

# Assembly



## ARCH257: Winter 2025

University of Michigan

Taubman College of Architecture

7-week module – 2 credits

Instructor: Charlie O'Geen

[cogeen@umich.edu](mailto:cogeen@umich.edu)

Office hours by appointment

Traditionally speaking, architects do not physically *make* buildings – they draw buildings and rely on others to execute the construction of these drawings. However, it is imperative that we understand the process of building things – the beautiful nuances of materials and how they influence that process – to inform the way that we design. An understanding of this process is key to marrying craft to design intention.

In this studio, we will *make*.

In this version of module ARCH257: Assembly, we will explore the process of making through casting units. The unit-based construction system is one of the most common means to construct a building (think bricks) and therefore, has a whole lot of design potential. We will start simply, by making units (positives) out of paper. Later in the semester, we will make the opposite (negatives) so that we can cast a series of units. This will force us to think about making *backwards*. Also, what does it mean to assemble wholes from parts? What design roles do the parts play in establishing the ways in which a whole will be understood? How does a whole influence the kind of parts that make it up? Utilizing widely available and inexpensive modeling materials and plaster, we will make a collaborative wall out of individual units which considers the making process as a collaborator to design intention.