

Module code	ARC502	Level	5
Module title	Architectural Context: Positioning Design		
Status	Core		
Teaching Period	Autumn		
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 develop your engagement with architectural theory through critical comparison and debate. You will examine how architecture interacts with wider cultural contexts. This module provides you with an in-depth understanding of philosophy, ecology, and technology, focusing on modern and contemporary positions. You will explore and analyse critical texts, critique architectural manifestos and their realised works through seminars, debates and writing exercises, helping you to develop your capacity to articulate your own critical stance. This module provides a broad coverage of the principles that underpin your framing of theoretical ideas situating them actively in your design practice.

The aim of the module is to develop an understanding of architecture in the context of current critical, cultural and political challenges and perspectives. Introducing significant contemporary architectural theorists, movements and discourses the module strengthens your ability to critically engage with texts, relate theory and practice, and construct critical authentic arguments

2. Learning Outcomes

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

Communication (MLO 05)

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

Discipline Knowledge (MLO 07)

Examine and apply architectural theories, and concepts organising your ideas and investigation into a coherent critical argument.

Human and Environmental Impact (MLO 10)

Analyse the impact of architecture on people and on the built environment.

3. Learning and teaching methods, and reasonable adjustments

The module focuses on experiential and active learning. You will be introduced to key architectural concepts responding to current critical, cultural and political challenges worldwide through micro-lectures which will be then explored through tutorials small group work and seminars. Activities include critical and analytical discussions, investigation of case studies, and development of rigorous academic research and writing methods that will support your independent direct learning. 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.

Your in-depth research on your chosen topic and the writing of a critical illustrated essay will assist you in beginning to develop your own architectural position and methods. You will have several opportunities to demonstrate critical thinking 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: 2500 word +/-10% or equivalent

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

Mapping of assessment tasks:

Assessment components	MLO5	MLO7	ML10
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

Böhme, G. (2020) *Atmospheric Architectures: The Aesthetics of Felt Spaces*. Translated by A. Engels-Schwarzpaul. London: Bloomsbury Visual Arts. (Available as Print and eBook)
 Coates, N. (2012) *Narrative Architecture (AD Primers)*. New York: John Wiley & Sons. (Available as Print and eBook)

Pallasmaa, J. (2005) *The Eyes of the Skin: Architecture and the Senses*. London: Wiley.

Piesik, S. (ed.) (2023) *Habitat: Vernacular Architecture for a Changing Climate*. London: Thames & Hudson.

Tunstall, E. (D.) and Agi, E. (2023) *Decolonizing Design: A Cultural Justice Guidebook*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

Vesely, D. (2006) *Architecture in the Age of Divided Representation: The Question of Creativity in the Shadow of Production*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press. (Available as Print and eBook)

Zumthor, P. (2010) *Thinking Architecture*. 3rd edn. Basel: Birkhäuser.

Journals and other sources:

AA Files

Architects' Journal

Architectural Review

Design Issues

Journal of Design History (JDH)

Volume

A&AePortal