

Doctor of Architecture, Minor in Religious Artifacts

HBI University

Course Duration: 3 Years

Total Credit Hours: 105

Program Description

The Doctor of Architecture at HBI University is a highly specialized terminal degree designed for advanced professionals seeking to blend architectural design with historical preservation, cultural context, and sacred symbolism. This program nurtures scholars and practitioners who aim to innovate in architectural theory while restoring and honoring religious environments, artifacts, and spaces.

The program integrates architectural design, material culture, anthropology, theology, and heritage conservation. Through studio-based learning, research seminars, and applied design labs, students explore how architecture communicates sacred values across religions and civilizations. Graduates will emerge as cultural stewards, sustainable design innovators, and thought leaders in architectural practice, preservation, and education.

The Minor in Religious Artifacts focuses on the study, preservation, and ethical display of sacred materials and structures across global faith traditions. Students will examine symbolic forms, ritual spaces, ancient relics, and ecclesiastical architecture, preparing them for work in religious site restoration, interfaith museum curation, and cultural heritage consulting.

Admissions Requirements

- Master's degree in Architecture or related field
- Portfolio of architectural work or cultural preservation projects
- Minimum GPA of 3.5 on graduate coursework
- Statement of Purpose (1,000–1,500 words)
- Academic and professional recommendations (3 total)
- CV or professional résumé
- Writing sample or published research (if applicable)
- Interview with program chair or committee

Practicum Experience

Students will complete immersive fieldwork through architectural conservation labs, heritage preservation missions, or interfaith design consultancies. Sites may include ancient temples, synagogues, mosques, monasteries, or museum restoration workshops.

Practicum Requirements:

- 600 supervised project hours
- Field journal with documentation and analysis
- Project-based deliverables (e.g., scaled drawings, preservation reports)
- On-site presentations and critique panels
- Community-engaged exhibitions of design findings

Doctoral Thesis

Each doctoral candidate must complete a dissertation that merges architectural design thinking with the theological, anthropological, or cultural aspects of sacred architecture and artifacts. This may take the form of a traditional dissertation, an architectural design portfolio, or an artifact conservation project paired with academic commentary.

Thesis Requirements:

- Original proposal approved by committee and IRB
- Integration of interdisciplinary sources from design and religion
- Field-based data and/or original architectural design
- Written thesis (minimum 100 pages) or portfolio with scholarly text
- Oral defense and peer-reviewed evaluation

Program Outcomes

Graduates will:

- Lead major religious heritage preservation and architectural projects
- Curate sacred artifacts with contextual sensitivity and ethical rigor
- Integrate sustainable technologies with traditional sacred design forms
- Influence academic discourse in theology and architecture
- Contribute to interfaith understanding through spatial storytelling

Core Foundational Courses (60 Credit Hours)

Course Code	Course Name	Credit Hours
ARC 801	Sacred Geometry and Architectural Symbolism	3
ARC 802	Advanced Design Studio: Sacred Spaces	3
ARC 803	Environmental Theology and Sustainable Architecture	3
ARC 804	History of Religious Architecture	3
ARC 805	Architectural Preservation and Adaptive Reuse	3
ARC 806	Digital Heritage Documentation	3
ARC 807	Philosophy of Place and Sacred Design	3

ARC 808	Construction Materials and Methods in Antiquity	3
ARC 809	Interfaith Design Ethics	3
ARC 810	Cultural Landscape Theory	3
ARC 811	Urban Design and Spiritual Communities	3
ARC 812	Global Case Studies in Sacred Architecture	3
ARC 813	Theology of Space: Design, Ritual, Meaning	3
ARC 814	Advanced Parametric Design	3
ARC 815	Architectural Writing and Theory	3
ARC 816	Social Practice and Public Interest Design	3
ARC 817	Advanced Studio: Restoration and Conservation	3
ARC 818	Fieldwork in Religious Architecture	3
ARC 819	Studio Seminar: Cultural Resilience Through Design	3
ARC 820	Comprehensive Project Development	3

Minor in Religious Artifacts (15 Credit Hours)

Course Code	Course Name	Credit Hours
RELA 801	Artifact Conservation: Sacred Materials	3
RELA 802	Religious Iconography and Material Culture	3
RELA 803	Ethics in Sacred Object Curation	3
RELA 804	World Ritual Objects and Spatial Meaning	3
RELA 805	Interfaith Perspectives on Religious Relics	3

Specialized Electives (15 Credit Hours)

Course Code	Course Name	Credit Hours
ELE 801	Indigenous Architecture and Sacred Cosmologies	3
ELE 802	Ritual Process and Built Form	3
ELE 803	Curating Sacred Art in Contemporary Museums	3

ELE 804	Theology of Light and Acoustics in Architecture	3
ELE 805	Cultural Diplomacy and Heritage Restoration	3

Research, Dissertation, and Defense (15 Credit Hours)

Course Code	Course Name	Credit Hours
DISS 901	Advanced Research Methods in Architectural Studies	3
DISS 902	Literature Review and Contextual Inquiry	3
DISS 903	Doctoral Design Proposal and Field Study	3
DISS 904	Dissertation Writing and Exhibition Preparation	3
DISS 905	Defense, Review, and Archival Publication	3

Career Outcomes and Potential Pay Scale

Career Path	Average Salary (Annual)
Religious Site Architect	\$90,000 – \$140,000
Sacred Heritage Preservation Specialist	\$85,000 – \$130,000
Museum Curator of Religious Artifacts	\$80,000 – \$125,000
Academic Researcher in Architectural Theology	\$75,000 – \$115,000
Interfaith Architectural Consultant	\$95,000 – \$145,000

Dissertation Outline

1. Introduction

- Project background and purpose
- Design hypothesis and research questions
- Philosophical and theological grounding

2. Literature Review

- Review of sacred architectural traditions
- Historical context of religious artifact design
- Conservation debates and ethical scholarship

3. Methodology

- Site selection and artifact documentation

- Drawing, modeling, and archival methods
- Ethical protocols and engagement practices

4. Design Development / Fieldwork

- Conceptual development and site response
- Visual documentation, models, and plans
- Field interviews and cultural studies

5. Findings

- Analytical diagrams, site plans, and sketches
- Contextual analysis of artifacts and spaces

6. Discussion

- Theological reflections in spatial form
- Cultural and interfaith implications
- Recommendations for design practice and conservation

7. Conclusion

- Summary of key insights
- Contribution to architecture and religion
- Implications for global heritage

8. References and Appendices

- Bibliography (APA/MLA style)
- Maps, drawings, permissions, transcripts