Module Specification

Future Practice in Architecture

Version: 2026-27, v2.0, Approved

Contents

Part 1: Information

Module title: Future Practice in Architecture

Module code: UBLL4B-15-M

Level: Level 7

For implementation from: 2026-27

UWE credit rating: 15

ECTS credit rating: 7.5

College: College of Arts, Technology and Environment

School: CATE School of Architecture and Environment

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: The Future Practice in Architecture module provides students with a practical understanding of project lifecycle management, regulatory frameworks, and professional responsibility within the context of the RIBA Plan of Work. The module uses a theoretical project approach, allowing students to explore architectural projects of varying scales and follow them through each stage of the RIBA work plan. Students gain insights into key aspects of practice, including fees, contracts, procurement, and management, focusing on how these elements interact across a

project's lifecycle.

By following the RIBA stages, students will learn to navigate the complexities of contractual and regulatory requirements, cost management, and ethical responsibilities. Through this framework, they will understand the architect's evolving responsibilities at each stage of a project, from concept design to project handover, and develop skills essential for professional practice and leadership. Students gain an understanding of how architectural practices operate within the construction industry and how their emerging architectural interests can be incorporated into practice models that serve both clients and communities.

This module reflects RIBA's values in business ethics (E6), professional responsibility, and social impact (E2). Through practical applications, students learn the fundamentals of ethical practice management and gain insights into RIBA's standards for responsible project delivery and effective business operations within architectural practice.

Features: RIBA Plan of Work Structure: Guides students through each RIBA stage, from strategic definition to handover, exploring how responsibilities and processes evolve throughout a project's lifecycle.

Theoretical Project Application: Using a theoretical project model, students explore architectural management concepts in practice, such as contracts, fees, regulatory compliance, and ethical considerations, with an emphasis on real-world applications.

Responsibility and Professional Conduct: Examines what it means to practice responsibly, covering topics like public accountability, safety, and ethical practice within the regulatory and contractual framework.

Regulatory Framework and Cost Management: Introduces key regulations, including building regulations and planning requirements, alongside cost-focused considerations, such as fee structures, cost control, and procurement strategies.

Educational aims: The aim of this module is to develop students' understanding of the regulatory framework, professional responsibilities, and project lifecycle

management in architecture, with a strong focus on the RIBA Plan of Work. By the end of the module, students will be able to:

Apply the RIBA Plan of Work to a theoretical project, demonstrating understanding of project lifecycle stages and responsibilities.

Evaluate key construction procurement strategies and cost management principles, demonstrating the ability to select and apply appropriate delivery methods, budgeting tools, and contract frameworks.

Evaluate the regulatory framework, including planning, building regulations, and procurement requirements, and their impact on project delivery.

Critically assess the architect's professional responsibilities within the context of regulatory compliance, client relations, and public safety.

Outline syllabus: The Future Practice in Architecture module provides students with the foundational knowledge and practical experience needed to navigate the professional landscape of architectural practice. The syllabus is structured around both theoretical knowledge and practical applications.

Students explore the RIBA Plan of Work as a comprehensive project lifecycle management tool, developing an understanding of the goals, deliverables, and responsibilities associated with each stage. Emphasis is placed on how the Plan of Work structures the architectural process and connects to the regulatory framework.

Through this process students study and apply concepts in fee structuring, cost estimation, and the role of contracts within the RIBA stages. Through an examination of different contract types students learn effective strategies for managing project costs while ensuring compliance and upholding health and safety standards. Students are introduced to procurement routes, including traditional, design and build, and construction management, examining how these align with project goals and contractual arrangements. This exploration includes the roles of different team members, with a focus on collaboration, stakeholder management, and contractual

relationships.

In the later stages study is directed toward statutory bodies, building regulations, planning requirements, and safety standards. Students examine the regulatory framework governing projects, understanding how regulations apply across various stages and affect decision-making, project risk, and public accountability.

Throughout the module students work on a theoretical project to apply the concepts learned across the RIBA stage analysing each work stage to understand the evolving responsibilities, regulatory requirements, and financial implications associated with the project lifecycle.

Alignment to ARB Competency Outcomes

The ARB Competency Outcomes listed below are assessed to a passing standard as required under ARB's Accreditation Standard 1.1.

M4: Manage and structure projects, administer construction contracts and resolve common construction-related challenges. (Understanding)

M5: Manage the inter-relationships of individuals, organisations, statutory bodies, and professions involved in procuring and delivering architectural projects, recognising how these are defined through contractual and organisational structures. (Understanding)

M6: Select appropriate procurement routes and means of delivery, recognising their relative risks to contractual parties, their implications for sustainable design outcomes and how these influence the selection and management of construction contracts. (Understanding)

M7: Apply the principles of risk management, liabilities, and insurance to architectural projects. (Understanding)

M8: Apply the principles of cost management, control, and budgeting to architectural

projects. (Understanding)

M9: Plan, manage, monitor and communicate health and safety arrangements for construction projects as required by current legislation. (Understanding)

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods: The module combines lectures, practical workshops, and group activities to support students' understanding of architectural practice fundamentals:

Lectures: Provide foundational knowledge on the RIBA Plan of Work and introduce key topics such as construction contracts, procurement strategies, budgeting and cost control, project risk, liability, and health and safety legislation. Lectures equip students with the conceptual tools to understand and analyse how architectural projects are structured and delivered.

