

THE COOPER UNION

MASTER OF ARCHITECTURE II

NEW POST-PROFESSIONAL PROGRAM

THE IRWIN S. CHANIN SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE

MASTER OF ARCHITECTURE II

The Irwin S. Chanin School of Architecture fosters the commitment on the part of students and faculty alike to the exploration of complex relationships of education, practice, theory and research. Fundamental to the school is the maintenance of a long-established creative environment where rigorous investigation, discipline of work and constant discovery in architecture pervade. In addition, the small size of the school enables an interdisciplinary integration of the arts, sciences and humanities, taking advantage of the overlap and intersection between studio work and a rich culture of research and creative inquiry.

The Cooper Union's location in the heart of New York City allows students to live, work and study in a world city that provides unique social and cultural institutions—an urban laboratory unparalleled in

its stimulation and opportunities for research. The faculty of the school includes a wealth of practicing professionals of the highest distinction, internationally renowned architects who have built celebrated buildings and have won awards and competitions both nationally and internationally, together with distinguished historians, critics and theorists with a significant record of published work. The school's diverse student body consists of highly talented and motivated individuals, while its distinguished alumni are leaders in architecture, architectural education, and related fields. The interrelations among the three professional schools—Architecture, Art, and Engineering—and the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, allow for collaboration and interaction across fields and disciplines.

The Master of Architecture II (M.Arch. II) is a full-scholarship design research degree open to applicants who hold the degree of Bachelor of Architecture (B.Arch.), Master of Architecture I (M.Arch. I) or an equivalent degree from an international institution, i.e. applicants who have successfully completed a professional program in architecture that fulfilled the educational requirements for professional licensing in the state or country in which the degree was granted. It is expected that before applying to the M.Arch. II program, applicants will have completed a minimum of one year of work experience after obtaining their first professional degree.

The program will serve professionals who wish to continue in practice with higher research and design skills in those areas in which the program offers specialization. It will additionally prepare those who wish to develop parallel careers in teaching and/or continue to engage in research toward an appropriate Ph.D. degree at another institution. Students will complete this program in 3 semesters: two full-time consecutive semesters, followed by a thesis semester during the summer session. The thesis is presented at the beginning of the fall semester. This degree is not accredited by the NAAB.

The program will offer concentrations in one or a combination of three areas: Urban Studies; History, Theory and Criticism of Architecture; and Technologies. Students will declare their desired area(s) of concentration during the application process.

The M.Arch. II Thesis is developed in consultation with a faculty member during the student's final term. The thesis project is an opportunity for each student to define an individual position with regard to a specific aspect of architectural practice. The completed thesis project—outlining an area of study or a problem that addresses issues and consequences for contemporary architectural production—should demonstrate both a mastery of the field of architectural design, and a capacity for independent thinking representing a transition between the academic and professional worlds.

Applications will be accepted for Fall 2008 admission until 15 May 2008.

For more information please visit www.cooper.edu
This deadline applies to all applicants for the receipt of the application and all supporting materials.

Note: Applicants should have completed a minimum of one year of work experience after obtaining their first professional degree before applying to the program.

All applicants to the M.Arch. II program must submit the following:

A completed application form

The application form can be obtained online through the Admissions link at <http://apply.cooper.edu>

Application Fee of \$65

Official academic records (transcripts) from all colleges and universities from which you have received credit

Recent Graduate Record Examination scores (GRE) are required of all applicants

For International Students: Evidence of English Proficiency (TOEFL and TSE scores, or TOEFL internet-based test scores; see www.ets.org for test information)

Letters of Recommendation: three letters are required

Resume/CV

Written Essay: The essay should succinctly explain your interest in the M.Arch. II Program, as well as the specified area of concentration i.e. Urban Studies; History, Theory and Criticism of Architecture; or Technologies.

Examples of written work

Portfolio: Applicants must submit a portfolio that includes their most important and representative design and written work. The portfolio should consist of professional, academic and/or scholarly work. It should be bound into a brochure no larger than 9 by 12 inches (overall size). The Admissions Committee is interested in the quality of the work submitted in the portfolio. Applicants should not submit CDs, slides, loose sheets or original drawings since they will not be considered in the application. Simple packaging is preferred.

Potential candidates will be required to be available and make necessary arrangements for a personal interview. Interview expenses will be the responsibility of the candidate.

URBAN STUDIES

Addresses issues central to the design, planning and development of cities and regions. This area will focus on the question of urban form, including the study of the morphological, social and cultural effects of globalization; the survival of local urban cultures; the redevelopment of central cities, suburbs and exurbs, and issues specific to New York and comparative cities.

HISTORY, THEORY AND CRITICISM OF ARCHITECTURE

Considers questions concerning the history, theory and criticism of modernism and contemporary architecture, the philosophy and aesthetics of architecture, the mediatization of architecture as well as broader cultural and historical issues, to be achieved through the critical readings of texts, and the preparation of a written thesis, as well as work in studio.

TECHNOLOGIES

Focuses on technological issues of architecture including the impact of new information technologies on representation and production, modeling techniques, hardware and software development, new materials and manufacturing processes, developments in new structural systems and building assemblies and the new technologies of fabrication as they influence new design strategies. Also addresses the ethical, economic, and technological dimensions and design potentialities of sustainability.