

SEMESTER 1

Project 1: ARCHITECTURE & CONTEXT

The first semester is dedicated to a series of exercises which are abstract, building on each other, to introduce core concepts and competencies.

INTRODUCTION

In architecture a project starts with the **CONTEXT**.

There is no building yet. The architect and the client initiate any project by first exploring the place to be occupied = **CONTEXT**.

We must start by understanding the dimensions and qualities of that **CONTEXT** and learning the ways of representing that place as the site for **ARCHITECTURE**.

This project will mimic the design of a structure on a site **UTILISING** your present level of understanding... it will be strange and unusual.

We will leave many things out that are required in the design of a building

We will focus on stimulating and engaging your imagination, while developing your drawing and modelling skills.

You will become aware of some fundamental underlying qualities of **ARCHITECTURE** that will underpin your future development.

AIMS

1. To effectively understand the nature of a site context for a future piece of architecture
2. To learn compelling ways of illustrating the context for a piece of architecture, modelling the real world for use in the design world
3. To generate and develop a form which represents a piece of architecture
4. To generate and model the relationship between a context and a piece of architecture

Project 1: ARCHITECTURE & CONTEXT

Weeks 1 - 12

100%

In this 12-week project you will create your own physical landscape – ‘an **island**’ - in preparation for an architectural project.

The project will guide you through the development of a series of interventions sited in your island landscape.

Starting with a solid **mass**, through a series of iterations, you will define the **space** contained within and around your composition.

The **structure** and material qualities will be developed further as you refine your project in context.

Following careful consideration of the scale of the human body, you will accommodate **inhabitation** into your architecture.

Finally, you will design a series of **thresholds** to allow you to move into and through the ‘place’ which define the structure’s relationship to the specific site chosen. You will introduce **apertures** to articulate the qualities of the experience offered by your project.

PROJECT 1

WEEKS 1 - 3:

Island + Mass

WEEKS 4 - 6:

Space + Structure

WEEKS 7 – 9:

Form + Inhabitation

WEEKS 10 -12:

Threshold + Aperture

ASSESSMENT EVENTS: SEMESTER 1

Project 1: ARCHITECTURE & CONTEXT

50% of the year-long course

FIRST QUARTER

| | | | |
|----------|-------------------|----------------------|-----|
| 1/Week 3 | Thursday 23 March | Island + Mass | 24% |
|----------|-------------------|----------------------|-----|

SECOND QUARTER

| | | | |
|----------|-------------------|--------------------------|-----|
| 2/Week 6 | Thursday 27 April | Space + Structure | 26% |
|----------|-------------------|--------------------------|-----|

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|----------|-----------------|----------------------------|-----|
| 3/Week 9 | Thursday 18 May | Form + Inhabitation | 24% |
|----------|-----------------|----------------------------|-----|

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|-------------|------------------|-----------------------------|-----|
| 4/Crit Week | Thursday 15 June | Threshold + Aperture | 26% |
|-------------|------------------|-----------------------------|-----|

TOTAL SEMESTER 1

100%

ASSESSMENTS

A student's final grade for any course is calculated from an aggregation of all summative assessment activities prescribed for that course. To be eligible to pass any course where the summative assessment includes a final examination, a minimum mark of 40% must be obtained in that examination. The following grading scale applies in the Bachelor of Architectural studies Programme:

| Grade | Mark range |
|--------------|---|
| A+ | 90 – 100 |
| A | 85 – 89 |
| A- | 80 – 84 |
| B+ | 75 – 79 |
| B | 70 – 74 |
| B- | 65 – 69 |
| C+ | 60 – 64 |
| C | 55 – 59 |
| C- | 50 – 54 |
| D | 40 – 49 (fail) |
| E | 0 – 39 (fail) |
| | |
| W | withdrawn from course |
| DNC | did not complete |
| DEF | course result not finalised |
| R | restricted pass (R grade cannot be granted for courses in MArch (Prof) programme) |
| CC/CR | cross-credit/credit recognition from another qualification |

GRADE PROFILE

A (pass)

- very good knowledge and understanding of all primary concepts
- good knowledge and understanding of secondary concepts
- integrates concepts very well
- all-round competence at relevant skill
- very good level of appropriate communication and presentation

B (pass)

- good knowledge and understanding of all primary concepts
- moderate knowledge and understanding of secondary concepts
- integrates concepts to a moderate degree
- competence at relevant skill
- good level of appropriate communication and presentation

C (pass)

- adequate knowledge and understanding of all primary concepts
- indications of ability to understand secondary concepts
- indications of ability to integrate concepts
- competent level of appropriate communication and presentation

D (fail)

- has demonstrated at least adequate knowledge, understanding, relevant skills and communication abilities in some areas, but these are compromised by inadequacies in other areas

E (fail)

- a general failure to demonstrate adequate knowledge, understanding, relevant skills, and communication ability

+

A 'plus' may be used in conjunction with passing grades (eg. "B+") and indicates that the student has clearly shown some significant characteristics of the grade above. A grade of "A+" indicates all-round assurance and finesse in meeting the requirements of an 'A' grade.

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A 'minus' may be used in conjunction with passing grades (eg "B-") and indicates that All grade profile components are at a bare minimum for that grade.