In 1933 the Park Service established the Historic American Buildings Survey following a proposal by Charles E. Peterson, a young Park Service landscape architect. It was founded as a make-work program for architects, draftsmen and photographers left jobless by the Great Depression. Guided by field instructions from Washington, D.C., the first HABS recorders were tasked with documenting a representative sampling of America's architectural heritage. By creating an archive of historic architecture, HABS provided a data base of primary source material for the then fledgling historic preservation movement. Today at the University of Miami, the Institute for Data Science and Computing (IDSC) has the tools to enhance the documentation effort with new technologies. Drone photography and lidar scanning, coupled with advanced software processing, can yield high resolution photogrammetry and 3D point clouds. By combining these new methods with the HABS standards and guidelines, this course aims to uncover a new standard for the documentation of historic buildings.

The Coral Gables Congregational Church was organized in 1923 and initially met at a parsonage on Columbus Boulevard that was donated by Merrick. He hired the famed Pittsburgh architectural firm Kiehnel & Elliott to design the elaborate Spanish-style edifice on DeSoto Boulevard. After its completion in 1925, the church embarked on community involvement through civic service, Christian education and promotion of music and the arts. One of the city's first public buildings, the Church served as a hall for city government meetings, educational events and other gatherings.

Undergraduate and Graduate Architecture Students will learn to use the HABS Standards and Guidelines for measuring and drawing historic buildings. There will be lectures introducing them to new documentation technologies and their applications. The students will be required to travel to the site to produce Field Notes including proportional sketches and recorded dimensions of the subject building in its current conditions. Faculty from IDSC will demonstrate data collection techniques and on site. Back at the studio students will draft a set of plans including site plan, floor plan, elevations, sections, and details. They will learn to incorporate photogrammetry and point clouds into their plans which will expose the accuracy of the drone- and lidar- based documentation and also expand the reach of traditional methods. By the end of the semester they will be expected to complete the documentation drawings up to the highest standards in preparation for submittal to the Library of Congress in Washington. A final presentation will be held on campus at the Visualization Laboratory where one can fully appreciate the level of detail in drawings, models, and orthophotos.

Note: There will be regular site visits to the building site across the street from the Biltmore Hotel; 8 min drive / 15 min bike ride from campus.
The Architecture of Miami is an on-site study of selected architecture and urbanism of important, contributing communities in South Florida. The course is intended to give a brief history of the region and its impact on the architectural styles that dominated the birth and growth of these cities. As a global city with international economic links, the Greater Miami area has grown into an important metropolis that continues to seek an architectural identity. Through historical analysis and on-site tours, the fabric of the city will be exposed, and its architecture will be cataloged.
The 21st century has been shaped by decisions made centuries prior. Today, it is our responsibility to design for tomorrow, recognizing this century’s environmental changes will impact the future. Climate change poses numerous challenges to current conditions, including two fundamental questions for coastal and riverine communities: how will our cities cope with rising heat and sea levels? The cooling properties of water can mitigate heat if sea-level rise can be addressed. Given that these are two of the expected consequences of today’s ongoing environmental changes, floating architecture can contribute to greater livability in the imminent future.

As a building system situated on waterbodies using a specific structural system, floating architecture can also ameliorate the increasing depletion of land development and reduce deforestation. The floating architecture draws on extensive knowledge based on principles of buoyancy and density to ensure stability. A leader in this work, GOFRIDAY has already developed successful floating house prototypes, and this Summer they will sponsor SoA Floating Architecture Design Summer Studio led by Prof. Veruska Vasconez.

They have issued a studio challenge in the form of a competition of ideas to develop new types of exterior/interior design for a Floating House ranging from 1 to 3 bedrooms. They are seeking projects that provide new creative vision with demonstrable viability in association with their technical specifications.

Students will develop the design during Summer A – Design Studio. A review panel with members of the GOFRIDAY team will select 3 Proposals for a funded trip to Lisbon – Portugal, students will have the opportunity to discuss their projects with the GOFRIDAY team. This travel will be scheduled in coordination with the faculty and finalists.
The course will focus on the development and production of an architectural portfolio with emphasis on fundamental design techniques in layout, image composition, and skills involved in portfolio making. Students will learn to carefully evaluate space, color, depth, hierarchy, balance, and scale within a layout. The course will involve a series of exercises along with critical discussions and practical advice. Although focus will be centered on creating a final portfolio, the topic of online presentation, individual "branding", and job interviews will also be addressed. The format of the course will include lectures, student presentations, and individual deskrits. The class will conclude with the production of a printed, well-crafted, clear, succinct, and self-explanatory architectural portfolio.