

MUSEUM DESIGN & ARCHITECTURE PLANNING COHORT

Al Malaikah

SHRINERS MUSEUM

SEMESTER 2 • SPRING 2027

8 POSITIONS • 3–6 HOURS WEEKLY • ACADEMIC CREDIT ELIGIBLE • LOS ANGELES

ABOUT THE PROJECT

The Shriners Museum Project is a ground-up museum-development initiative dedicated to preserving and interpreting the history of the Al Malaikah Shriners, Shriners Children's, Daughters of the Nile, and more than a century of Southern California civic, fraternal, cultural, philanthropic, entertainment, and architectural history.

As students across eight specialized cohorts build the museum itself, the Museum Design & Architecture Planning Team develops the spatial, architectural, and environmental framework that will bring the collection and stories to life.

This cohort combines historic building analysis, museum planning, exhibition design principles, and creative spatial thinking to develop a museum that honors the historic Shrine Auditorium while creating a compelling visitor experience for the future.

ABOUT SEMESTER 2

Semester 1 established a strong foundation: documenting existing conditions, researching the building, analyzing architectural drawings, studying visitor circulation, exploring initial gallery concepts, and developing early spatial diagrams and inspiration materials.

Semester 2 will refine and expand this work, developing more detailed exhibition and space plans, coordinating closely with the Exhibition Development, Collections, and Historical Research teams, and preparing comprehensive design materials that will guide the museum toward implementation.

Students will move from initial concepts to more detailed plans, realistic design options, and integrated solutions for galleries, storage, public spaces, and support areas. The goal is to develop a cohesive, feasible, and inspiring museum design that respects the historic building and meets the needs of the collection and future visitors.

WHAT YOU'LL DO

- Refine and develop gallery layouts, floor plans, elevations, and sections.
- Create detailed spatial plans for exhibitions, storage, and support areas.
- Develop 3D models, renderings, and visualizations.
- Analyze and improve visitor circulation and wayfinding.
- Study and incorporate accessibility, life safety, security, and building code requirements.
- Design and test display cases, exhibit structures, and interpretive elements.
- Collaborate with the Exhibition Development Team to align spatial design with interpretive themes.
- Work with the Collections Team to plan for object sizes, handling, and storage needs.
- Develop spatial plans for visitor amenities, orientation, gathering spaces, and educational areas.
- Research and integrate sustainability, environmental controls, and preservation requirements.
- Prepare presentation boards, diagrams, and design narratives.
- Document design decisions, options, and next steps.
- Participate in site visits, measurements, and building analysis.
- Contribute to the cohort's final presentation to museum leadership.

SEMESTER 2 PRIORITIES

DEVELOP DETAILED EXHIBITION PLANS
Move from concepts to refined layouts, sections, and elevations.

INTEGRATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION
Respect the character of the Shrine Auditorium while adapting it for museum use.

COORDINATE ACROSS COHORTS
Work closely with Exhibitions, Collections, Historical Research, and Operations.

REFINE 3D MODELS & RENDERINGS
Create realistic visualizations of key spaces and galleries.

ADDRESS ACCESSIBILITY & SAFETY
Incorporate ADA, life safety, security, and environmental needs.

PLAN SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS
Consider long-term operations, energy use, and conservation requirements.

PREPARE IMPLEMENTATION MATERIALS
Develop clear, organized design packages for future phases.

EXPECTED DELIVERABLES

- Updated and detailed floor plans, elevations, and sections.
- Refined gallery, storage, and support-area layouts.
- 3D models, renderings, and visualizations.
- Visitor-circulation and wayfinding plans.
- Exhibition layout and display-case studies.
- Spatial plans for key public spaces and amenities.
- Research on museum-planning standards and comparable projects.
- Accessibility, life safety, security, and environmental considerations.
- Integration of historic preservation guidelines.
- Design presentation boards and narratives.
- A short end-of-semester summary of completed work, unresolved questions, and recommendations.
- Participation in the cohort's final presentation to museum leadership.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of the internship, students should be able to:

- Document and analyze existing architectural conditions.
- Develop detailed museum space plans and exhibition layouts.
- Apply museum planning standards and best practices.
- Create 2D and 3D architectural drawings and visualizations.
- Identify and address accessibility, safety, and preservation needs.
- Work collaboratively across interdisciplinary teams.
- Translate interpretive goals into spatial design solutions.
- Understand the complexities of adaptive reuse in a historic building.
- Present design concepts clearly and professionally.
- Contribute to a feasible and inspiring museum design.

PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS

This internship is open to students from any major who are interested in architecture, design, museums, historic buildings, and spatial planning. Direct experience is not required.

Helpful backgrounds may include:

- Architecture
- Interior architecture or interior design
- Exhibition design
- Historic preservation
- Urban planning
- Theatre, scenic, or production design
- Museum studies
- Industrial design
- Environmental design
- Engineering
- Construction or facilities management

APPLICATION & APPROVAL

Up to 8 interns will be selected for Semester 2.

Finalists will be reviewed by museum leadership and must receive Shriners approval before working with building plans and museum spaces.

Approved interns will receive:

- Museum orientation
- Access to existing building documents
- Defined weekly assignments
- An assigned supervisor or cohort leader
- Access to software and planning tools
- A semester deliverables tracker

APPLICANTS SHOULD SUBMIT

- Résumé
- Brief statement of interest
- Academic program and year
- Weekly availability
- Relevant coursework or experience, if applicable
- Portfolio or examples of design work (if available)
- USC faculty recommendation, when applicable

Design the spaces. Bring the stories to life. Help build a museum for the future.