ARCHITECTURE 284 is an intensive twelve-hour per-week studio course sequence that builds on, and extends, the skills learned in ARCH 283; introducing new ideas, scales, and methods. Preliminary short exercises are focused on the design issues embedded in the primary studio project. The project itself is a small house located in a remote rural site. Issues of structure and materials are developed. An understanding of the importance of physical, cultural, and climatic contexts are explored. Simultaneous with ARCH 284, students will be enrolled in ARCH 222, Introduction to Architecture Computing Graphics. The skills introduced in this course will be reinforced in the design studio.

The focus of ARCH 284 revolves around concepts that are fundamental to architectural design: architectural elements, place-making, spatial ordering, human activities and needs, and the iterative nature of the design process itself. At the same time, students are introduced to methods that enable them to develop their own problem-solving processes. They include hands-on making and drawing activities, verbal and graphic articulation of ideas and analyses, and observation studies. Case studies and the use of library resources are incorporated to expose students to the nature of architectural form, to expand students’ awareness of the diversity of possibilities inherent in architecture, and to introduce the key role of precedents in the architectural design process.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES
In this introductory studio, students learn about and apply the following:

- the attitude, awareness and work ethic required in the studio and in the design process;
- design problem-solving through idea generation, use of precedents, personal experience and observation, group discussions and critiques, research and analysis;
- a vocabulary of physical elements and design principles;
- place making, spatial ordering, accommodating human activities and needs
- the nature of materials and forms employed in built environment.

TEXTS REQUIRED
Architecture Form, Space and Order, Francis Ching,
Design Skills, Francis Ching
Building Construction Illustrated, Francis Ching

INSTRUCTORS
Leah Fuller
Hansjuerg Miner
Melinda Nettles
Lanbin Ren
Landry Smith
Daisy-O’lice Williams (coordinator)