

# ARCH 475: PROFESSIONAL ARCHITECTURAL PRACTICE II

## Instructor Information

Mark Bess, AIA, NCARB, NOMA, CSI, CDT

Senior University Lecturer ([mbess@njit.edu](mailto:mbess@njit.edu))

Available Hours: Monday 10:00 AM - 12 Noon and by appointment. Location TBD

## Schedule

Delivery Format / Location: Face-to Face / Tiernan Lecture Hall 1

Meeting(s): Tuesday & Friday 10:00 AM – 11:20 AM

## Course Delivery & Information

Catalogue Description: <https://catalog.njit.edu/undergraduate/architecture-design/#coursestext>

Zoom Login: [Mark Bess Lecture Zoom Link](#)

## Format

General: The course is offered as a lecture-based class delivered face-to-face. Using NJIT mandated Canvas platform. Canvas discussion forums may be used to facilitate class conversations and dialogue. Students are **required** to review and study course material prior to the scheduled meeting times **and participate** in class discussion sessions led by the instructor and classmates.

Canvas: Lectures, exams, quizzes and assignments are delivered using Canvas. At the start of the course, please make sure that your device, desktop, laptop or tablet, is fully compatible with Canvas and its **LockDown Browser** tool. A no-credit practice test is available for verification. If you are experiencing a problem with Canvas or especially the browser tool, contact IST (Information Services & Technology) immediately at 973-5969-2900 or online at (<https://ist.njit.edu/>). Do not depend on paper copies of test, they may not be available.

## Scope & Content

Overview: Architecture spans the worlds of business, art, science and engineering while residing within complex social, economic and environmental contexts. Because of the distinctive station architecture maintains relative to other professions, students must be equipped with an understanding of the unique multifaceted field of architectural practice. This course is a forum for examination of the structure and practices of the profession of architecture. Therefore, the relationship(s) between architecture, the arts, the public, and the role of architecture as a business are explored; the formal and informal relationships between architects and their key stakeholders; clients, government officials, and consultants are studied; the basic principles of office management and business practices for the small and large architectural firm are introduced and issues related to the architect's legal responsibilities, the protection of the public welfare as well as professional ethics and liability are discussed.

Objectives: The objectives of the course are to expose students to the breadth of the architectural profession while preparing students to recognize the responsibilities of leadership and ethical decision-making which design professionals are required to uphold. Specific topics covered in this course include, but are not limited to:

- An Overview of the Profession: Who Is an architect and where do they come from?
- Clients and Firms: Who are clients and owners and what type of firm are out there serving this population?
- Project Delivery: How are architectural projects conceived and put into place?

ARCH 475 PROFESSIONAL ARCHITECTURAL PRACTICE II  
Spring Semester 2025

- Agreement and Conditions: What are the roles and responsibilities of those involved in design and construction projects?
- Regulations: A review of critical codes and ordinances impacting practice that address life safety and welfare of the public.
- Licensing: How do architects gain the right to practice?
- Liability and Risk: What are the risks associated with designing buildings and what standards must architects meet in the execution of their work?
- Contract Administration and Project Management: A discussion of what do architects do during a construction project along with an investigation into the qualities of leadership that architects demonstrate in practice.
- Issues In the Profession, Ethics, and the Future: Because architects engage with individuals, communities and the public at large, they come face-to-face with all manners of social, political and economic matters. How do architects respond and how should they?

## Learning Objectives

*[2020 NAAB Program Criteria (PC) and Student Criteria (SC) are as noted.]*

PC.1 Career Paths - How the program ensures that students understand the paths to becoming licensed as an architect in the United States and the range of available career opportunities that utilize the discipline's skills and knowledge.

PC.6 Leadership & Collaboration - How the program ensures that students understand approaches to leadership in multidisciplinary teams, diverse stakeholder constituents, and dynamic physical and social contexts, and learn how to apply effective collaboration skills to solve complex problems.

PC.7 Learning & Teaching Culture - How the program fosters and ensures a positive and respectful environment that encourages optimism, respect, sharing, engagement, and innovation among its faculty, students, administration, and staff.

PC.8 Social Equity & Inclusion - How the program furthers and deepens students' understanding of diverse cultural and social contexts and helps them translate that understanding into built environments that equitably support and include people of different backgrounds, resources, and abilities.

SC.2 Professional Practice - How the program ensures that students understand professional ethics, the regulatory requirements, the fundamental business processes relevant to architecture practice in the United States, and the forces influencing change in these subjects.

SC.3 Regulatory Context - How the program ensures that students understand the fundamental principles of life safety, land use, and current laws and regulations that apply to buildings and sites in the United States, and the evaluative process architects use to comply with those laws and regulations as part of a project.

