



School of Architecture

College of Fine Arts | CFA 201
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Theater Architecture I & II

Hal Hayes & Dick Block, Spring 2021, 62:408/708 mini 3 & 418/718 mini 4

This twice-weekly seminar explores architectural design process, design specialization and project development through the typology of theaters. Students will study pre-design methodology, professional team structure, expert consultants' roles, and design coordination. We also study the systems, occupancy, and structural issues that are theater specific.

The course has three merged instructional streams;

- Lecture/discussion sessions presented and facilitated by practicing professionals and faculty experts from within the schools,
- Pre-Design programming & planning of a major theater, paralleling a real project, and
- Collaboration with a large, diverse cohort of students, expert design professionals and community stakeholders specializing on theater projects.

Students are drawn from the CFA Schools of Architecture and Drama and Heinz College's Masters of Arts Management program (MAM). Inter-disciplinary collaboration between the Architecture, Drama and MAM students is emphasized in research, analysis and design exercises; Drama & MAM students participate with Architecture students in design research teams & review the architects' designs in the co-requisite studio (48:405/505/605) while MAM and Architecture students review drama lighting students' work from conception to performance.

Subject areas will include a full range of topics that are integral to the creation, support and occupancy of a performance, including;

- Theater design history and case studies from classical antiquity through Elizabethan theater to contemporary state-of-the-art multi-media performance,
- Theater occupancy, programming & planning,
- Theater systems; lighting, sound, rigging, etc,
- Performance/spatial interaction & critical evaluation, and
- Site-specific design opportunities & challenges.

Architecture students will also collaborate with Drama and MAM students in the coordinated ASO Studio. During the first third of the semester inter-disciplinary teams of Architecture, Drama & MAM students will analyze the site, study precedents and define planning and programming criteria with input and review from the actual clients and stakeholders on a fortnightly basis. During the remainder of the semester Architecture students will conceive individual designs for the theaters in collaboration with Drama lighting students. Additional faculty include Drama Associate Head Dick Block, University Professor Cynthia Limauro, and Heinz College Master of Arts Management Director Jessica Bowser Acrie.