Module code	ARC503			**Level**	5
Module title	Design Studio 3: Urban Habitats				
Status	Core				
Teaching Period	Spring				
Courses on which the module is taught	BA (Hons) Architecture				
Prerequisite modules	None				
Notional learning hours	400	**Credit value**	40	**ECTS Credits**	20
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	Students must purchase essential materials and equipment, including sketchbooks, journals, drawing tools, and model-making supplies. Basic model-making resources will be provided in limited quantities; students are encouraged to source additional materials independently.				
Content notes	The module incorporates a health and safety induction for workshop tools and materials, including emergency procedures and protective measures for individuals and equipment.				

1. Module description

This module provides you with an opportunity to develop your architectural skills and problem-solving abilities through the design of an architectural project. Your project will consider and illustrate contextual, narrative and technical understanding. Your work will demonstrate an innovative approach to spatial strategy and use, communicated via a range of architectural representation methods. Building on your existing knowledge and technique your work will explore the nature of inhabitation, cultural exchange and ecological impact, using the site, programme, and structure, to propose spaces of social encounter and community ethos.

You will develop your design proposal from conceptual strategies through to detailed resolution, focusing on contextual understanding, spatial organisation, environmental performance, and material articulation. The module integrates technical studies and theoretical dimensions which you will integrate in your studio project. This integrated design approach will prepare you for effective future practice balancing architectural ambition, technical awareness and the effective use of visual communication methods.

2. Learning Outcomes

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

Innovation (MLO 02)
Design, analyse and develop variations in your architectural propositions through iterative processes, combining curiosity and creativity.

Decision Making (MLO 04)
Analyse and reflect on different design ideas including your own to inform decision making.

Digital Data and Tools (MLO 06)

Analyse and use digital drawing and making skills responsibly in unfamiliar/ well defined design contexts to effectively communicate your design work.

Discipline Knowledge (MLO 07)
Examine and apply architectural theories, concepts and architectural legislation relevant to your project context.

Human and Environmental Impact (ML0 10)
Analyse the human and environmental impact of your architectural proposal.

3. Learning and teaching methods, and reasonable adjustments

This module will be delivered using a combination of workshops, micro-lectures, discussions, demonstrations, studio class time, individual and group tutorials and field trips.

Micro-lectures will be used when appropriate to support your project-based work, along with dedicated sessions on Architectural theory and Environmental & Technical Studies. Tutorials will support your direct learning and progress. The project will comprise of a variety of studio and workshop activities where you will be required to undertake relevant research, explore ideas and develop design proposals in response to the given brief. The majority of this work will be undertaken as independent self-directed learning.

Teaching will be centred on the studio and organised around group or individual tutorials, where work will be reviewed on a weekly basis. In this setting you will be encouraged to present and communicate your work and ideas with constructive feedback offered by your peers and tutors.. Collaborative learning is embedded throughout the early stages of the design process, including shared site investigations, joint spatial and contextual analyses, precedent discussions, and peer review activities. Group work is integral to the studio environment, where collective enquiry, shared investigation, and peer dialogue support the development of critical, creative, and professional design skills.

Theoretical enquiry is explicitly connected to physical model making as a core working method within this module. You will develop proposals through iterative cycles of drawing, physical modelling and digital production, using models as active tools to test spatial, structural, material and environmental ideas. Where appropriate, work extends into 1:1 prototyping, enabling you to explore form, joint and junction, tolerances and buildability as part of the design process.

You will be offered several opportunities to present your work and receive peer and tutor feedback on your progress at regular intervals during the module. A formative mid-term review with faculty, students and guest critiques (where appropriate) will allow an opportunity for you to receive individual, formal feedback.

Learning hours			**400**
Directed learning			144
Workshops/ classes/ seminars/ lead events	Supervision	Studio time	Other
24		120	
Guided/Self-guided learning			256

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: Project Document/ Environmental Report (30%)
Indicative effort: 24-30 pages at A3 or equivalent

You will be asked to submit a project document/ environmental report. This illustrates a visual record of your working process, contextual analysis and the project's environmental impact. It will incorporate sketches, measured drawings at scale, primary and secondary research including archival material, precedents and mapping. 3D work in the form of physical and digital models is mandatory. All material should be formatted in a coherent manner and clearly annotated and credited where appropriate.

Assessment component 2: Portfolio (50%)
Indicative effort: 40-50 pages at A3 or equivalent

You will be asked to submit a project portfolio, that illustrates synthesis of your resolved design proposal capturing your project from conception to completion. It will incorporate selected sketches, resolved measured drawings at scale, selected primary and secondary research including archival material, precedents and mapping. 3D work in the form of physical and digital models is mandatory. All material should be formatted in a coherent manner and clearly annotated and credited where appropriate.

Assessment component 3: Critical Essay (20%)
Indicative effort: 2000 words or equivalent

You will be asked to submit a Critical Essay. This illustrated document, informed by the Architectural Theory seminars, should situate your project within relevant architectural, cultural, or environmental discourse. It should articulate the conceptual drivers underpinning your work and engage critically with key authors and readings. The essay must demonstrate the relationship between theory, site, method, and design intention, and may include visual material where appropriate, such as diagrams, photographs, or analytical drawings. The essay functions as a critical reflection, evidencing your ability to frame your design through ideas, precedent, theory, and context.

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

Mapping of assessment tasks:

Assessment components	ML02	ML04	ML06	ML07	ML10
Project Document	X	X	X		
Project Portfolio		X	X	X	X
Critical Essay		X		X	

5. Indicative resources

Architectural Theory
Böhme, G. (2017) *The Aesthetics of Atmospheres*. Abingdon: Routledge.
Cantley, B. (2023). *Speculative Coolness: Architecture, Media, the Real, and the Virtual*. Routledge.

Harriss, H. (2024). *100 Women: Architects in Practice*. London: RIBA Publishing.
Zumthor, P. (2010) *Thinking Architecture*. 3rd edn. Basel: Birkhäuser.

Architectural Design

Frascari, M. (2011) *Eleven Exercises in the Art of Architectural Drawing: Slow Food for the Architect's Imagination*. Abingdon: Routledge.
Latour, B. and Yaneva, A. (2008) '"Give Me a Gun and I Will Make All Buildings Move": An ANT's View of Architecture.' In: Schumacher, M. (ed.) *Explorations in Architecture: Teaching, Design, Research*. Basel: Birkhäuser, pp. 80–89.
Leatherbarrow, D. and Mostafavi, M. (2002) *Surface Architecture*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press. (Available as eBook)
Rand, P., Miller, J. and Allen, E. (2025) *Architectural Detailing: Function, Constructability, Aesthetics*. 4th edn. Hoboken, NJ: Wiley.
Zucchi, B. (2023) *Big House Little City: Architectural Design Through an Urban Lens*. London: Routledge.

Environmental Technology

Calder, B. (2021) *Architecture: From Prehistory to Climate Emergency*. London: Pelican.
Deplazes, A. (ed.) (2023) *Constructing Architecture: Materials, Processes, Structures – A Handbook*. 5th extended edn. Basel: Birkhäuser.
Hasman, M. (2023) *RIBA Climate Guide*. London: RIBA Publishing.
Hensel, M. (ed.) (2013) *Performance-Oriented Architecture: Rethinking Architectural Design and the Built Environment*. Abingdon: Routledge.
Piesik, S. (ed.) (2023) *Habitat: Vernacular Architecture for a Changing Climate*. London: Thames & Hudson.

Journals

AA Files
Architects' Journal
Architectural Design
Architecture and Urbanism
Detail
Log
Metropolis
MONU