

Fall Semester Guidelines for Graduation Project (Studio VIII) Proposals

Each student needs to send two proposals that present ideas which meet the high bar of the Graduation Project, Your proposals must be more than just "building types." They need to present investigative scenarios.

Create a folder with your Student ID number and your name and surname on the drive and upload your proposals as presentation including the required info in paragraph 2 of this guidelines (pitch). Be sure that the uploaded files are accessible.

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1CF8HVXQw5JDK8UAdHh0xN1lynZHv0qfS?usp=drive_link

Here is a guide to prepare your two project ideas for jury approval.

Guidelines for Graduation Project Proposals

To obtain approval for a graduation project, each student must submit two distinct project ideas. These ideas should not be variations of the same theme but should offer different architectural challenges (e.g., one focusing on urban regeneration and the other on technical/environmental innovation).

For this semester out of the four categories of Design Projects and their sub categories, only three typologies you can choose from, as following:

A- Residential Projects: Specialized living

C-Civic Projects: Transportation

D- Institutional Projects: Healthcare

1. The "Diversified Scenarios" Rule

The jury will look for a student's ability to identify different types of architectural problems.

An example:

- Idea A (The Social/Urban Focus): A project that prioritizes complex human flows, heritage, or social rehabilitation (e.g., a Community-Led Housing & Artisan Hub in a historic district).
- Idea B (The Technical/Experimental Focus): A project that prioritizes structural innovation, extreme climates, or complex building systems (e.g., an airport & or a hospitals city).

2. Required Proposal Components (The "Pitch")

For each of the two ideas, the student must provide:

1. The "Problem Statement": What real-world issue is this project solving? (Avoid: "I want to design an airport." Use: "Airport to preserve the flow of the travel of people and goods, and represent the identity of the community in Site X.")
2. Preliminary Program: A breakdown of at least three conflicting functions (e.g., the airport terminal, a hotel, and parking buildings).
3. Site Justification: A real-world location with a map and photos. Students must explain why *this* site is appropriate for *this* program.
4. Competency Highlight: Which cluster will this project push to the limit?(check the appendix) (e.g., "This project will be a deep dive into Cluster 3: Technical & Environmental Systems").

Strict Limitations & Requirements

Any proposal failing to meet these minimum benchmarks will be rejected by the jury:

Category	Minimum Requirement
Scale	Minimum 5,000 m ² of Gross Floor Area and maximum 15,000m ² .
Program	Must be Mixed-Use. Projects with a single function (e.g., just a school or just an office) are not eligible.
Site	Must be a Real Site. No "ideal" or "hypothetical" empty plots. The site must have physical or urban constraints (slopes, existing structures, or specific zoning).
Complexity	The "No Empty Box" Rule. Simple towers or warehouses are prohibited. The project must require a complex structural and MEP resolution.
Research	At least two international case studies must be identified for each idea to prove the student understands the typology.

Tips for the Students' Jury Presentation

- Don't be a "Tourist": Don't just show pretty photos of the site. Show the sun paths, the wind direction, the noise levels, and the pedestrian "pain points."

- Conflict is Good: A project with a "messy" program is more likely to get approved than a "clean" one. The jury wants to see how you resolve the friction between different user groups.
- Scale Matters: If you propose a 15,000 m² project, you must have a plan for how you will resolve it to 1:20 detail. Be ambitious, but don't be unrealistic.

It is highly recommended to propose Architectural design competitions, or public/governmental projects, or projects that you think they are highly needed and you should justify the need for design and building this project.

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Appendix:

Level of Complexity

The project must demonstrate that student can solve multiple architectural problems simultaneously. A simple box with repeating floors will not meet the standard.

- **Programmatic Diversity:** The building must house multiple, conflicting functions. Student must successfully design for different acoustic needs, privacy levels, and spatial proportions (e.g., combining a large-span auditorium with cellular office spaces).
- **Structural Resolution:** The structural system must be deliberate and realistic. Student will be expected to resolve at least one complex structural challenge, such as a long-span roof, a high-rise core, or a cantilever.
- **Environmental & MEP Integration:** The design must explicitly show how the building breathes, cools, and heats itself. Student must integrate HVAC routing, passive design strategies (like natural ventilation or solar shading), and mechanical room allocations.
- **Topographical Context:** Projects situated on completely flat, empty plots are usually discouraged. The project should respond to a challenging site with existing slopes, dense urban fabric, or historical constraints.

Thematic and Conceptual Rules

The project proposal must justify *why* this building needs to exist here and now.

- **Contemporary Relevance:** The proposal should address a current global or local issue, such as climate change resilience, urban density, social integration, adaptive reuse, or post-disaster recovery.
- **Site Reality:** The site chosen must be a real, accessible location. students need to be able to analyze local zoning laws, climate data, sun paths, and surrounding building heights.
- **Clear Target User:** The project must identify a specific demographic or community it serves, proving that the architecture responds directly to human, social, or economic needs.

Core competency clusters:

- **Design & Cultural Synthesis:** Capability to create architectural designs that satisfy both aesthetic and technical requirements, demonstrating an understanding of architectural history, theory, and the fine arts.
- **Urban & Social Responsibility:** Understanding of urban design, planning, the relationship between people and buildings, and the need to relate buildings and the spaces between them to human scale and needs.
- **Technical & Environmental Systems:** Knowledge of structural design, constructional systems, and engineering problems, alongside an understanding of passive and active technologies to provide internal comfort and climate resilience.
- **Professional Briefing & Feasibility:** Ability to investigate, analyze, and prepare a complex project brief, understanding the regulatory, cost, and legal boundaries of the profession.

Expected Deliverables

- To pass, the complexity of the project must be communicated through a rigorous set of deliverables.
- **The Research thesis:** A pre-design document containing case studies, site analysis, programming charts, and theoretical framework.
- **Masterplan:** An overall site plan showing the building's relationship to the surrounding city, landscape, and pedestrian/vehicular approaches (usually 1:500 or 1:1000 scale).
- **General Arrangement Drawings:** Fully resolved floor plans, sections, and elevations showing spatial hierarchy, furniture layouts, and structural grids (usually 1:100 or 1:200 scale).
- **Technical Detailing:** At least one detailed wall section or facade fragment showing material layers, waterproofing, insulation, and structural connections (usually 1:10 or 1:20 scale).
- **Systems Diagrams:** Exploded axonometrics or diagrams explaining the structural load paths, environmental strategies, and circulation routes.
- **Visualizations & Models:** High-quality interior and exterior perspective renderings, accompanied by a physical scale model.