Architecture both defines and is defined by social, cultural, political and financial constraints: this is where the discipline and the profession of architecture meet. This mutual influence occurs wherever interventions in the built environment are considered and can be strengthened or undermined by the many ways in which the practice of architecture can be undertaken. The more informed we are about the factors that control what can be made, the concerns that those who ask us to make designs have and the ways in which we can choose to work, the greater the opportunities to propose and make appropriate architectures.

This course develops, deepens and questions the professional practice themes introduced in Intermediate School and encountered in Year Out work experience and integrates these comprehensively and critically with design and design considerations. It is also intended to provide an informed basis for the next stage of professional experience.

The course is provided through a series of 7 lectures, seminars and discussions that consider key issues relating to the professional, political, legislative and financial contexts of design and construction, together with examples of and strategies for conventional and unconventional models of practice in preparation for the next stages of work experience and professional qualification. Part of each of the first 5 sessions will cover the topics with which students must be familiar, and the remaining part of each session will review and question how these topics can or could be applied in practice to achieve or respond to varying objectives. Session 6 will be an architectural practice forum, where principals of 3 different exemplar practices will review how their practices operate, why they have elected to practice in a particular way, and the influences these have had on their work. Session 7 will consider the basis and options for the next stages of professional experience.

Timetable:

9 October 2013, 5.00pm  Lecture 1
Introduction to course, Legal, professional, statutory and ethical responsibilities of an architect, introduction to assignment

16 October 2013, 5.00pm  Lecture 2
Statutory requirements including planning, building control, and health and safety, and the interaction of these with design

By 18 October 2013  Select preferred tutor
Register selection with Rob Sparrow. Tutors’ CVs available in Library or on Server. Maximum of 12 students per tutor, allocated on 1st come 1st served basis

By 18 October 2013:  Submit one drawing in pdf format showing proposed selected project. Submit by email to Kathy Gal Kathy.Gal@aaschool.ac.uk and to Rob Sparrow: sparrow_ro@aaschool.ac.uk. Issued to selected tutor

23 October 2013, 5.00pm  Lecture 3
Preparation of briefs to meet the objectives of clients and users; strategies and methods for implementation and construction
30 October 2013, 5.00pm  Lecture 4
Financial factors of and controls for choices of different building typologies, technical and construction systems and materials, and the interaction of these with design

Between
28 October - 1 November 2013: Tutorial 1
Bring drawings of your selected project with you and be prepared to review project, explore constraints, develop structure for submission.
Date, time and venue allocated by Rob Sparrow

13 November 2013  Lecture 5
Forms of and strategies for architectural practice; principles of running practices and projects, consideration of emerging influences

20 November 2013  Lecture 6
Forum and discussion: review of modes of architectural practice by exemplar practitioners, and effects of these on their work and opportunities

27 November 2013  Lecture 7
Next stages of professional experience, forward thinking, planning and preparation

Between
25 November - 29 November 2013: Tutorial 2
To review draft of submission drawings, obtain guidance
Date, time and venue allocated by Rob Sparrow

Between
9 December - 13 December 2013: Submission of completed assignment
5 A3-sized annotated drawings, content as described in Assignment and Assessment below

Assignment and Assessment
• Students will be asked to select one of their projects from Fourth Year and undertake a "What if?" review. This will consider, through a series of annotated drawings based on the project, how integration of professional, statutory, financial and implementation considerations would have affected the design if it had been constructed in the UK now, and to outline how, as a result, the design could have been developed differently. The original scale, subject and location of the project are not relevant, but the project must have the capability of physical substance and presence. By agreement, a smaller part of a large project may be selected.

• Students must forward one drawing in pdf format showing their proposed selected project to Course Tutor and course administrator by email by 18 October 2013. Students will at the same time identify where in the UK they have chosen as the theoretical location for their project.

• At the start of Term 1, students will be asked to select a tutor from a panel, and to work with that tutor over two compulsory tutorials to develop their assignments. The tutorials will take place during Week 5 (28 October –1 November 2013) and Week 9 of Term 1 (25–29 November 2013)
• Final submission at the end of Term 1 comprising 5 A3-sized annotated drawings of selected Fourth Year project considering planning, building regulations, financial factors, the brief and implementation including architectural practice had the project been based in the UK in the present time, and outlining how the design could have developed differently to address these constraints

• Assessment will be based on the following:
  • Presentation of 5 A3-sized annotated drawings of one Fourth Year project focusing on the specific aspects as described in the submission requirements
  • Evidence of appropriate knowledge and skills to recognise, understand and critically reflect on the professional issues which affect architectural design, and how these designs would be prepared to conform to appropriate professional and regulatory frameworks

• Marking/results framework adheres to a High Pass with Distinction, High Pass, Pass, Low Pass, Complete to Pass system.

• This course is compulsory and must be passed as part of the overall requirements for passing in Diploma School. The assignment drawings must be available for inclusion in the final academic portfolio of each student’s work.

• Students who do not comply with the requirements for project selection, or who do not attend the first of the two compulsory tutorials will invited for review with the Course Tutor and with their Unit Master. Students who do not attend the second of the two compulsory tutorials or who do not comply with the requirements for the assignment submission will be raised with the offices of the AA Director and Registrar and may be invited for review.

Selected bibliography:

TOPIC AREAS

PROFESSIONALISM, ETHICS AND CODES OF CONDUCT
  • RIBA, Code of Professional Conduct, RIBA Publishing, 2005
  • Spector, T, The Ethical Architect, Princeton Architectural Press, 2010

APPOINTMENT

LAW
  • The Architect's Act 1997, Stationery Office, 1997 as amended

PLANNING AND BUILDING REGULATIONS
  • The Building Regulations, Communities and Local Government, 2006, as amended
  • Approved Documents, Communities and Local Government, 2006, as amended
  • Tricker, R and Alford, S, Building Regulations in Brief, Routledge, 2012
  • The Planning Portal, www.planningportal.gov.uk

HEALTH AND SAFETY, ACCESSIBILITY
  • Griffiths, O, Understanding the CDM Regulations, Taylor and Francis, 2007
COSTS AND FINANCE


PRACTICE MANAGEMENT AND TEAM ORGANISATION


PROJECT MANAGEMENT


CONTRACT AND CONTRACT ADMINISTRATION


DISPUTE RESOLUTION


Online:
- RIBA: [www.architecture.com](http://www.architecture.com)
- ARB: [www.arb.org.uk](http://www.arb.org.uk)
- Planning Portal: [www.planningportal.gov.uk](http://www.planningportal.gov.uk)
- Building Regulations and Approved Documents: [www.planningportal.gov.uk](http://www.planningportal.gov.uk)
- Department for Communities and Local Government: [www.communities.gov.uk](http://www.communities.gov.uk)
- Construction Industry Council: [www.cic.org.uk](http://www.cic.org.uk)
- Building Futures: [www.buildingfutures.org.uk](http://www.buildingfutures.org.uk)
- Constructing excellence: [www.constructingexcellence.org.uk](http://www.constructingexcellence.org.uk)
- Sustainable Development Commission: [www.sd-commission.org.uk](http://www.sd-commission.org.uk)
- Barbour Index online – available through AA Library.