

Module code	ARC404	Level	4
Module title	Architectural Narratives: Design Decisions and Processes		
Status	Core		
Teaching Period	Spring		
Courses on which the module is taught	BA (Hons) Architecture		
Prerequisite modules	None		
Notional learning hours	100	Credit value	10
		ECTS Credits	5
Field trips?	This module includes compulsory study trips and site visits within London. Students are responsible for local travel costs; most exhibition entrance fees and other activities will be covered by the course.		
Additional costs	None		
Content notes	None		

1. Module description

This module will introduce you to architectural theory and critical thinking. It provides you with an in-depth understanding of core theories and philosophical directions that have shaped architectural discourse from twentieth century until today, and how they influence current or future questions surrounding architectural design, practice as well as our environment and how we live. You will explore global narratives, engage with primary texts and critical essays, using case studies to help build an architectural vocabulary that will directly inform your studio design project, enabling you to articulate philosophical, cultural, and social contexts. This module provides a broad coverage of the principles that underpin how theory shapes design decisions and your working process. The aim of this module is to develop a deep understanding of the poetic and practical qualities of architecture, encouraging critical engagement with texts, ideas and debates.

2. Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this module, you will be able to:

Decision-making (MLO 04)

Investigate and contrast different architectural perspectives, including your own, to inform decision making.

Communication (MLO 05)

Communicate your arguments, orally and in writing in multicultural contexts.

Discipline Knowledge (MLO 07)

Explain architectural theories and concepts organising your ideas and investigation into a coherent critical argument.

3. Learning and teaching methods, and reasonable adjustments

The module focuses on experiential and active learning. Activities include writing, discussions and primary and secondary readings followed by introduction of the relevant research methods and skills. You will research, reflect and analyse subjects related to the development of architectural theories and key concepts that informs modern and contemporary practice. Your

work will be undertaken as independent direct learning supported by micro-lectures, demonstrations, tutorials, small group work and seminars.

Collaborative activities are incorporated within the module through shared discussions, group-based exercises, and peer engagement, enabling you to test ideas collectively, share perspectives, and support your individual learning. You will have several opportunities to demonstrate critical thinking and contextual understanding of the researched subject, through presentation of your work, peer and tutor feedback on your progress at regular intervals during the module, as well as one to one tutorial, and a mid-term review with faculty, students and guest critiques (where appropriate).

Learning hours			100
Directed learning			36
Workshops/ classes/ seminars/ lead events	Supervision	Studio time	Other
36			
Guided/Self-guided learning			64

Students seeking reasonable adjustments should consult the current Disability Policy:

<https://www.regents.ac.uk/policies>

4. Assessments and weighting, reasonable adjustment, and feedback methods

Assessment component 1: Essay (100%)

Indicative effort: 1500 words +/-10% or equivalent

You are required to produce a critical illustrated essay on a selected authentic research subject with coherent and critical argument, demonstrating personal reflection on the recognised academic and professional visual and textual sources.

Mapping of assessment tasks:

Assessment components	MLO4	MLO5	MLO7
Essay	X	X	X

The above assessment component is summative. Students will have the opportunity for formative assessment and feedback before each summative assessment.

5. Indicative resources

Chattopadhyay, S. (2023) *Small Spaces: Recasting the Architecture of Empire*. London: Bloomsbury Publishing.

Cheng, I., Davis, C. L. II and Wilson, M. O. (eds.) (2020) *Race and Modern Architecture: A Critical History from the Enlightenment to the Present*. Pittsburgh, PA: University of Pittsburgh Press. (Available as Print and eBook)

Deutsch, R. (2020) *Think Like an Architect: How to develop critical, creative and collaborative problem-solving skills*. 1st edn. London: RIBA Publishing

Forty, A. (2004) *Words and Buildings: A Vocabulary of Modern Architecture*. London: Thames & Hudson; New York: John Wiley.

Hopkins, O. (2023) *Reading Architecture: A Visual Lexicon*. 2nd edn. London: Laurence King Publishing.

Frampton, K. (2007) *Modern Architecture: A Critical History*. 4th edn. London: Thames & Hudson.
Le Corbusier (1923 [1985]) *Towards an Architecture*. New York: Dover Publications.

Journals and other sources:

AA Files

Design Issues

Journal of Design History (JDH)

Volume

A&AePortal