



**University of Miami School of Architecture & the ICAA
Workshop in Classical Architectural Design**

This workshop introduces the practice of classical architectural design with emphasis on its application in the design of new buildings and places. The practice of traditional architectural design and urbanism today encompasses work that employs both the grammar of the classical language and the use of its principles in vernacular and regional expression.

Presentations on Friday and Saturday will showcase recent professional work in this field, introduce the building blocks of the classical architectural language, and demonstrate ways in which architects utilize the wealth of material found in historical precedents to inform the design of new buildings.

Schedule

Friday, September 23rd - The Glasgow Lecture Hall

1:00PM Welcome and Introduction – Michael Mesko

New Classical Architecture

1:15 – 1:45 Reflecting Region: Classical & Vernacular Design in Practice Today – Dan Osborne

1:45 – 2:15 Making Places: Traditional Urban Design – Mike Watkins

2:15 – 2:30 Break

The Classical Elements

2:30 – 3:45 A Classical Primer: Introduction to the Elements of the Classical Language – Martin Brandwein/Michael Mesko

3:45 – 4:00 Break

The Classical Design Process

4:00 – 4:30 Studying Precedent to Inform Practice – Stephen Chrisman

4:30 – 7:00 Field Study: The Biltmore Hotel

7:30 Optional Dinner at 19th Hole Bar and Grill at the Biltmore



Saturday, September 24th - The Rinker Classroom

9:00 – 12:00 A Classical Primer cont'd: Introduction to the Classical Elements – Martin Brandwein & Michael Mesko

Presenters:

Michael Mesko – Robert A.M. Stern Architects; New York, NY
Martin Brandwein - Martin Brandwein Architect; Brooklyn, NY
Dan Osborne –Historical Concepts; Atlanta, Georgia
Mike Watkins - Mike Watkins Architect
Stephen Chrisman – Ferguson & Shamamian

Register now for the workshop: [Miami workshop registration](#)

Cost: Free for University of Miami Students, \$25 for non-students

Credits: 8 AIA LUs for full program attendance



Program

The Practice of Classical Architectural Design

The language of classical architecture is inherently malleable and has the capacity to be adapted to the functional requirements unique to particular building types and to the qualities of particular places. The traditional design methodology and process is also an efficient means for developing a design solution. This presentation will look at the process of adapting the classical language to modern programmatic requirements, client needs, economic parameters and varying contexts.

Making Places: Traditional Urbanism

Urbanism is the counterpart to architecture. Just as a classical composition is greater than the sum of its individual parts, so too are well-designed neighborhoods and cities. Streets, blocks and squares are formed by the buildings which frame them. This presentation provides an overview of the elements that constitute traditional urbanism and the application of these principles in practice today.

A Classical Primer

Classical and traditional design figures prominently in many of our most cherished buildings and places. Literacy with classical design enhances the architect's capabilities to critically engage our built culture as a means for informing creative and innovative solutions to contemporary design challenges. This presentation on the Classical language presents a brief overview of Classical Architecture as a systematic and historically informed approach to the perennial challenges of building design.

The Elements of Classical Architecture

When studying the classical language of architecture, a good place to begin is with an overview of the terminology and proportional relationships of the classical orders and their constituent parts. Many of the more complex classical elements are formed from a combination of these primary components and therefore more easily appreciated with an understanding of the individual parts. At a more general level, these elements crystallize many of the ideas that define classicism itself and embody compositional principles that may be employed in the design of buildings. The presentation looks at the major order types and introduces a methodology for constructing an order through drawing.

Precedent in Practice Today

The classical approach to architectural design embraces a frame of reference that includes architectural and urban precedents from all periods. History provides a wealth of material that the architect can draw on to address the brief for any new building. In this role the study of historical buildings and places becomes a handbook and a resource for the architect who innovates within tradition to address similar problems of composition in contemporary design.

In classical design, new buildings are made out of other buildings or parts of them. The more extensive the array of precedents the architect commands, the sounder the solution. This presentation looks at aspects related to studying precedent to inform practice.