## Text

*Professional Practice - A Guide to Turning Designs into Buildings* by Paul Segal, FAIA. Published by W W Norton & Company.



### Discussions, Tests and Assignments

Tests, assignments and discussions are located, delivered and collected on Canvas.

- Tests are administered using the Responder **LockDown Browser** tool. Students are to download the browser and take the sample test in advance of the first test date to make sure everything works properly.
- Assignments are to be completed individually or by groups when specified. Groups will be established on Canvas and all assignments shall be uploaded to Canvas by only one group member.
- Discussions will include student generated questions, which will be selected and read to the class by the instructor for random verbal in-class student responses

Means of Evaluation: Scoring is based on a point system. The course consists of 100 points as follows:

- 30 points: Three Tests at 10 points each (Test #1, Test #2 and Test #5)
- 30 points: Two Tests at 15 points each (Test #3 and Test #4)
- 30 points: Three Assignments at 10 points each
- 10 points: Class Participation (Discussion Posts, Questions and In-Class Verbal Responses)

### Undergraduate Student Grading Scale (point scale)

A	90-100	Superior	C+	76-79	Good	F	Below 60	Inadequate
B+	86-89	Excellent	C	70-75	Acceptable			
B	80-85	Very Good	D	60-69	Minimum			

NJIT Grading Policy (<https://www.njit.edu/registrar/policies/grading.php>)

Attendance: It is important that students attend all classes. Missing more than three classes (unexcused) may result in point reduction(s).

Warning Notices: The university has a policy of issuance of midterm warnings for students whose performance is below acceptable levels and are in danger of failing the course if corrections are not made. Students issued a warning are recommended to meet with the instructor to discuss performance and corrective actions.

### Archiving Student Work (Kepler)

All students must upload all final requirements for the entire semester on Kepler.

### Academic Integrity:

Academic integrity and honesty are of paramount importance. Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated. The NJIT Honor Code will be upheld, and any violations will be brought to the immediate attention of the Dean of Students. All students are responsible for upholding the integrity of NJIT by reporting any violation of academic integrity to the Office of the Dean of Students. The identity of the student filing the report will remain anonymous. All students are expected to adhere to the University Code on Academic Integrity and to the Code of Student Conduct.

- [Dean of Students](#)
- [Academic Integrity Code](#)
- [Student Conduct Policy](#)

### **Plagiarism**

It is extremely important that students familiarize themselves with a proper way to cite visual and intellectual sources. Plagiarism, whether deliberate or inadvertent, simply cannot be tolerated. Simply put, plagiarism is the use of visual or intellectual material created by others without proper attribution. Even the use of one's own material for more than one assignment can also be considered plagiarism. Students should not do so without the expressed consent of all instructors involved.

Librarian Maya Gervits has assembled resources on copyright, citing, and avoiding plagiarism:

- <http://researchguides.njit.edu/c.php?g=671665&p=4727920>

### **Students with Disabilities**

It is the school's moral, ethical, and legal obligation to provide appropriate accommodation for all students with physical and/or learning disabilities. If students need accommodation related to disabilities, all official documentation must be filed with the Dean of Students and the Disability Support Service Office. It is the responsibility of the student to notify the instructor at the beginning of the semester if accommodation is warranted.

- [Dean of Students](#)
- [Disability Support Service](#)

