

Definitive - Unit Specification

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|----|-----------------------------|---|
| 1. | Programme Title | MArch |
| 2. | Unit Title | HISTORY & THEORY: Contemporary Practice |
| 3. | HE Level | FHEQ Level 6 |
| 4. | Unit Code | MAR17603 |
| 5. | Credit Value of Unit | 30 |
| 6. | Unit Type | Mandatory |
| 7. | Unit Tutor | TBC |

| 8. Indicative Notional Learning Hours | | | |
|---|----|---|-----|
| Staff – Student Contact | | Independent Study Hours | |
| Classes (e.g. lectures, seminars and supervised group activity) | 40 | Independent Study (e.g. project development, reading, research and work on online forums) | 210 |
| Supervised Access to Resources | 0 | Preparation for Assessment | 30 |
| | | Unsupervised Access to Resources | 20 |
| Total | 40 | | 260 |

9. Unit Introduction

Along with Research and Communications, this is one of the first units studied in this course. A lecture and seminar based unit, focused on exploration of recent built environment projects to include consideration of the wider field of contemporary art and urban design. Calling on the tradition of architectural discourse, it will include analyses of the history, theory and process rationales that generated these projects as well as their relation to the needs, legalities, and morals of the society they serve. It will equip students with knowledge and understanding of contemporary culture and innovative architectural production, providing the foundation for the development of the dissertation topic.

This promotes a systematic understanding of key aspects of contemporary design in the built environment, including acquisition of coherent and detailed knowledge, at least some of which is at the forefront of practice. It equips students with an appreciation of contemporary architectural culture and design and technical methodology and sets the tone for the rest of the course.

10. Aims of the Unit

The work will show that the student has developed:

- the ability to understand, evaluate and summarise a specified range of contemporary histories and theories of urban design, architecture and interior design, demonstrating the ability to critically appraise different arguments presented in specified texts
- a systematic understanding of the major themes from architectural theory and the influences upon them through the critical appraisal of contemporary

- examples of architectural practice
- the ability to defend a theoretical/critical interpretation of an architectural topic by structured argument in a standard format.
- the ability to critically appraise a specific example of contemporary architecture through the analysis of its spatial, aesthetic, technical and social characteristics

And thereby have satisfied the ARB/RIBA Criteria for Part 2 at FHEQ Level 6 as outlined in the Learning Outcomes

11. Indicative Content

- Urban futures
- Deconstructing Contemporary Architecture
- Engagement with existing built fabric
- Contemporary typologies
- Art and interdisciplinary culture
- Contemporary dispositions in design

12. Unit Learning Outcomes

In order to successfully satisfy the learning outcomes students are required to engage with the process of learning. The learning outcomes refer to developing the following **RIBA/ARB Graduate Attributes for Part 2** and **FHEQ Level 6 standards** and must be read in conjunction with these. With regard to meeting the eleven RIBA/ARB General Criteria at Parts 1 and 2, successful completion of this unit will contribute to the award of the Part 2 to students who have:

GA2.4 critical understanding of how knowledge is advanced through research to produce clear, logically argued and written work relating to architectural culture, theory and design;

FHEQ Level 6:

- an ability to deploy accurately established techniques of analysis and enquiry within a discipline
- conceptual understanding that enables the student:
 - to devise and sustain arguments, and/or to solve problems, using ideas and techniques, some of which are at the forefront of a discipline
 - to describe and comment upon particular aspects of current research, or equivalent advanced scholarship, in the discipline

and upon completion of this unit will be able to demonstrate, in relation to:

ARB/RIBA General Criteria:

GC2.1 & 2 - Adequate knowledge of the histories and theories of architecture and the related arts, technologies and human sciences.

The graduate will have knowledge of:

2.1 the cultural, social and intellectual histories, theories and technologies that influence the design of buildings.

2.2 the influence of history and theory on the spatial, social, and technological aspects of architecture.

GC3.1 & 2 - Knowledge of the fine arts as an influence on the quality of architectural design.

The graduate will have knowledge of:

3.1 how the theories, practices and technologies of the arts influence architectural design

3.2 the creative application of the fine arts and their relevance and impact on architecture

GC4.1 & 2 - Adequate knowledge of urban design, planning and the skills involved in the planning process

The graduate will have knowledge of:

4.1 theories of urban design and the planning of communities.

