MS_DR

Master of Science_Design Research
University of Michigan, Taubman College

Application deadline is January 15, 2011
Exploring spatial affiliations between institutions, territories and subjects, the MS_DR seeks new models of practice within a contemporary digital culture that compels us to do so.
The Master of Science Design Research program (MS_DR) is a two semester, post-professional degree program that posits architectural studio work as a research protocol. The 30 credit-hour curriculum is constructed around a two-semester studio/seminar combination that asserts ideas, ideation, and the making of theory as grounds for an independently pursued research path. Studio work attempts to place architecture deep inside its cultural site of reckoning, working vividly with media influences, technological imperatives, and representational biases within contemporary digital culture. The seminar colludes with this studio emphasis, deflecting studio practices through the heuristic making and leveraging of theory across a multitude of considerations within design research.
A Special Topic Seminar and Workshop make each year within the MS_DR program a distinct experience as two visiting critics are asked to frame their own work with respect to the overarching emphasis within the degree program. These support courses allow inter- and trans-disciplinary perspectives to be formalized within the curriculum. A required course on architecture pedagogy encourages students to bridge between their individual research paths and the rigors of academic life, and thus positions the MS_DR as a teaching credential for those interested in transitioning into design education.
Students conclude the two semester sequence with an exhibition of work and the submission of a single document that presents both design exploration and theory production together in a hybrid format.

This program is part of the Doctoral Studies in Architecture Area of the Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning.

The Master of Science degree is awarded by the Rackham Graduate School at the University of Michigan.

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#### Sample Schedule

**Fall Term**
- Arch 741: MS_DR Studio 6 ch
- Arch 720: MS_DR Seminar 3 ch
- Arch 711: Special Topic Seminar 1 ch
- Arch 712: Special Topic Workshop 1 ch
- Elective/Cognate 3 ch

**Winter Term**
- Arch 741: MS_DR Studio/Seminar 4 ch
- Arch 721: Teaching Practicum 3 ch
- Elective/Cognate 3 ch
- Elective 3 ch
- Elective 3 ch

Total: 18 core credit hours

30 credit hours minimum

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

http://taubmancollege.umich.edu/architecture/programs/msc/specializations/design_research/