



## **Module Specification**

### **Design in Practice**

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#### **Contents**

<b>Module Specification .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Part 1: Information .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Part 2: Description .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Part 3: Teaching and learning methods .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Part 4: Assessment.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Part 5: Contributes towards .....</b>	<b>8</b>

## Part 1: Information

**Module title:** Design in Practice

**Module code:** UBLMYA-30-3

**Level:** Level 6

**For implementation from:** 2023-24

**UWE credit rating:** 30

**ECTS credit rating:** 15

**College:** Faculty of Environment & Technology

**School:** FET Dept of Architecture & Built Environ

**Partner institutions:** None

**Field:** Architecture and the Built Environment

**Module type:** Module

**Pre-requisites:** None

**Excluded combinations:** None

**Co-requisites:** None

**Continuing professional development:** No

**Professional, statutory or regulatory body requirements:** None

## Part 2: Description

**Overview:** Not applicable

**Features:** Module entry requirements: Successful completion of an undergraduate degree in architectural design.

**Educational aims:** This module has two related outcomes:

The development and practice of architectural design skills through work in

professional consultancy;

and the development of understanding and critical reflection on the professional and ethical practises required of a professional architect.

**Outline syllabus:** This module provides a critical academic framework for work-based learning of architectural design. As part of a summer internship, a 'year out' in practice, or as an apprentice, students are required to develop an architectural project as part of their host-Practice's portfolio. This Practice-based project should be defined as a discreet package of work that is the equivalent of a minimum of 6 working weeks (225-hours) of architectural practice. The project can be for an aspect of a building design or a particular Work Stage (as defined by the RIBA). The majority of the project must constitute design practice in which an architectural problem is investigated and resolved through creative and iterative design development. The problem must offer a degree of design complexity in the integration of briefing, technical and design requirements.

The student is required to develop a portfolio account of this Practice-based project that reports on the student's process for developing design proposals for the project. This portfolio must also reflect on the design methodology, working processes and technical, social, economic and environmental contexts within which this project has been developed.

In parallel with the development of this professional project work, the student is required to develop an independent and separate Design Study that responds to the brief of the Practice-based project. This exercise in independent design will be of a more limited scope but it will build on and take benefit from the architectural knowledge developed by the student in their investigation of the Practice-based project. The portfolio should also include a critical and self-reflexive analysis of the learning experienced by the student in developing this Practice-based project.

The third assessment is a reflective analysis of the professional context within which this Design Study has been developed. This is to be developed as written Project Case Study that provides an account of the Design Study and contextualises this

within the project environment (in terms of appointment, procurement and practice structure) and explains the issues of professional practice associated with the project.

Development of the Design Portfolio and the related independent Design Study will be supported by seminars and individual design tutorials and the host-Practice will also be asked to contribute as Practice Mentor for the project. As this is a work-based learning module the majority of the work is undertaken as part of an apprenticeship, placement or internship in architectural Practice. The student's Practice is invited to participate by identifying an aspect of their work that can become the subject of student's work for the module. This should be a discreet scope of work that is predominantly undertaken by the student, with mentorship by the Practice, and which can also be used as the subject of a related but separate design study by the student. The work-based aspect of the module can be conducted within an 8-week timeframe, with a minimum of 6 of these weeks being spent in full-time Practice, with two-weeks anticipated for the independent design project. The module could also be developed as a discreetly defined aspect of an extended period of Practice – as part of a 'year out' for example.

### **Part 3: Teaching and learning methods**

**Teaching and learning methods:** Teaching will be delivered as seminars and individual design tutorials during the project, and case study tutorials during the module. These taught sessions should serve two purposes. Firstly, they will contextualise the student's own experience of practice within a wider landscape of professional architectural practice to assist the student in the compilation of their portfolio of project work and the student's reflection on their professional practice. These seminars will also direct students to readings and examples of reflective practice that can assist the students in developing their portfolio and reflections. Secondly, seminars and tutorials will support that student in identifying the nature of their independent Design Study; and in the development and critique of that study. Teaching in support of this Design Study will take the form of a number of formative and one summative design review.