### **Course Schedule & Syllabus: [LINK](#)**

*Note: Course schedule is subject to change at instructor's discretion*

Month	Theme	Wk	Day	Date	TOPICS: DISCUSSION (IN CLASS)		Day	Date	TOPICS: DISCUSSION (IN CLASS)		REQUIREMENTS: READINGS - MEDIA (on CANVAS)	
JAN.	Intro. to Practice	1	Tues.	21	Course Overview - What is a Professional? (L01)		Fri.	24	<b>Student Discussion</b> / Presentation of Readings FILM: <i>First Person Singular: I.M. Pei</i> (L02)		" <i>The First Professional</i> "; Chapter 1; From Craft to Profession; M.N. Woods <i>"Architecture: The Entrepreneurial Profession"</i> ; Essay 1.1; Architecture From the Outside In; R. Guttman	Richard Morris Hunt Lecture John Soane Lecture <i>Podcast: Throughline: <b>Any Rand: "The Monster of We"</b></i>
		2	Tues.	28	About the Profession & Brief History of Arch. Practice (L03)		Fri.	31	<b>Student Discussion</b> / Presentationof Readings & Podcast <b>Review: TEST # 1 [WEEKS 1-2]</b> FILM: <i>Benjamin Latrobe: America’s First Architect</i> (L04)		Article: Bulletin of the Metropolitan Museum of Art; <i>Philbert DeL’Orme’s Premier Tome de L’Architecture</i> ; (Read only the <b>Red</b> Paragraphs)	Finish Watching: <i>First Person Singular: I.M. Pei</i> & <i>Benjamin Latrobe: America’s First Architect</i>
FEB.	Client & Firm	3	Tues.	4	<b>TEST # 1 [WEEKS 1-2]</b> ACSA Propel Video: Fees Unit Lessons 1 & 2		Fri.	7	The Client and Selection Approaches (L05)		Chapter 3: " <i>Marketing Architectural Services</i> "; Professional Practice; P. Segal	Chapter 4: " <i>Project Delivery Methods</i> "; Professional Practice; P.Segal
		4	Tues.	11	The Client and Selection Approaches (L05) cont. The Architectural Firm: Part 1 (L06)		Fri.	14	The Architectural Firm: Part 2 (L07)			
	Delivery & Agreements	5	Tues.	18	Architectural Project Delivery; Part 1 (L08)		Fri.	21	Architectural Project Delivery; Part 2 (L09)		Chapter 4: "Project Delivery Methods"; Professional Practice; P.Segal	<b>FEB 25: Start Assignment #1: Scope of Work</b>
		6	Tues.	25	Owner Architect Agreement (L10)		Fri.	28	Owner Architect Agreement (L10) cont. <b>Review: TEST # 2 [WEEKS 3-6]</b>			
MARCH	Regulations	7	Tues.	4	<b>TEST # 2 [WEEKS 3-6]</b> <i>ACSA Propel Video: Firm Finance Unit Lessons 1 &amp; 2</i>		Fri.	7	Conditions for Construction AIA A 201 - Part 1 (L11)		Chapter 12: " <i>Zoning &amp; Building Codes</i> "; Professional Practice; P.Segal	Videos: " <i>Exclusionary Zoning</i> " / " <i>Inclusionary Zoning</i> " / " <i>New Jersey The Suburban State</i> " / " <i>Brief History of US City Planning</i> " / " <i>US Zoning Explained</i> " <b>MARCH 14: Start Assignment #2: Zoning Analysis</b>
		8	Tues.	11	Conditions for Construction AIA A 201 - Part 2 (L11)		Fri.	14	Regulations 1: Community Controls - Plan. & Zoning (L12)			
		9	Tues.	25	Regulations 2: Building Codes, General - History & Function (L13) <b>Review: TEST #3 - [WEEKS 7-9]</b>		Fri.	28	<b>TEST #3 - [WEEKS 7-9]</b>		<b>MARCH 17 - MARCH 21: NO CLASS-SPRING BREAK</b>	
APRIL	Regs. Cont.	10	Tues.	1	Regulations Pt. 3: Building Codes - Code Analysis (L14)		Fri.	4	Regulations Pt. 4: Building Codes - Focus on Egress (L15)		Video: <i>CBS 48 Hours: "Station Nightclub Fire"</i>	YouTube Video: " <i>Triangle Shirtwaist Fire</i> "
		11	Tues.	8	Registration and Licensing: NCARB & AXP (L16)		Fri.	11	Liability and Risk (L17)		Chapter 10: " <i>Insurance, Legal &amp; Accounting Matters</i> "; Professional Practice; P,Segal	<b>APRIL 8: Start Assignment #3: Code Analysis</b>
		12	Tues.	15	Ethics (L18) <i>ACSA Propel Video: Ethics</i>		Fri.	18	<b>NO CLASS: GOOD FRIDAY</b>		AIA & NCARB Resources ( <b>NOTE: On Canvas hover over the title and "Click"</b> )	Four Readings from the " <i>Boston Society for Architecture</i> "; Refer to Canvas
	Documents	13	Tues.	22	Construction Documents: Specifications (L19) <b>Review: TEST # 4 [WEEKS 10-12]</b>		Fri.	25	<b>TEST # 4 [WEEKS 10-12]</b> <i>ACSA Propel Video: Transforming Practice</i>		Podcast: <i>The Business of Architecture, Episode 601 "Why Most Architects Fail as Developers"</i>	Podcast: <i>Life of an Architect, Episode 138 "Is Architecture School Broken" pt. 2</i>
		14	Tues.	29	Variables: Alternates, Unit Prices, and Allowances <b>Student Discussion: The Furure of Architecture &amp; Architects</b>							
MAY	Management	15	Fri.	2	Construction Contract Administration (CA)						Chapter 11: " <i>Project Management</i> "; Professional Practice; P.Segal	Podcast: <i>The Business of Architecture, Episode 583 "Leadership Secrets Architects Aren't Talking About"</i>
		16	Tues.	6	<b>NO CLASS: THURS. CLASSES MEET</b>		Wed	7	<b>FRIDAY CLASSES MEET - LAST CLASS</b> Project Management (PM) <b>Review: TEST #5 - [WEEKS 13-16]</b>			