THE SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE

Spring Immersion 2023
January 17 – March 10
At The School of Architecture, we offer a contemporary design education based on Frank Lloyd Wright’s philosophy of learning by doing, experimentation, and building with the landscape. We strive to bring lasting innovation, equity, and sustainability to the diverse communities that we serve.

The School offers one of the most experimental curricula in the country centered on studio-based, hands-on, integrative learning.

Who We Are

TSOA offers the following programs:
- Master of Architecture
- Master of Science in Architecture
- Immersion Experience

Our unique Shelter Program is the capstone design-build experience of the M.Arch degree that continues a tradition established by Wright and the apprentices in 1937.

Our Master of Architecture degree is accredited by the National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB), the sole agency authorized to accredit U.S. professional degree programs in architecture.
Core Values

All classes and experiences at the school are built on the following shared values and outcomes.

**Learning By Doing**
Go beyond typical design school lectures with hands-on, immersive, and interactive learning experiences. Gain the skills to be a leader in your community and your field.

**Material Knowledge**
Experiment with materials to better understand how they are impacted by society, culture, and climate.

**Immersive Learning**
With faculty and staff in a communal living environment, excel through a holistic learning experience across academics and community life.

Pictured
Student Shelter design-build project at sunrise
“Our school focuses on the relationships between the natural world and the human-made environment, the role of craft and “making” in architecture, and the use of experimental materials and technologies. Our students are encouraged to respect and work within the landscapes around them while developing their own innovative concepts and projects.”

— CHRIS LASCH  
PRESIDENT, TSOA

“The School of Architecture has the strongest culture of hands-on and experiential learning that I have encountered, augmented by the intimate scale of the school's community. Students, along with a number of faculty and staff, live on campus together which fosters a real sense of closeness between different roles at the school where typically there is more distance. This in turn produces many more informal contexts for sharing knowledge and resources within the school as well as with the larger community of Arcosanti where the school is located. I am most excited about how these conditions can inspire new, fresh formats for learning and making.”

— STEPHANIE LIN  
DEAN, TSOA
TSOA’s Immersion Program offers the opportunity to participate in an experience that elevates your architectural design skills and conceptual thinking through our school’s ethos of learning-by-doing.

The program is geared to college-level participants and adults interested in deepening their understanding of the architectural discipline, and provides an opportunity to learn about architecture side-by-side with faculty and students at The School of Architecture.

**Pictured**
*Student at Shelter site*
During the program, you will investigate the basics of design and representation, learn a brief history of Frank Lloyd Wright, explore the stunning desert landscape and campuses of Arcosanti and Cosanti, participate in field trips, and have the opportunity to sit in on our Master of Architecture courses.

The Immersion Studio presents techniques in the architectural design process, through exercises in drawing, composition, material assembly, and modeling. You will complete a final architectural project responding to a design challenge and present this at the end of the program to faculty and students.

**Pictured**
Guest Workshop with LANZA Atelier
TSOA’s Spring Immersion Program will begin by examining particular elements of Arcosanti, its climate, geology, vegetation, and architecture—to inspire experimentation with materials and drawing techniques.

Students will evolve these ideas into an architectural proposal that responds to the landscape, provides commentary or critique on the ways we currently interact with the landscape, or determines how we could shift our relationship with the landscape.

**Pictured**

*Section Drawing of Cinders, a TSOA Shelter project*
Pictured
Spring 2023 Immersion
Student Collage
Students will develop their own ways of modeling with materials that informs a building tectonic for their final projects. Students will engage in a process of feedback and iteration between the building and landscape as mutual entities.

Material operations such as mounding, casting, contouring, or carving are examples of how students will work experimentally. Developing craft and material knowledge will become the primary lens through which students will make spatial discoveries during the program.
Andrew is a designer at Aranda\Lasch whose interests lie in the liminal space between architecture and landscape, particularly in collapsing the urban/wilderness construct. Prior to working with TSOA, he received his Masters of Architecture at UCLA and a Bachelors of Art in Architecture at Berkeley along with a minor in Forestry and Natural Resources.
Program Leaders

CHRIS LASCH

is the President of The School of Architecture, and is a teacher, practitioner, and researcher dedicated to experimental architecture. Established in 2003 with Benjamin Aranda, his studio Aranda Lasch approaches design through a deep investigation of structure and materials. Recognition includes the United States Artists Award, Young Architects Award, Design Vanguard Award, AD Innovators, and the Architectural League Emerging Voices Award.

STEPHANIE LIN

is the Dean of The School of Architecture and the founder of Present Forms, a design practice that explores the techniques and reciprocities of materials, media, and space. Present Forms is a member of design collective Office III, a 2017 finalist in the MoMA PS1 Young Architects Program. Stephanie is the 2023 awardee of the WOJR/Civitella Ranieri Architecture Prize.
Alongside your design studio, all Immersion students are encouraged to audit Spring M.Arch courses, including:

- ARC 502 Studio 2
- ARC 521 Structures 2
- ARC 511 Architectural History 2
- ARC 532 Communicate Design 2
- ARC 551 Sustainability
- ARC 686 Usonia 21

Additionally, you will have the opportunity to observe and assist M.Arch students in the design-build process through their final Thesis Shelter projects.
TSOA’s Event Series follows a long and famous tradition of fostering innovative public discussions and presentations at the School, hosting noted design, cultural, and scientific leaders. Students will have the opportunity to participate in hands-on, multi-day workshops with renowned visiting guests.

Pictured
Student’s fly Tomas Saraceno’s Aerocene during a guest workshop led by SFMOMA curator Joseph Becker
Mondays and Wednesdays will be the primary Immersion studio days, with Friday afternoons reserved for activities, events, field trips, additional desk crits, work sessions, etc.

Studio critic/guest presentations and tutorials will follow a weekly rhythm.
The School's small scale facilitates an individualized experience and fosters a close and dynamic relationship between Immersion students, full-time students, faculty, visiting lecturers and staff. As a part of the Immersion Program, you will contribute to daily community life and activities such preparing meals, planning events, and engaging with the larger community at Arcosanti.

Pictured
Weekly TSOA community dinner
“A characteristic thing in the desert here is, of course, the desert itself. And I have always regarded it as the greatest lesson in construction. Form following function if you like — or form and function being one — that exists. The saguaro is the greatest example of a skyscraper that was ever built. I don’t think we have ever built one similarly — on the same principle. We could.”

Frank Lloyd Wright
on Desert Living,
November 29, 1952

Pictured
Frank Lloyd Wright with his apprentices at Taliesin West
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October 30, 2022
Domestic and International

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tsoa.edu/immersion-apply

INQUIRE
admissions@tsoa.edu

Pictured
Students and faculty at Arcosanti