

# PREPARING NEW INTERNATIONAL GRADUATE STUDENTS *for* ARCHITECTURE CRITIQUES

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The “academic presentation” in the ESP-Architecture context creates new and different challenges for students. The interaction between the student presenter and the audience is unique to the discipline. While there may be an audience of classmates and friends gathered for the presentation, the target audience is 2-6 invited critics, seated in very close proximity to the speaker and the work being presented. Typically, critics will move from their seats to the pinned-up work or models during the presentation, even walking in front of and around the student presenter. This, along with the general commotion and noise of other reviews simultaneously happening nearby, can be overwhelming to students new to this discourse community.



Students visit Cranbrook Academy's campus



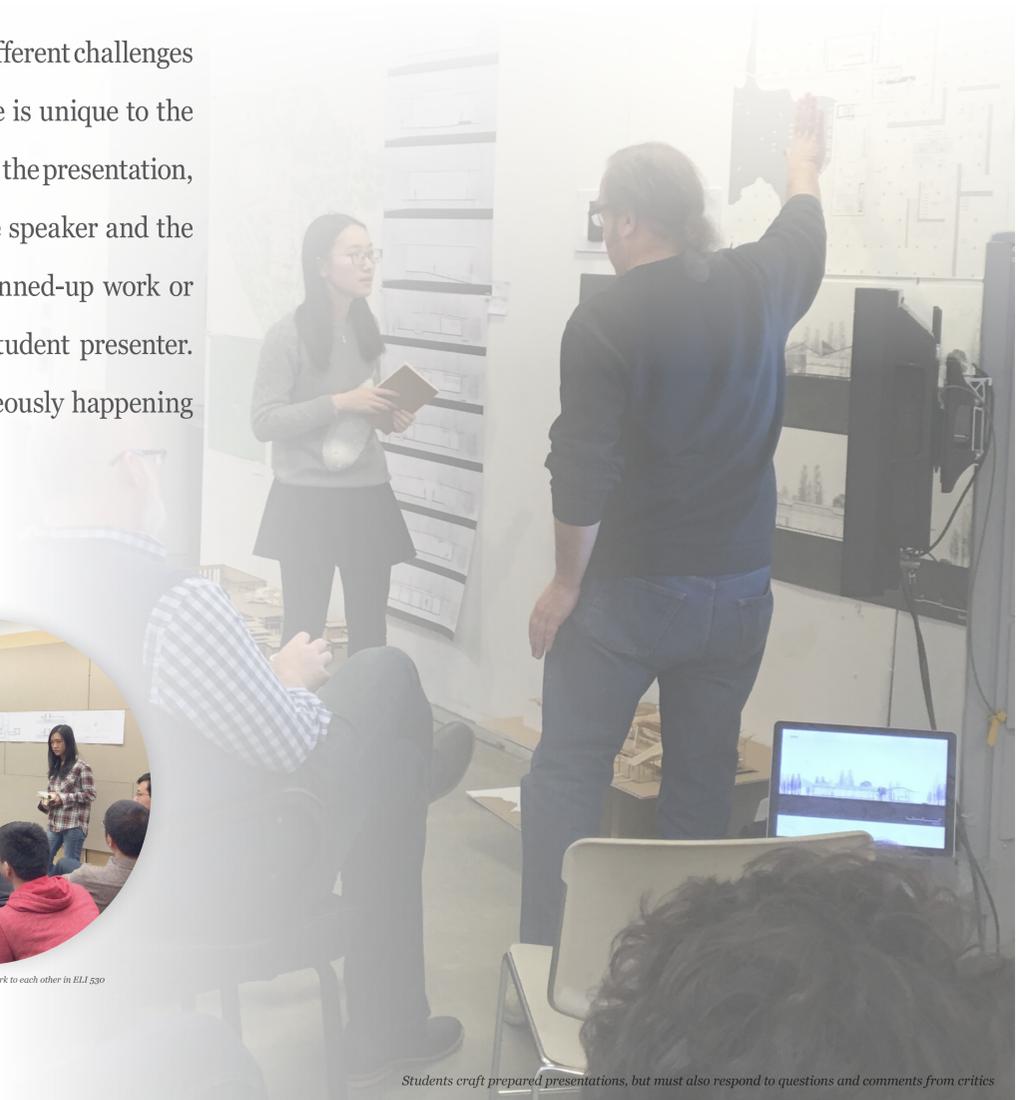
Students visit Chivard Permaculture Farm in Highland Park, Detroit



SIIS culminates with a formal review of students' visual arguments



Students practice presenting their work to each other in ELI 530



Students craft prepared presentations, but must also respond to questions and comments from critics



Students visit Renaissance Center, Detroit



M.Arch thesis students complete their education with public presentations to an invited jury



## *the* SUMMER INSTITUTE *for* INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

International students first encounter the unique and often mysterious academic community of architecture school when they arrive for an intensive, 3 week pre-session course called the Summer Institute for International Students (SIIS). Through field trips to neighboring Detroit and suburbs, students use photography to develop a visual argument that culminates in a final review and a print publication. The SIIS gives the international students an introduction to the expectations of the architecture program, and an awareness of the complexities of the major urban center of Detroit a mere 40 miles away that will play a major role in their studio and course work in the coming years.

Students visit Lafayette Park, Detroit



Each summer a book is produced, documenting the SIIS work

## ELI530 | ACADEMIC SPEAKING *and* WRITING *for* ARCHITECTURE *and* URBAN PLANNING

Support for the international students in the architecture school continues with a semester long course offered every Fall semester. The course aims to increase awareness of discipline-specific realities, and builds on work begun in the SIIS. By focusing on language and pragmatic strategies needed to communicate well (both in writing and speaking), and by taking advantage of multiple opportunities to practice presenting their in-progress studio work, students begin to unravel the mysteries of this new academic community, and engage in more successful interactions in their critiques

The space of a review may be irregular or informal, requiring different sorts of speaker/audience engagement.