

## MASTER OF ARCHITECTURE PROCEDURES

### THESIS PROPOSAL SUMMARY

In addition to the Thesis Proposal described in the accompanying document, develop a concise Thesis Proposal Summary that clearly articulates the intentions and scope of your proposed thesis. This summary should be no more than **one page** in length and no longer than 600 words.

#### Deadline to submit

**M Arch:** Thesis Proposal Summary along with your Thesis Proposal on or before **September 15** (hard deadline) of the final year of study. Proposals which are successful in securing a thesis committee: Chair + Committee Member will be notified with by October 15 and provided with registration instructions.

**MS Arch students & concurrent MLA:** will independently seek faculty members to supervise their committee. Thesis Chair must be a member of the [Architecture Graduate Faculty](#). Student should submit signed [Approval to Register for Thesis Prep](#) form to academic adviser by these dates Dec. 1 (if registering for winter quarter); March 1 (if registering for spring quarter); September 1 (if registering for autumn quarter).

*Your Thesis Proposal Summary should take the form of a response to the following four prompts:*

#### WHAT IS THE PROBLEM? (one sentence)

This sentence should state the overarching issue(s) that your thesis is aimed at or that it resides within. Sustainability, the climate crisis, racial justice, equity and inclusion – these are among the big issues of our time that a thesis may be situated within. This is probably not your *thesis statement*; instead, it is the frame around your thesis proposal. For instance, a problem statement could read: *“The built environment does not adequately address the long-term health and well-being of people or the planet.”*

#### WHAT OUGHT TO BE? (one sentence)

This is the flip side of your problem statement. It is a concise statement of the outcomes that this thesis aims to contribute to. For instance, the flip side of the problem statement above could read: *“The built environment must align with natural systems to support the long-term health and well-being of people and sustain the natural systems that provide the ecosystem services that support all life on our planet.”*

#### WHAT IS YOUR PROPOSITION? (one paragraph)

Describe how your thesis will address the issue(s) identified in your problem statement. This could begin with your *thesis statement* and include a concise description of the *theoretical framework* that informs your thesis. It should also include the *methodology* you intend to employ in developing your thesis. For instance, the theoretical framework for the proposition above could include concepts of *climate responsive design*, *biophilia* and *zero-net energy design*. The methods of investigation could include computational analysis of operational energy or embodied energy; it could also involve surveys, interviews, or polling to gather data. Remember that a thesis is a kind of *design argument* that includes a narrative, pictures and evidence. Outline in a single paragraph the elements of your design argument.

#### WHAT IS YOUR PROJECT? (one paragraph)

A design thesis generally employs an architectural vehicle used to develop the design argument. The scale of the project could be a single building or collection of buildings; it could be at the scale of a neighborhood, district or city. The scope could be a high level of detailed development at the scale of a building, or a broad master planning-level of development at a district or city scale. At a smaller scale and deeper scope, a project might focus on a building element or component, or it might address a particular subject. For example the project could involve the development of architectural shading strategies, high performance building envelopes, or the subject of daylight design. Describe both the scope and the scale of your design project and how it will serve to address your proposition(s).

While less common, a thesis project may take a number of other forms including built work, narrative, painting or drawing, and may be presented in video, exhibition or installation. The project could involve development of software, digital fabrication, or new methodologies for design, fabrication and construction. If you're planning such a thesis project it is especially important that you discuss your ideas early with a faculty member or advisor and that you contact candidates your committee early.