Thesis Committee Guidelines

**SMArchS Thesis Committees**

The SMArchS thesis committee is composed of at least two and no more than three members. The thesis supervisor must be a permanent faculty member* of the MIT Department of Architecture. The first reader must be a permanent faculty member of the Department of Architecture or in a related department at MIT. The third member (second reader) may be any member of the MIT faculty or research staff, an outside professional, or a faculty member from another institution. The academic advisor must approve the committee composition.

Co-thesis supervision is permitted as long as one of the supervisors is a permanent member of the Department of Architecture faculty. The other supervisor may be any member of the MIT faculty or research staff, an outside professional, or a faculty member from another institution.

**MArch Thesis Committees (Updated Fall 2023)**

The MArch thesis committee is composed of two members. The thesis supervisor must be an eligible faculty member* of the Department of Architecture with an architecture design background (*A list of eligible faculty is available from the degree administrator). Co-thesis supervision is permitted for dual degree students as long as one of the supervisors is a permanent member of the Department of Architecture faculty with an architecture design background.

**SMACT Thesis Committees**

The SMACT thesis committee is composed of at least two and no more than three members. The thesis supervisor must be a permanent faculty member* of the Art, Culture and Technology Program. The first reader must be any permanent faculty member of the Department of Architecture or in a related department at MIT. The third member (second reader) may be any member of the MIT faculty or research staff, an outside professional, or a faculty member from another institution. The thesis advisor must approve the committee composition.

**SMBT Thesis**

The SMBT student is not expected to have a thesis committee. A research advisor (permanent faculty member* in BT) is assigned at the time of admissions and generally this advisor becomes the thesis supervisor. Readers are optional.

**PhD Dissertation Committees**

The PhD dissertation committee is comprised of a minimum of three members: one thesis advisor, who also serves as the dissertation committee chair, and two readers.

The thesis supervisor/committee chair must be a permanent faculty member* of the discipline group granting the degree. The first reader must be a permanent member of the MIT faculty. The third member may be any member of the MIT faculty or a faculty member from another institution. A fourth reader is optional and may also be from within or outside the MIT community.

Co-thesis supervision is permitted as long as one of the supervisors is a permanent member of the Department of Architecture faculty. The other supervisor may be any member of the MIT faculty or research staff, an outside professional, or a faculty member from another institution.

* A “permanent faculty member” is a tenured or tenure track assistant, associate or full professor and those members of the academic instructional staff with multiple-year appointments made by 1/9/14 the Department of Architecture. Visitors and short-term lecturers are not considered permanent faculty.