Center City Building Common Studio Description

“Thinking is too easy. The mind in its flight rarely meets with resistance. Hence the vital importance for the intellectual of touching concrete objects and of learning discipline in his intercourse with them....”

Jose Oretga

Integrated Design Research Studio
The Integrated Design Research Studio is part of the 5th year program located uptown in the Center Building (CCB). In this location students are immersed in an urban environment that allows students to more readily engage with local architects, industry and the city.

Studio Alignment
Students will chose one of the two studios offered (Beorkrem or West – see below). All students will work in teams of two. Both studios will engage the same site and many parts of the same program. The studios will engage similar but not identical cultural programs. The deadlines and requirements for the two studios will be the same.

All students will develop a fully resolved building design and strong technical documentation of the project including generative design ideas, program development, site design, building technology integration, materials and detailing, and basic code compliance.

Software Integration
Part of the 5th year studio is generously supported by Autodesk. This support includes providing next generation software packages and workshop seminars directed by a team of Autodesk research engineers. This is an opportunity to take leadership roles within the industry and to define a more thoughtful incorporation of computation practices in architectural design processes working directly with industry leaders. The studio’s research will represent the next generation of computational design in architectural practice.

The Integrated Design Research Studio seeks to leverage these innovative computational techniques to achieve the requirements to meet the National Architecture Accrediting Board (NAAB);

- Comprehending the importance of research as it informs the design process
- Evaluating options and reconciling the implications of design decisions across systems and scales
- Synthesizing variables from diverse and complex systems into an integrated architectural solution
- Responding to environmental stewardship goals across multiple systems for an integrated solution


**Studio Faculty**
Chris’ teaching, research and practice activities focus on the pursuit of digitally augmented construction processes for recycling industrial by-products and building materials and systems.

Betsy's teaching, research and practice activities explore the cultural, social, political and physical aspects of architecture and its relationship to landscape.