



The layout of the Basilica of San Marco overlaps the acoustic space generated by the Basilica itself. An observer inside the Basilica perceives an area confined by the architecture of the building. The listener experiences a space, the extension and geometry of which is in contrast to the visual information.

Seeing the Unseen - Melioli Matteo

Design Project

Meridian Museum and School of Music

Design Development

ARC 4546 02 | Architectural Design IV

Spring 2026

The phenomenon of music is given to us with the sole purpose of establishing an order in things, including, and particularly, the co-ordination between man and time. To be put into practice, its indispensable and single requirement is construction. Construction once completed, this order has been attained, and there is nothing more to be said. It would be futile to look for, or expect anything else from it. It is precisely this construction, this achieved order, which produces in us a unique emotion having nothing in common with our ordinary sensations and our responses to the impressions of daily life. One could not better define the sensation produced by music than by saying that it is identical with that evoked by the contemplation of architectural forms.

*Chroniques de ma vie
Igor Stravinsky*

Learning Outcomes

- Analyze, and diagram, issues related to site and program
- Employ precedent analysis for typology, structure, materials, and environmental response
- Design appropriate assemblies of materials in relation to structure and enclosure
- Employ energy-efficient design principles
- Generate design in response to contemporary issues and practices
- Evaluate contemporary architectural investigations
- Implement innovative spatial and formal responses to a design problem

Working Method

- Individual or in pairs.

The Design Project

- Meridian Museum and School of Music

Project Schedule (Subject to change)

- 03/16 – Design Development
- 03/18 – Studio / Candidate Presentation
- 03/20 – Harrison Lecture / Field Day
- 03/23 – Studio (plans + sections (incl. site))
- 03/25 – Studio (plans + sections (incl. site))
- 03/27 – Studio (plans + sections (incl. site))
- 03/30 – Studio (structure + tectonics)
- 04/01 – Studio (structure + tectonics / mid-submission due 04/02)
- 04/03 – Holiday
- 04/06 – Holiday
- 04/08 – Studio (structure + tectonics)
- 04/10 – Studio (structure + tectonics)
- 04/13 – Studio (layouts)
- 04/15 – Studio (layouts)
- 04/17 – Studio (layouts)
- 04/20 – Studio (layouts + models)
- 04/22 – Studio (layouts + models)
- 04/24 – Studio (layouts + models)
- **04/27 – Final Review**

Deliverables (Review format TBA / See ACSA Competitions for *Submission Materials and Requirements*)

- Site plan (scale per project)
- Site axonometric (scale per project)
- Floor plans (scale per project)
- At least 2 Sections (scale per project)
- At least 1 elevation
- At least 3 interior perspective views
- At least 2 exterior perspective views
- Diagrams (as needed per project)
- Physical models:
 - Individual: 1 - 1/32" site model
 - Pairs: 1 - 1/32" site model + 1 - 1/4" Partial building/Section model
- Process work (models and sketches)

Evaluation/Assessment:

- Demonstrate a high level of craftsmanship for all artifacts created
- Design appropriate assemblies of materials in relation to structure and enclosure (tectonics)
- Employ energy-efficient design principles
- Employ precedent analysis for typology, structure, materials, and environmental response
- Evaluate contemporary architectural investigations
- Generate design in response to contemporary issues and practices
- Implement innovative spatial and formal responses to a design problem

Resources/References (See course website for links)

- Concepts
 - Aesthetics of Total Serialism: Contemporary Research from Music to Architecture
 - Architecture as a Translation of Music: Pamphlet Architecture 16)
 - Xenakis Creates in Architecture and Music
- Technical
 - Architects' Data
 - Architectural Acoustics: Principles and Design
 - Architectural Design of Music Education Facilities
 - Architectural Graphic Standards
 - Architectural Graphic Standards (Online)
 - Mechanical and Electrical Equipment for Buildings
 - Plumbing, Electricity, Acoustics: Sustainable Design Methods for Architecture (Chapter 5 – Architectural Acoustics)
- ACSA Competitions
 - COTE - <https://www.acsa-arch.org/competitions/2026-cote-competition/program/>
 - Steel (Category II: Open) - <https://www.acsa-arch.org/competitions/2026-steel-competition/>