Workshops: Students work through scenarios involving contract selection, procurement decision-making, and risk analysis. Each session mirrors real-world practice challenges, helping students build applied understanding of project lifecycle management, cost planning, and legal and insurance obligations. These sessions also support students in preparing their assessed report.

Theoretical Project Application: Students work through a theoretical project, applying the RIBA Plan of Work to explore each stage of the project lifecycle. This project-based approach helps students understand the evolving responsibilities of the architect, including procurement route selection, cost control, contract administration, and compliance with health and safety standards, and how these evolve across different project phases.

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

MO1 Apply the RIBA Plan of Work to structure architectural projects, demonstrating understanding of project stages, regulatory and statutory responsibilities, contract administration and resolution of construction-related challenges. (Mapped to ARB Outcome: M4)

MO2 Evaluate and coordinate the inter-relationships of individuals, organisations, statutory bodies, and professionals involved in architectural project delivery, recognising their roles within legal, contractual, and ethical frameworks. (Mapped to ARB Outcome: M5)

MO3 Evaluate the risks and implications of procurement routes, delivery methods, and contract administration strategies to different parties, applying principles of contract selection, cost management, and budgeting to support sustainable, ethical, and financially responsible project delivery. (Mapped to ARB Outcomes: M6, M8)

MO4 Articulate how risk management, liabilities, insurance, and health and safety responsibilities are planned, managed, monitored and communicated in construction projects in line with current legislation. (Mapped to ARB Outcomes: M7, M9)

Hours to be allocated: 150

Contact hours:

Independent study/self-guided study = 114 hours

Face-to-face learning = 36 hours

Reading list: The reading list for this module can be accessed at readinglists.uwe.ac.uk via the following link https://rl.talis.com/3/uwe/lists/F4F18BD3-0628-E817-BD92-2676C967107D.html

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: Project Lifecycle Analysis Report (100%)

This report requires students to analyse a theoretical or real project across its entire

lifecycle, from concept through to project close-out, using the RIBA Plan of Work stages as a guide. Within the report, students will address:

Project Planning and Procurement: Outline the approach to project planning, selecting appropriate procurement routes and means of delivery, recognising their relative risks to contractual parties, their implications for sustainable design outcomes, and their influence on the selection and management of construction contracts. Students should explain how these decisions align with project goals, regulatory requirements, and ethical considerations.

Cost and Risk Management: Provide an analysis of project budgeting and financial control, integrating principles of cost management, liability, insurance, and risk mitigation as they apply to the administration of architectural contracts appropriate to the project scale and type. The report should demonstrate an understanding of budgeting constraints, contractual obligations, and the balance between cost efficiency and quality.

Regulatory Compliance and Safety: Demonstrate understanding of how health and safety responsibilities are planned, managed, and communicated across project stages, ensuring compliance with current legislation, building regulations, and public safety standards.

Professional and Ethical Responsibility: Students are encouraged to consider how ethical and sustainable decision-making informs procurement choices, cost planning, and project delivery strategies throughout the RIBA Plan of Work.

Assessment Objectives:
This assessment measures the student’s ability to analyse and apply the RIBA Plan of Work to structure architectural projects, manage construction contracts, and navigate evolving responsibilities across the project lifecycle. It evaluates their capacity to select appropriate procurement routes and delivery methods, applying principles of contract administration, cost management, and budgeting to support sustainable and ethical project delivery. Students must demonstrate understanding of risk, liability, and insurance, and show how health and safety responsibilities are

planned, managed, and communicated in compliance with legal and regulatory frameworks.

This assessment demonstrates competency in project delivery and contract management (M4, M5), procurement and cost control (M6, M8), and professional risk, liability, and safety legislation (M7, M9).

As per UWE Academic Regulations and Programme Specification, the pass mark for each assessment on the module is 50%. As per the ARB requirements compensation and/or condonement are not permitted for any module that will assess ARB's Outcomes to passing standard.

Formative Feedback: During workshops and tutorials, students receive feedback on project stages, allowing them to refine their approach and deepen their understanding of each RIBA stage. This iterative feedback process supports the development of a comprehensive final report and ensures students engage actively with the project lifecycle framework.

Resit Assessment: If required, the resit assessment will follow the same brief and submission format as the main assessment, allowing students to develop and submit a revised report that meets the original assessment objectives.

Assessment tasks:

Report (First Sit)
Description: Project Lifecycle Analysis Report
Weighting: 100 %
Final assessment: Yes
Group work: No
Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4

Report (Resit)
Description: Project Lifecycle Analysis Report
Weighting: 100 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4

Part 5: Contributes towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

Architecture [Frenchay] MArch 2025-26

Architecture [Frenchay] MArch 2025-26

Architecture {Apprenticeship-UWE}[Frenchay] MArch 2025-26

Architecture [Frenchay] MArch 2025-26

Architecture [Frenchay] MArch 2025-26

Architecture {Apprenticeship-UWE}[Frenchay] MArch 2025-26