master of science: design research
The Master of Science concentration in Design Research (MS_DR) is a 2-semester, post-professional degree 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 a distinct experience as two visiting critics are asked to frame their own work with respect to the overarching emphasis within the degree. 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 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.

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“BAD INFINITY” exhibition curated by and representing the collective work of the 2012 MS_DR graduates
MS_DR required courses
(30 credit hours required for the degree)

2 design studios (10 credits)
1 design research seminar (3 credits)
1 teaching practicum course (3 credits)
1 topic seminar (1 credit)
1 topic workshop (1 credit)
2 architecture elective courses (6 credits)
2 cognate courses (6 credits)

Please visit www.taubmancollege.umich.edu/architecture/programs/ for detailed information about the M.S. requirements, application instructions, scheduling a visit, sample schedules, and course descriptions.

Questions? Please contact Taubman College Student Services at taubmancollegestudentservices@umich.edu or 734-763-1275.

For more information, please visit:
taubmancollege.umich.edu/msdr