Students will be enrolled on this module while working in Practice. The majority of their time will be spent in Practice; and the Design Study will be undertaken as independent learning. In support of the students' reflexive professional development lectures and seminars will discuss issues of professional practice relating to the project such as: professional codes of conduct, building procurement and contracts, delivery of design services, client and user participation, brief-making, practice structures, business management, regulatory frameworks, inclusive design, project funding and costing. The intention will be that this teaching supports key moments and actions within the project and prime topics for reflection in the Project Case Study.

Tutorials/Seminars/Formative Reviews: 20 hours

Practice Mentoring: 3 hours

Summative Assessment: 2 hours

Work Placement: 225 hours (minimum 6 working weeks)

Self-directed learning: 50 hours

Total student hours: 300 hours

**Module Learning outcomes:** On successful completion of this module students will achieve the following learning outcomes.

**MO1** Critically evaluate the development of a Practice-based design project and explain and critically analyse the decision-making process between that consultancy, clients, users and co-professionals through which this design has developed.

**MO2** Develop the evidence base for a Practice-based project and apply and expand this architectural knowledge, in the development of a complex creative design proposal, using research by design methodologies.

**MO3** Demonstrate an academically rigorous and deep professional understanding of technical, social, economic and environmental contexts as these have been integrated into a Practice-based design project.

**MO4** Produce an independent design proposal that demonstrates critical thinking, originality and that develops a well-resolved and sophisticated reflective spatial solution to an architectural brief.

**MO5** Critically assess a variety of methods of representation and modelling used in a Practice-based design project and apply suitable methods to the final presentation of an independent design proposal.

**MO6** Effectively explain, how suitable methods of assembly, integration of services and compliance with regulatory frameworks have been investigated and subsequently achieved in the design process for a Practice-based project.

**MO7** Write a feasibility study for an architectural project of moderate complexity that articulates the project brief, examines the client and users' requirements and examines these with reference to funding, procurement, regulatory, programming, construction and costing constraints.

**MO8** Demonstrate an understanding of the responsibilities of a professional architect in terms of appointment, ethics, project management and practice management and apply these to a project scenario.

**Hours to be allocated:** 300

**Contact hours:**

Independent study/self-guided study = 60 hours

Placement = 225 hours

Face-to-face learning = 15 hours

Total = 300

**Reading list:** The reading list for this module can be accessed at [readinglists.uwe.ac.uk](https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/ublmya-30-3.html) via the following link <https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/ublmya-30-3.html>

## **Part 4: Assessment**

**Assessment strategy:** Within a single submission there will be a Design Portfolio, an associated Design Study and a Project Case Study.

The Design Study will be individual to each student and the topic and scope of a Design Study will relate to the nature of the Practice-based project each student has identified. The student will be required to demonstrate that they have achieved the learning outcomes, but the precise scope of design work and presentation of it will be the subject of discussion between student and staff. The output for the Design Study must be in the form of a design project to meet professional requirements.

As noted above, during the module seminars and tutorials will support the student in identifying the nature of their independent Design Study; and in the development of the Case Study. Teaching in support of this Design Study will take the form of a number of formative and one summative design reviews. These tutorials and reviews will act as review points of academic oversight to confirm the student's sole and independent authorship of the design work to be assessed. A final presentation and review of the Design Study performs a similar function and provides an opportunity for the student to explain their work in detail.

In order to confirm compliance with PSRB requirements, students must fulfil the requirements of each of the three pieces, however they will be cohesively presented as a single professional report.

The resit will be a reworked submission of the work presented at first sit.

**Assessment tasks:**

**Portfolio (First Sit)**

Description: An assembly of a Design Portfolio, a Design Study and a Project Case Study - presented as a single professional report.

Weighting: 100 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4, MO5, MO6, MO7, MO8

**Portfolio (Resit)**

Description: Portfolio - An assembly of a Design Portfolio, a Design Study and a Project Case Study - presented as a single professional report.

(This will be a reworked submission of the work presented at first sit)

Weighting: 100 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4, MO5, MO6, MO7, MO8

**Part 5: Contributes towards**

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

Architecture [Sep][PT][Frenchay][3yrs] MArch 2021-22

Architecture {Apprenticeship-UWE} [Sep][FT][Frenchay][3yrs] MArch 2021-22