Module Definition Form (MDF)

Module code: MOD007741	**Version:** 2 **Date Amended:** 06/May/2021

1. Module Title
Design Studio A1 (Architecture)

2a. Module Leader
Antonio Blanco-Montero

2b. School
School of Engineering and the Built Environment

2c. Faculty
Faculty of Science and Engineering

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-requisites:	None		
Exclusions:	None		
Courses to which this module is restricted:	BA (Hons) Architecture		

LEARNING, TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

6a. Module Description

This module is designed as an introduction to the creative processes and the skills required by Architecture and Construction professionals. The module complements the work undertaken within other Level 4 modules.

The module complements the work undertaken in the associated module entitled; Design Studio A2, and is the start of the creative process that is stimulated by studying both the history of architecture, and history of fine arts.

You will develop a range of physical model making skills, graphic communication techniques, including freehand and technical drawing skills, and the interchangeable use of software and hardware. The ability to understand and produce simple professional technical drawing will be refined, as well as the development of an appreciation of the extent of information required in the process of planning, designing and constructing a building.

The module will provide an introduction to and broadening of the basic concepts and techniques of architectural design applied to small scale buildings. You will have the opportunity to investigate; space and form, materials, structure, safety, environmental consciousness, construction and technology.

Throughout this module drawing skills are developed and issues relating to scale, proportion and the human body are explored. The knowledge and skills required to successfully complete this module relate directly to the relevant professions. The module is project-based with studio teaching and as such requires you to develop the project work week on week over the entire trimester, in order that regular individual and group tutorials can occur. You will work individually and in interdisciplinary groups, reflecting the demands of the profession. There will be formal lectures during the trimester; however, teaching will be predominantly in the studio, where regular reviews and presentations will occur.

6b. Outline Content

- Learning by doing, hands-on experience, learning by example, learning by appreciating precedent studies in the fine arts, architecture, and design at all scales
- Study and representation of the anatomy and ergonomics of the human body
- Representation drawings and techniques
- Conception and organisation of proportion, form, materiality, structure and technology
- Contextual studies, brief analysis and precedent study
- Live brief, connection to the real world, industry involvement, safety, risk assessment, environmental consciousness
- Sketch design and modelling skills
- Learning and managing work in groups
- Developing professional technical drawing skills
- Physical and Digital Model Making Techniques
- Freehand sketching, independent and tutor directed
- Measured drawings
- Analysis and evaluation of technical drawing
- 3D presentations, CAD and Rhino modelling

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 based learning, with use of workshops.

7. Learning Outcomes (threshold standards)		
No.	**Type**	**On successful completion of this module the student will be expected to be able to:**
1	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Develop a conceptual and critical approach to architectural design that integrates and satisfies the aesthetic aspects of a building and the technical requirements of its construction and the needs of the user.
2	Knowledge and Understanding	Understand and demonstrate knowledge of the differing cultural, social, intellectual histories and theories and technologies that influence the conceptual design of buildings through developing design projects which reflect the influence of history and theory on the spatial, social, and technological aspects of architecture demonstrating the application of appropriate theoretical approaches to studio design projects, and a reflective and critical appreciation of architectural culture.
3	Knowledge and Understanding	Understand and demonstrate knowledge of the theories, practices and technologies of the arts and arts production, and the relationship of these to architectural design and the cultural relevance and impact of such work on architecture projects; including the creative application of such work to studio design projects, both in terms of their conceptualisation and representation.
4	Knowledge and Understanding	Demonstrate an understanding of the structural design, constructional and engineering problems associated with building design and its occupants' safety, including the investigation and critical appraisal of alternative structural, constructional and material systems relevant to architectural design and the strategies for building construction.
5	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Integrate knowledge of structural theories and construction techniques and the physical properties and characteristics of building materials, components and systems, including the environmental impact of specification choices. Advocate for sustainable or regenerative design solutions and ethical sourcing throughout the life-cycle of each project.
6	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Critically review precedents relevant to the function, organisation, and technological strategy of design projects; including the investigation and critical appraisal of alternative structural, construction and material systems relevant to architectural design; including the contributions of architects and co-professionals to the formulation of the brief, and the methods of investigation used in its preparation.

8a. Module Occurrence to which this MDF Refers				
Year	**Occurrence**	**Period**	**Location**	**Mode of Delivery**
2025/6	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	12	1-6	1 hour per week of Lecture / Studio
Other teacher managed learning	84	1-6	7 hours per week of Studio / Review
Student managed learning	204	1-6	17 hours per week
TOTAL:	300		

9. Assessment for the above Module Occurrence					
Assessment No.	**Assessment Method**	**Learning Outcomes**	**Weighting (%)**	**Fine Grade or Pass/Fail**	**Qualifying Mark (%)**
010	Coursework	1-6	50 (%)	Fine Grade	40 (%)
Portfolio of Artifacts and Poster (3000 words equivalent)					
Assessment No.	**Assessment Method**	**Learning Outcomes**	**Weighting (%)**	**Fine Grade or Pass/Fail**	**Qualifying Mark (%)**
011	Coursework	1-6	50 (%)	Fine Grade	40 (%)
Portfolio of Small Structure Design (3000 words equivalent)					

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]