# Module Definition Form (MDF)

| Module code: MOD007333 | **Version:** 1 **Date Amended:** 24/Jan/2020 |
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| 1. Module Title |
|---|
| Design Context and Technology |

| 2a. Module Leader |
|---|
| Benjamin Mackay |

| 2b. School |
|---|
| Cambridge School of Art |

| 2c. Faculty |
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| Faculty of Arts, Humanities, Education and Social Sciences |

| 3a. Level |
|---|
| 4 |

| 3b. Module Type |
|---|
| Standard (fine graded) |

| 4a. Credits |
|---|
| 30 |

| 4b. Study Hours |
|---|
| 300 |

**5. Restrictions**

| Type | Module Code | Module Name | Condition |
|---|---|---|---|
| Pre-requisites: | None | | |
| Co-requisite: | MOD007334 | Studio Culture 1 | Compulsory |
| Exclusions: | None | | |
| **Courses to which this module is restricted:** | BA Hons Interior Design | | |

## LEARNING, TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

### 6a. Module Description

In this module we will consider the question what it is it is to be human in a designed environment and we will approach it from the point of view of text and practice.

This module begins with an exploration of significant design language, develops into how we make use of this through annotated case studies, physical testing and examples and is supported through social and cultural theory.

You will examine some significant concepts such as suspension, cantilever, tension and compression, thermal massing, environmental concerns within the building industry and vertical studies. In order to explore these ideas, we will conduct physical experiments, build small scale models and undertake a field trip. You will generate regular reports based on your findings and contextualise these with case studies where these concepts have informed design and environmental decisions.

Your experimentation and case studies around design and the body will be supported with social questions which will ask you to develop your thinking and consider how we may perceive particular design decisions and how these decisions inform our quality of our use. This work will include text based and project based analysis drawn from the languages of environmental psychology.

## 6b. Outline Content

- Case studies.
- The physical environment;
- Cantilever.
- Suspension.
- Tension and compression.
- Vertical studies.
- Services.
- Thermal massing.
- Environmental and material responses.
- Being human.
- Public and private.
- Perception of space.
- Gender.
- Memory.
- Spatial poetics.

## 6c. Key Texts/Literature

The reading list to support this module is available at: https://readinglists.aru.ac.uk/

## 6d. Specialist Learning Resources

Design Studio with specialist equipment such as lightboxes, cutting mats, drawing boards, computers and design library.

CAD Studio with specialist software to enable students to draw in 2D and 3D and render.

Supported 3D workshop with 3D printing and laser cutting, hand tools and machine tools for timber and metal.

| 7. Learning Outcomes (threshold standards) | | |
|---|---|---|
| **No.** | **Type** | **On successful completion of this module the student will be expected to be able to:** |
| 1 | Knowledge and Understanding | Demonstrate an understanding of structural language. |
| 2 | Knowledge and Understanding | Demonstrate evaluative ability in the use of case studies within design. |
| 3 | Knowledge and Understanding | Demonstrate wide ranging practical research practices. |
| 4 | Knowledge and Understanding | Formulate and analyse independent opinion with reference to human factors in design. |
| 5 | Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills | Communicate effectively visually and in written and 3D form. |
| 6 | Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills | Demonstrate an understanding of reflective and collaborative practices within a creative learning community. |

| 8a. Module Occurrence to which this MDF Refers | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Year** | **Occurrence** | **Period** | **Location** | **Mode of Delivery** |
| 2026/7 | ZZF | Template For Face To Face Learning Delivery | | Face to Face |

| 8b. Learning Activities for the above Module Occurrence | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Learning Activities** | **Hours** | **Learning Outcomes** | **Details of Duration, frequency and other comments** |
| Lectures | 0 | None | None |
| Other teacher managed learning | 72 | 1-6 | 3 hrs x 24 weeks lectures, seminars, workshops, skills seminars and discussion focusing on ideas around design thinking and skill acquisition. Tutorial group learning with focused studio tasks. |
| Student managed learning | 228 | 1-6 | Self-guided learning, research, and developmental studio practice. |
| TOTAL: | 300 | | |

**9. Assessment for the above Module Occurrence**

The assessment for some modules includes a presentation (see below for details on how this particular module is assessed). We recognise that presenting, especially to a large group, can cause significant anxiety or distress for some students. If this may affect you, please contact your Module Leader or the Disability and Neurodiversity Service as early as possible. We will work with you to consider appropriate reasonable adjustments. Depending on your individual needs, these might include, for example, presenting to a smaller group or presenting only to a member of academic staff.

| Assessment No. | Assessment Method | Learning Outcomes | Weighting (%) | Fine Grade or Pass/Fail | Qualifying Mark (%) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 010 | Coursework | 1-6 | 50 (%) | Fine Grade | 30 (%) |
| **Portfolio of course work with evidence of research, project development, reflection and final outcomes (equivalent to 3000 words)** | | | | | |

| Assessment No. | Assessment Method | Learning Outcomes | Weighting (%) | Fine Grade or Pass/Fail | Qualifying Mark (%) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 011 | Coursework | 1-6 | 50 (%) | Fine Grade | 30 (%) |
| **Portfolio of course work with evidence of research, project development, reflection and final outcomes (equivalent to 3000 words)** | | | | | |

**In order to pass this module, students are required to achieve an overall mark of 40% (for modules at levels 3, 4, 5 and 6) or 50% (for modules at level 7*).**

**In addition, students are required to:**
**(a) achieve the qualifying mark for each element of fine graded assessment as specified above**
**(b) pass any pass/fail elements**

**[* the pass mark of 50% applies for all module occurrences from the academic year 2024/25 – see Section 3a of this MDF to check the level of the module and Section 8a of this MDF to check the academic year]**