



Module Definition Form (MDF)

Module code: MOD007743	Version: 2 Date Amended: 06/May/2021
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1. Module Title
Design Studio A2 (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 for students of Architecture and Architectural Technology as an introduction to the creative processes embodied and the skills required within these related professions. The module completes the first introductory round to the work undertaken in the associated module entitled Design Studio A1, it is a continuation to the creative process that requires curiosity and imagination, and technical competence and understanding of structures and construction methods in order to build at real scale. The module continues on developing an appropriate rational, strong concepts that are stimulated through the study of precedents both from the history of architecture and the history of the technology of buildings and their materiality of 1. a full-scale building and 2. the design of the first enclosure with the anticipation of environmental, structural, technical and construction considerations. The rigour and discipline that dictate a composition are a focus of this module, that is translated to a construction method of a full-scale building. Students will develop a range of physical and digital model making skills at various scales from 1:50 to 5:1, graphic communication techniques, including freehand and technical drawing skills, software and hardware.

The ability to understand and produce simple professional technical drawing will be refined, as well as the ability to appreciate 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. Students will have the opportunity to investigate; space and form, materials, structure, construction and technology.

Throughout this module drawing skills are developed further 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 the student to develop the project work week on week over the entire trimester, in order that regular individual and group tutorials can occur. Students 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 staff/student reviews and presentation will occur.

6b. Outline Content

- Learning by making, hands-on experience-based precedent studies in fine arts, architecture, design at all scales, but also in self-aspiration, imagination and creativity, live brief, working with a real client and a real industry partner
- Representation drawings and techniques
- Conception and organisation of proportion, form, materiality, structure, environmental consciousness and technology
- Contextual studies, brief analysis and precedent
- Sketch design and modelling skills
- Learning and managing work in groups
- Developing professional technical drawing skills and in-situ interventions
- Developing an understanding of health and safety and risk assessments, procurement and production, construction sequence, site constraints, and method statement writing
- Physical and digital model-making techniques
- Freehand sketching, independent and tutor directed
- Measured drawings
- Design and build in real time, working with industry and real-life scenarios
- 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:
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1	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Prepare and present small scale building design, with a level of complexity and in a variety of contexts, using a range of media, and in response to a brief; demonstrating an understanding of the constructional and structural systems, the environmental strategies and the regulatory requirements that apply to the design and construction of a design project.
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, all embedded in a live brief where real scale is built. Understand the principles of climate science so that you are able to make informed and responsible decisions with regards to actions and inaction that may affect this issue. Advocate for sustainable or regenerative design solutions and ethical sourcing throughout the life-cycle of each project. Share building performance data to raise industry awareness and encourage the growth of a zero carbon culture. Be able to apply the design principles of: Fabric First and thermal/energy efficiency • Passive Design • Daylighting. Understand the environmental science relating to temperature, humidity, sound and lighting. Be able to produce adequate detailed designs to allow for airtightness and thermal integrity.
5	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Develop the necessary design skills to meet building users' requirements within the constraints imposed by technical factors when building, and prepare designs that will meet building users' requirements and comply with health and safety requirements, both during construction and occupation; including the ability to remain agile and develop contingencies whilst designing and building. Understand that ensuring the health and safety of building constructors, users and the public outweighs any other obligations you may have. Understand the principles of risk management methodology and be able to apply health and safety to the holistic design processes. Understand how to design in accordance with Building Regulations, Approved Documents and CDM Regulations and other relevant safety legislation. Understand construction and site hazards in the context of personal access, construction activities and design risk management. Where appropriate, review and co-ordinate the designs of other members of the design team and ensure that they have understood what further information is required, if any.

6	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Demonstrate an understanding of the role of the architect within the design team and construction industry, recognising the importance of current methods and trends in the construction of the built environment; the potential impact of building projects on existing and proposed communities. Acknowledge the limits of your competence and only ever practice within those limits, unless under appropriate supervision or with suitable expert assistance. Where appropriate seek expert advice on matters outside your own competence, and keep others informed of it.
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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: Small Structure Design (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: Small Domestic Building (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]