Premise
For some, architecture is merely a way of sheltering people from nature and the environment. For others, architecture affords economic and financial prosperity – e.g., as witnessed with developers and real estate agents. However, buildings must also serve to satisfy fundamental human needs, such as comfort, memory, and spiritual well-being. As the contemporary Viennese architect, Hans Hollein once said, “architecture should maintain body temperature and ritual.” This course, and its projects, will engage fundamental design skills as well as the concepts required in the design of Architecture.

Objectives
ARCH 6101 is the first studio course for those enrolled in the MArch 1 Program following ARCH 6100. The studio explores the fundamental concepts, processes, and skills required to understand architectural design. The primary objectives of the course are as follows:

a. introduction to basic manual and digital representation and graphic techniques,
b. introduction to design principles, analysis and research techniques,
c. understanding an architecture based on concepts and/or ideas,
d. introduction to physical making (shop and/or digital labs)
e. understanding architecture as an artistic/spatial discourse.

Content
The semester is structured around a series of design and analysis exercises and concludes with a cumulative project. The studio investigates both abstract and real-life architectural situations. The final project for the course shall be a small building with a specific programmatic type.

This course will introduce the following criteria for professional architectural programs as required by the NAAB:

A.2 DESIGN THINKING SKILLS-ABILITY
A.5 Ordering Systems-Ability
A.6 Use of Precedents

Method
Design Studio: Course work assigned will be studio-based. Design projects are intended to initiate a range of discussions on architecture and design-related subjects. The development of a foundation of critical thinking skills and spatial understanding of form are objectives of these assignments.

Field Studies: A field trip to Chicago is scheduled during the semester. The trip compliments studio work and is considered integral to the course and an important piece of the beginning of your architectural education.

In-Class Lectures and Discussion of Readings: At various points during semester the instructor will present topics on architecture that serve as an introductory background and history of architecture. At times these lectures will supplement studio projects and analytical exercises, while some presentations may be for general information only. Also, texts and essays issued by the instructor will be discussed in class (students will be responsible for all reading prior to these lecture and/or discussion sessions).