

# HISTORICAL AND SUSTAINABLE ARCHITECTURE (MA)

Department Website (<http://as.nyu.edu/arhistory/>)

**NYSED:** 35011 **HEGIS:** 0299.00 **CIP:** 04.9999

## Program Description

The Master of Arts Degree in Historical and Sustainable Architecture is a nine-month program focusing on the creative reuse of older buildings. In an era when the demolition of older buildings has been recognized, not just as a loss to the urban fabric but also as a major source of environmental pollution, retaining historic structures and using them for new purposes is increasingly desirable – and profitable. This program explores innovative ways to reconcile real estate development with historical preservation and environmental protection by recycling existing structures. The course of study combines academic training and research with experiential learning opportunities, and the program operates within the framework of New York University’s London program.

British architects, designers, builders and developers are leaders in the field of adaptive reuse and sustainable architecture. For this reason, the program is based in London, where our faculty consists of the city’s innovative architects and designers. Working under restrictive historic protection orders, these designers have successfully reused both important and modest older buildings, adapting them to new uses and integrating them into new projects built around, over, and even under historic structures. Our students will have the rare opportunity to study with these leading practitioners.

We welcome a diverse student body, including recent American college graduates and young professionals, as well as applicants from other nations. Program graduates will put their training to practical use throughout the world. As demand grows for reuse rather than new construction, our students will help contribute new solutions to the challenges of contemporary urban planning and real estate development. Graduates will shape the urban environment as architects, city planners, public administrators, non-profit advocates, public and private consultants, and real estate developers.

The curriculum also proposes to extend sustainable practices beyond architecture and building into the realm of urban design. Students will examine successful strategies for reviving entire districts, cities, and regions around repurposed historic buildings in areas as diverse as the London Docklands, the Puerto Madero neighborhood in Buenos Aires, and the older industrial regions of Germany. These examples suggest new possibilities for post-industrial, “Rust Belt” cities in the U.S., such as Buffalo and Cleveland, where the numerous historic buildings provide resources to be adapted for new uses, not liabilities to be demolished.

The MA in Historical and Sustainable Architecture is the first academic program to unite the topics of sustainable architecture, adaptive reuse, and historic preservation within a single curriculum. Combining the multiple perspectives of finance, environmentalism, education, tourism, and government policy, this program will explore older buildings as assets, not hindrances, to real estate development. Sponsored by the Urban Design and Architecture Studies program of the Art History Department at New York University, the MA program in Historical and Sustainable Architecture will benefit from the New York program’s

tradition of interdisciplinary analysis and its broad, humanistic perspective on urban design.

## Admissions

All applicants to the Graduate School of Arts and Science (GSAS) are required to submit the general application requirements (<https://gsas.nyu.edu/nyu-as/gsas/admissions/arc.html>), which include:

- Academic Transcripts (<https://gsas.nyu.edu/nyu-as/gsas/admissions/arc/academic-transcripts.html>)
- Test Scores (<https://gsas.nyu.edu/nyu-as/gsas/admissions/arc/test-scores.html>) (if required)
- Applicant Statements (<https://gsas.nyu.edu/nyu-as/gsas/admissions/arc/statements.html>)
- Résumé or Curriculum Vitae
- Letters of Recommendation (<https://gsas.nyu.edu/nyu-as/gsas/admissions/arc/letters-of-recommendation.html>), and
- A non-refundable application fee (<https://gsas.nyu.edu/admissions/arc.html#fee>).

See Historical and Sustainable Architecture (<https://gsas.nyu.edu/admissions/arc/programs/historical-and-sustainable-architecture.html>) for admission requirements and instructions specific to this program.

## Program Requirements

The MA program consists of 32 credits of graduate work. The MA is comprised of a standard curriculum, with no elective courses. All students complete a thesis based on original research in the field, under the supervision of a faculty adviser. Theses take the form of a paper or report with supporting documentation, images and notes. Research may consist of archival investigation and/or fieldwork, and may include personal interviews, site reports, and condition assessments.

Course	Title	Credits
<b>Major Requirements</b>		
ARTH-GA 9001	Adaptive Reuse of Bldgs: Successes & Failures I	4
ARTH-GA 9002	Adaptive Reuse of Bldgs: Successes & Failures II	4
ARTH-GA 9003	Aspects of *Architectural *& Urban Development	4
ARTH-GA 9004	Economics of Reuse and Regenerations	4
ARTH-GA 9005	Low Energy Strategies in Historic & Contemporary Architecture	2
ARTH-GA 9006	Independent Study	2
ARTH-GA 9007	The Practical Solution	4
ARTH-GA 9008	Practical Experience	4
ARTH-GA 9009	Capstone Thesis	4
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>32</b>

## Sample Plan of Study

Course	Title	Credits
<b>1st Semester/Term</b>		
ARTH-GA 9001	Adaptive Reuse of Bldgs: Successes & Failures I	4
ARTH-GA 9003	Aspects of *Architectural *& Urban Development	4
ARTH-GA 9004	Economics of Reuse and Regenerations	4
ARTH-GA 9005	Low Energy Strategies in Historic & Contemporary Architecture	2
ARTH-GA 9006	Independent Study	2
<b>Credits</b>		<b>16</b>

**2nd Semester/Term**

ARTH-GA 9002	Adaptive Reuse of Bldgs: Successes & Failures II	4
ARTH-GA 9007	The Practical Solution	4
ARTH-GA 9008	Practical Experience	4
ARTH-GA 9009	Capstone Thesis	4
<b>Credits</b>		<b>16</b>
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>32</b>

## Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the program, graduates will:

1. Gain a foundation of knowledge about the history and theory of historic preservation and adaptive reuse, and specialized knowledge related to their interests, as developed in the capstone thesis.
2. Learn skills of original research, incorporating appropriate resources such as libraries, archives, field investigation, site documentation and/or relevant technologies.
3. Develop presentation competence in seminars.
4. Cultivate effective writing skills to express ideas and analyses, including the ability to develop arguments, support them with evidence, and document sources of research.
5. Become familiar with multiple professional aspects within the field of international adaptive reuse, including current methods, materials, and techniques, through instruction by practitioners, conference participation, and workshops.

## Policies

### NYU Policies

University-wide policies can be found on the New York University Policy pages (<https://bulletins.nyu.edu/nyu/policies/>).

### Graduate School of Arts and Science Policies

Academic Policies for the Graduate School of Arts and Science can be found on the Academic Policies page (<https://bulletins.nyu.edu/graduate/arts-science/academic-policies/>).