4.2 the influence of the design and development of cities, past and present, on the contemporary built environment.

the following:

| Learning Outcome | Marking Criteria | |
|--|---|--|
| 1. An ability to deploy accurately established techniques of analysis and enquiry and to manage their own learning, making use of scholarly reviews and appropriate original materials. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Research <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Analysis <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Subject Knowledge <input type="checkbox"/> Experimentation | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Technical Competence <input type="checkbox"/> Communication & Presentation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Personal & Professional Development <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Collaborative and / or Independent Professional working |
| 2. A conceptual understanding that enables them to devise and sustain arguments, using contemporary ideas and techniques, and to describe and comment upon particular aspects of current commentary and practice, in the culture of the built environment. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Research <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Analysis <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Subject Knowledge <input type="checkbox"/> Experimentation | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Technical Competence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Communication & Presentation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Personal & Professional Development <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Collaborative and / or Independent Professional working |

13. Learning and Teaching Methods

This unit will be delivered using a combination of:

- Briefings
- Lectures
- Project work
- Seminars
- Workshops
- Group work
- Online activity
- Individual Presentations and critiques
- Group presentations and critiques
- Self-directed independent study
- Other (describe below)

14. Assessment Methods

The assessment for this unit is weighted. In element-based assessment, you must achieve at least D- in the overall unit. Failure (E, F, or F-), or non-submission in any element defaults to Fail for the unit.

- Case Study Urban Design or Contemporary Art – approx. 2500 (+/-10%) words (50%) LO1 & 2
- Case Study Architecture/Housing or Interior Design – approx. 2500 (+/- 10%) words (50%) LO1 & 2

Assessment will be against the specified marking criteria

All learning outcomes must be achieved at D- to pass this unit.

15. Reading and Resource List

Essential Reading

Borden, Ian and Ruedi, Katarina. (2006) *The Dissertation: An architectural student's handbook*. Oxford and Burlington MA (second edition)

Bullivant, Lucy (2012) *Masterplanning Futures*, Routledge

Crysler, C. G., Cairns, S. and Heynen, H.(eds). (2012) *The Sage Handbook of Architectural Theory*. London: Sage

Frampton, Kenneth, (2007) *Modern Architecture: A Critical History*, Thames & Hudson Ltd

Guyatt, M., Burdett, R., Abrahams, T. et al (2008 (or latest edition)) *The Phaidon Atlas of 21st Century World Architecture*, Phaidon

Hall, Peter. (2013) *Good Cities, Better Lives How Europe Discovered the Lost Art of Urbanism*, Routledge

- Hays, K. Michael (2000) *Architecture Theory since 1968* Cambridge, Mass: London: MIT;
- Jencks, Charles (2005) *Theories and Manifestoes of Contemporary Architecture* Wiley Academy
- Mallgrave, Harry Francis and Goodman, David. (2011) *An Introduction to Architectural Theory: 1968 to the present*. Chichester. Wiley-Blackwell.
- Minton, A. (2012) *Ground Control: Fear and Happiness in the Twenty-First-Century City*, Penguin
- Moore, R. (2016) *Slow Burn City: London in the Twenty-First Century*, Picador
- Nesbitt, Kate (1996) *Theorizing a New Agenda for Architecture, an anthology of architectural theory 1965 - 1995* New York: Princeton Architectural Press.
- Parry, Eric, (2015) *Context: Architecture and the Genius of Place*, Wiley
- Powell, K. (2011) *21st Century London: The New Architecture*, Merrell
- Shiner, Larry (2001) *The Invention of Art* University of Chicago Press
- Trigg, D. and Williams, E. and Griffin, J. (2014) *The Twenty First Century Art Book* Phaidon

Journals

last 5 years of:

Architects Journal
Architectural Review
Architectural Theory Review: Taylor and Francis
Architecture Today
Art Monthly
Building Design
RIBA Journal
Urban Design Journal

URLs

Dezeen: <http://www.dezeen.com/architecture/>
ArchDaily: <http://www.archdaily.com>
Word Architecture News: <http://www.worldarchitecturenews.com>
E-Architect: <https://www.e-architect.co.uk>
Great Buildings: <http://www.greatbuildings.com>
Architectural Review – Buildings: <https://www.architectural-review.com/buildings>

(2008) Creating Successful Masterplans - CABE

<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20110118095356/http://www.cabe.org.uk/files/creating-successful-masterplans.pdf>

Further Reading and Resources

Further up to date reading and resources will be identified in your Project Brief.