

Architecture Technology Fundamentals and the Student Experience

Department: Architecture

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Over a three-course sequence, all second year architecture students engage directly with study of the campus, both for sustainability related and non-sustainability related inquiries. In fall quarter, ARCH 241, when studying daylighting, students use light meters to measure illuminance in the design studios and produce graphics displaying light levels at various locations in the space. They are also asked to relate these values to how well they can see, and how productive they feel. In winter quarter, students visit various locations on site to study stormwater management and understand the network of creeks, ecologically sensitive areas, and how pavement impacts the watershed. For the midterm exam essay, students wrote a letter to President Armstrong (not sent) making compelling arguments for how the new student dorms along the Brizzolara Creek ought to be designed to protect the ecosystem and provide naturally daylit, passively tempered dorms that set a standard for how architecture can positively contribute to the environment. In spring quarter, we usually repeatedly visit two buildings on campus (not done spring 2020 due to COVID-19) and study them extensively through drawing and models. We evaluate the efficacy of solar shading, possible problems with the construction assembly for heat transfer, and relationship to the site.