



**Number & Title of Course:** ARQU 6383: Professional Practice: Design Firm (3 credits)

**Course Descriptions:** The course analyzes the social, economic, ethical, and legal contexts within which the professional practice of architecture must insert itself. Basic organizational and financial management concepts are discussed in relation to the needs, range of services, and responsibilities of an architecture design firm. The course also covers issues pertaining to the different stages in the development of an architectural project, including the establishment of a designer-client relationship, the production of technical documentation, and the implications of building construction supervision.

**Course Goals & Objectives:**

The Student will:

- **Understand**: the definition of the professional practice of architecture in the local social, economic and legal context.
- **Learn** the basic economic concepts that affect and determine the extent of services during the professional practice of architecture.
- **Be familiarized** with the basic business organizational concepts in relation to the establishment of a professional design firm, including planning, marketing and administration aspects.
- **Review** the economic and legal implications of basic functional and organizational concepts in relation to the establishment of a professional design firm, including the selection of personnel, equipment and physical space.
- **Comprehend** the basic professional concepts in relation to the services offered by an architecture design firm, including the scope of services and responsibilities for each stage of the design and construction process.
- **Develop** the skills needed to prepare basic professional service proposals for architectural design.
- **Practice** the skills needed to evaluate legal documentation related to professional service proposals for architectural design.
- **Know** the economic, financial, legal, and ethical framework of the criteria needed for the professional practice of architecture.

**Student Performance Criterion/a addressed:**

A01: Communication Skills	Ability
A10: Cultural Diversity	Understanding
B07: Financial Considerations	Understanding
C02: Human Behavior	Understanding
C03: Client Role in Architecture	Understanding
C04: Project Management	Understanding
C05: Practice Management	Understanding
C06: Leadership	Understanding
C07: Legal Responsibilities	Understanding
C08: Ethics & Professional Judgment	Understanding
C09: Community & Social Responsibility	Understanding

**Topical Outline**

TOPIC	WEEKS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The economic context of professional practice               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Definition and range of actions</li> <li>○ Interaction with basic economic principles</li> <li>○ Relationships with the construction industry</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	05
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The professional architectural design firm</li> </ul>	05



- Legal organization
- Functional organization
- The building construction process 05
  - Marketing and public relationships
  - Service proposals
  - Legal implications and responsibilities during design and construction phases
  - Compliance with local regulatory institutional stakeholders

**Prerequisites:** Admission to the Master of Architecture.

**Textbooks/ Learning Resources:**

Ley Núm. 96 [1978], Ley Núm. 173 [1988], Ley Núm. 185 [1997] Ley Núm. 138 [2000], Ley Núm. 333 [2003];  
Gobierno de Puerto Rico  
Resoluciones Interpretativas de la Junta de Examinadora de Arquitectos de Puerto Rico  
*Architects Registration Examination [ARE], Internship Development Program [IDP]; National Council of Architectural  
Registration Boards*  
Manual de la Práctica Profesional para Servicios de Arquitectura, Colegio de Arquitectos de Puerto Rico  
Código de Ética Profesional; Colegio de Arquitectos de Puerto Rico, Junta de Examinadora de Arquitectos  
Manual de Práctica Profesional y Guías de Compensación para Servicios Profesionales, Colegio de Ingenieros y  
Agrimensores de Puerto Rico.  
Ley Núm. 135 [1967], Ley de Certificaciones de Proyectos, Gobierno de Puerto Rico

**LINKS:**

- Leyes de Puerto Rico: <http://www.estado.gobierno.pr>
- Colegio de Arquitectos de Puerto Rico: [www.caappr.org](http://www.caappr.org)
- Junta Examinadora de Arquitectos: [http://www.estado.gobierno.pr/arquitectos\\_y\\_arquitectos\\_paisajistas.htm](http://www.estado.gobierno.pr/arquitectos_y_arquitectos_paisajistas.htm)
- *National Council of Architectural Registration Boards*: [www.ncarb.org](http://www.ncarb.org)
- Junta de Planificación: <http://www.jp.gobierno.pr>

**Offered:** Fall only; Annually

**Faculty assigned:** José Caro / Luis Pico