



Module Definition Form (MDF)

Module code: MOD008416	Version: 3 Date Amended: 13/Sep/2024
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1. Module Title
Cultural Context C: Dissertation (Architecture)

2a. Module Leader
Carla Molinari

2b. School
School of Engineering and the Built Environment at Anglia Ruskin University

2c. Faculty
Faculty of Science and Engineering

3a. Level
6

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 has been designed as both the third and last component of the Cultural Context delivery across the three years of studies. The module builds upon the knowledge and skills gained in previous years of the course about the histories and theories of architecture addressed in its broad nature integrating socio-political, technical, aesthetic, and functional aspects. It aims at enabling the you to accomplish a critical reflection about topics of utmost relevance about the construction of healthy, safe, environmentally sustainable, and socially inclusive environments.

You will further develop research and academic skills that will be of use for the continuation of their studies at Master's level. The delivery of the module happens through thematic lectures, student-led seminars and presentations, open discussions, and tutorials towards the accomplishment of the module assignment.

The thematic contents expose the students to the research-expertise across the teaching staff and include: critical and sustainable responses to the growth of urban territories; healthy and inclusive communities; environmentally sustainable environments; urban farming; co-inhabitation, live-work and collaborative environments; civic facilities for contemporary society spanning education, culture, government and major public services.

The module places emphasis on enabling you to develop an active role and tackle a specific research interest that can support your design projects whilst also allowing the development of a personal line of intellectual enquiry that will prove valuable for further study at Master's level.

The module enables the you to: identify and analyse appropriate precedent case studies and relevant literature; formulate a research question and hypothesis; develop research through individual study and collective discussion/reading seminars including peer-review.

The first part of the delivery alternates lecture-based sessions with seminars and reading groups discussions, setting the main research topics in collaboration between the module tutors and the design tutors. At the end of this stage, you will be expected to be able to produce an abstract of their proposed research, articulating a clear topic, research question and hypothesis, which will be discussed collectively in the class for formative feedback and peer-review. The second stage of the module alternates additional collective seminars with individual tutorials aimed at supporting you in the development of your research and the final writing-up of the dissertation that is both submitted for summative assessment and presented orally for plenary discussion.

This module is exempt from the full ethical approval process in accordance with section 6 of the Academic Regulations (www.anglia.ac.uk/academicregs). Expires September 2028

6b. Outline Content

- Critical analysis of precedent case studies.
- Selected theoretical texts providing the intellectual basis for architectural propositions.
- Understanding of the mutual relations between architecture and urban theories.
- Selecting and applying relevant critical frameworks and points of reference to specific examples of architectural design.
- Individually carrying out academic and practical research, using academic referencing methods for the preparation of an illustrated document.
- Ability to develop and sustain an argumentative position towards a research topic through the production of a clearly articulated and evidenced written text.
- Engaging in open, exploratory but well-informed debate that spans from architecture to reach wider socio-political considerations and urgencies tackling issues of inclusiveness, cultural diversity, environmental sustainability and low-carbon emissions in response to climate change, health and wellbeing in the built environment.
- Develop an ability of presenting coherent arguments that are fact-based and evidenced through the use of appropriate sources.

6c. Key Texts/Literature

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

6d. Specialist Learning Resources

None

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 knowledge of the cultural, social and intellectual factors, theories and technologies that influence the design of buildings
2	Knowledge and Understanding	Understand and be able to elaborate on the ethical responsibilities of architects towards the creation of safe, healthy and inclusive communities.
3	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Critically appraise and have knowledge of how theories and practices from a wider set of subjects in the humanities and sciences influence architectural design
4	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Select and apply relevant critical frameworks, concepts and historical analysis to architectural precedent and relate these to the social and cultural context in which architecture has developed.
5	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Ability to present critical arguments in a coherent, structured and elaborate form both in writing and orally.

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	1-2	1 hour per week of lecture
Other teacher managed learning	24	3-5	2 hours per week of seminar activities, tutorials, student presentations
Student managed learning	264	1-5	Research and seminar preparation
TOTAL:	300		

9. Assessment for the above Module Occurrence					
Assessment No.	Assessment Method	Learning Outcomes	Weighting (%)	Fine Grade or Pass/Fail	Qualifying Mark (%)
010	Practical	1-5	25 (%)	Fine Grade	40 (%)
30 minute individual presentation of research brief (1000 words equivalent)					
Assessment No.	Assessment Method	Learning Outcomes	Weighting (%)	Fine Grade or Pass/Fail	Qualifying Mark (%)
011	Coursework	1-5	75 (%)	Fine Grade	40 (%)
Essay 5000 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]