

July 21, 2021

To create, one must first question everything. –Eileen Gray

The fundamental idea of design is to make the world a better place. –Bruce Mau

Welcome to the Environmental Design Program at the Faculty of Architecture, University of Manitoba! After some important life decisions and hard work, we are very pleased you have enrolled in our Program and are excited to share this journey with us. Design is as much an adventure to understand the world as it is an opportunity to make the world a better place. The challenge of design is also an invitation to self-knowledge, guiding you toward creativity and exploration. I wish you every success in your studies here. I hope you will be inspired and motivated and that your understanding of design and its numerous relationships to the environment deepens in the Program.

These are extraordinary times globally, but together we can make the coming academic year both enriching and productive. You are joining a community of learners that will both support and challenge you. Your professors will guide you, and you will have a strong peer group of students who will be great colleagues as you move forward together in the Program. Be sure to seek out and engage with all that the Program has to offer.

Keep in mind that you are responsible for the progress of your education. Be involved in helping to make our ED community stronger. Take an active role in making this a significant, productive and satisfying year that contributes to your understanding of not only design but also yourself and the world you inhabit. Take time to experiment with new ideas and design practices, learn how to think critically read more about design history and theory and express your ideas clearly in all the ways you communicate. Make friends, volunteer for faculty-related activities, and try to be involved in student organizations and the faculty's culture. Being engaged in all aspects of your education is part of the learning. But perhaps the most important lesson is to learn how to learn.

In all of this, look after yourself and keep the right balance of studies and life. Take time to reach out to your professors, instructors, mentors and advisors for guidance and support. Establish healthy routines that include sleep, exercise and good eating habits. Look for things to add to your schedule that brings you pleasure. Be in nature, watch a movie, read something you enjoy. Cooking works for me as meditation. Explore the world of design beyond the school, which is a true adventure! Make time for the simple things as well, like walking alone or with a friend to help keep a positive balance during your experience at the Program.

Please read the following carefully, as it includes important information regarding the Environmental Design Program. Further information will be available and updated throughout the summer on the Environmental Design Program website at:

Environmental Design Program /
<https://umanitoba.ca/architecture/environmental-design>

Student Experience /
<https://umanitoba.ca/architecture/student-experience>

FAUM Salons /
<https://umanitoba.ca/architecture/student-experience/faum-salons>

ORIENTATION

We are hosting a virtual Orientation Session for incoming Environmental Design students on **August 30, 2021**. The agenda and link to the orientation session will be posted on the [FAUM Salons](#) page mid-August.

URBAN MEDIA LAB

The Urban Media Lab (EVDS 2100) is a 3-credit hour workshop course. In the 2021/2022 academic year it will be structured in two parts in the fall term. Details on the course structure and timing will be distributed closer to the start date.

SUPPLIES

ED2/UML Kit: To assist your preparation for the Fall Term, the University of Manitoba BookStore has put together a competitively priced 'kit' of required supplies. The kit will be available for purchase in mid-August through the University of Manitoba BookStore on the Fort Garry Campus. You will be notified by e-mail when they become available, along with 'how/where' to pick them up. If you already have items that are included in the kit, you will be able to return them to the University of Manitoba BookStore individually.

Camera: Information will be posted on the [FAUM Salons](#) page to assist you in purchasing an appropriate camera if you do not already have one. Both film and digital cameras are acceptable; however, the digital camera format provides far more flexibility in relation to cost, editing, storing, and manipulating images.

Computer: We require Environmental Design students to have a laptop computer upon entry to the Environmental Design Program. Information on the computer purchase can be found here: <https://www.umanitoba.ca/architecture/environmental-design#supplies>. You will need the laptop for the Urban Media Lab.

DIGITAL BASICS

There is an expectation that you will have completed some online LinkedIn Learning tutorials before the Urban Media Lab (UML). Photoshop, Illustrator and Indesign should be completed prior to UML, as there will be assignments issued in UML and the first week of classes that require a basic understanding of these programs; it is strongly recommended to also complete the Autocad tutorial as soon as possible as well. The online tutorials are:

[InDesign 2020 Essential Training](#)
[Photoshop 2020 Essential Training](#)
[Illustrator 2020 Essential Training](#)
[AutoCAD 2019 Essential Training](#)
[AutoCAD for Mac 2019 Essential Training](#)

It's my great pleasure to welcome you to the Environmental Design Program and hope that your experience is rewarding and successful. You are the reason of our excitement and passion for Design and Learning.

For now, please let us know if you have any questions or concerns. You can reach out to any of us for any questions you might have.

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Enjoy your summer and all the very best,



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