Parks, Fairchild Tropical Garden, and Vizcaya Palace and Gardens are among the many regional resources readily available to students enrolled in the Program. The School of Architecture also offers study and research opportunities in cooperation with institutions in tropical America and Mediterranean Europe.

The program's curriculum accommodates individual research interests within a rigorous academic framework. The School offers two options within the Program. The Professional Degree is intended for individuals without a degree in landscape architecture. This course of study leading to the first professional Master of Landscape Architecture degree is accredited by the Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board (LAAB), an autonomous committee of the American Society of Landscape Architects. The Post-Professional Degree Master of Arts in Landscape Architecture is intended for individuals with an undergraduate degree in landscape architecture who wish to pursue advanced study.

THREE-YEAR TRACK – 84 Credits

A professional degree for individuals with a Bachelor of Arts or a Bachelor of Science or equivalent, from an accredited institution.

TWO-YEAR TRACK – 60 Credits

A professional degree for individuals with an undergraduate degree in planning, urban design, or architecture from an accredited program, or with a pre-professional undergraduate degree in planning, landscape architecture, urban design, or architecture. Advanced standing may be granted, not to exceed 24 credits for undergraduate courses with a grade of 3.0 or better on a 4.0 point scale.

ONE-YEAR TRACK – 36 Credits

A professional degree for individuals with a graduate degree in planning, urban design, or architecture from an accredited professional program. Advanced standing may be granted, not to exceed 48 credits for graduate courses with a grade of 3.0 or better on a 4.0 point scale. Satisfactory completion of 36 credits in the following course of study is required.

Thesis and concentration

36

Master of Arts in Landscape Architecture

Post-Professional Degree

(Not eligible for accreditation by LAAB)

A post-professional degree for individuals with a Bachelor of Landscape Architecture from a program accredited by LAAB. Two years of full-time study in residency are normally required. Satisfactory completion of 60 credits in the following course of study is required.

Studio	18
Thesis and concentration	42

Graduate Certificate in Landscape Architecture

The Landscape Architecture Department has identified a need for variable options for our graduate student body. The certificate program will require 18 semester credit hours chosen from different course areas within the landscape architecture program.

This program is for students currently enrolled in the School of Architecture Graduate Programs, however motivated graduate students in related areas of study are permitted to pursue this certificate as approved by the graduate advisor and department chair.

Study Abroad: The School of Architecture in Italy

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Program is trans-disciplinary with Architecture and Interior Design students from the School of Architecture.

Program CONTACT INFORMATION

Office of Education Abroad, DM442

T: 305.348.1913 E: ois@fiu.edu

W: <http://ois.fiu.edu>

Awards and Scholarships

The following awards and scholarships are presented to students fully admitted to the Graduate Program in Landscape Architecture who have demonstrated outstanding achievement in their studies.

American Society of Landscape Architects Awards. On nomination by the Department faculty the American Society of Landscape Architects awards a Certificate of Honor and a Certificate of Merit to the two students who have demonstrated a high degree of academic scholarship and of accomplishments in skills related to the art and technology of landscape architecture.

The Ernest and Virginia Makemson Memorial Endowed Scholarship Fund.

This scholarship fund provides support for meritorious projects that propose restoration and preservation of Florida's natural and cultural environment through the practice of landscape architecture.

Graduate Admissions

All applicants must meet University admissions requirements. All applicants to the Graduate Landscape Architecture Programs must submit a portfolio of creative work by the established deadlines (usually February 1). The minimum requirements for admission are a GPA of 3.0 or higher, or a combined GRE score of 1000 or higher, or a graduate degree from an accredited institution. All applicants are required to submit transcripts and test scores to the University's Office of Admissions. In addition, all applicants are required to separately submit a portfolio of creative work. This portfolio must be mailed directly to the School of Architecture's Graduate Admissions Committee. Admission to the Graduate Landscape Architecture Programs is partially determined by an extensive portfolio review by the Faculty Admissions Committee that examines evidence of creative work, previous academic success, and professional achievement.

Portfolio Format

The portfolio of creative design work should demonstrate the students' creative abilities as well as their design and graphic skills. The selection committee wants to see students' best work in order to evaluate their potential for advanced design. We encourage students to select no more than 10 examples of design work executed within the previous two years. Portfolios should be limited to work directly produced by the applicant.

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Application Deadlines

The School of Architecture admits students once a year with programs commencing in the Fall Semester. The deadline for submitting applications and portfolios for review is **February 1**. Notice of admission actions will normally be mailed on April 1. Students must indicate clearly – on both their application and on their portfolio submission - which degree and which track they are applying to.

Resources

Catalog requests online: <http://www.fiu.edu/orgs/register/gradCatalog.html>

Graduate Admissions online: <http://gradschool.fiu.edu/admissions.html>

Graduate Financial Aid online: <http://gradschool.fiu.edu/financial.html>

Housing online: <http://www.fiu.edu/%7Ehousing/>

School of Architecture: 305-348-3181 www.fiu.edu/~soa