PREMISE
The final year of the MArch professional degree program is the period in which 2-year and 3-1/2 year masters students bring closure on the curricular knowledge they have acquired during the program. This “thesis year” is a rigorous investigation, compilation, research, writing, and design-oriented set of activities that marks the end to the student’s accredited graduate educational experience. In turn it prepares students for professional practice, post-professional programs, and a general awareness of the rigors of architectural research.

An architectural thesis is a research proposition that is presented as an argument, based on an existing field of scholarship, and structured in a way that provides a unique opportunity to engage in activities that address these issues via design and/or research. This set of academic experiences establishes a rigorous path for MArch students in their final year of study. Successful completion of the thesis concludes with a public presentation of a research project and the compilation of a comprehensive document that is submitted to, and approved by, the faculty.

METHOD AND CONTENT
Thesis Document is divided into two parts: the first half consists of focused assignments aimed to collect and analyze work by important designers and writers. With this material the student is asked to synthesize and argue a unique position based on the work of these individuals. The last week of the first half of the fall semester will be spent preparing a presentation of student progress that communicates the intellectual framework students have used to contextualize the central argument, concept, or historical question they will pursue in the thesis. Case studies and written discourse exposing the details of their position will be brought to the forefront in the second part of the semester, along with a narrative discourse that argues a particular position. In addition, students will be expected to describe and arrange the pieces to be manifest as a project in the spring term.


BIBLIOGRAPHY

EVALUATIONS / GRADING
UNCCharlotte graduate grading scale shall be used as defined in the current University catalog.