



Module Specification

Studio 2.1 - Living

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Part 1: Information

Module title: Studio 2.1 - Living

Module code: UBLL74-30-2

Level: Level 5

For implementation from: 2026-27

UWE credit rating: 30

ECTS credit rating: 15

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: Studio 1.1 - Form and Context 2025-26, Studio 1.2 - People and Environment 2025-26

Excluded combinations: None

Co-requisites: None

Continuing professional development: No

Professional, statutory or regulatory body requirements: None

Part 2: Description

Overview: Studio 2.1 introduces students to the principles and practices of housing design, focusing on socio-political, environmental, and cultural contexts. This module emphasises residential architecture, addressing housing typologies, neighbourhood-scale urbanism, and user-centred design. Students will investigate how design of places to live can respond to community needs, cultural diversity, and sustainability challenges. Precedent analysis and contextual studies will inform their proposals,

encouraging them to explore typological variety, spatial adaptability, and innovative approaches to residential energy performance and construction methods.

The module provides a foundation for integrating housing design into broader urban contexts, introducing tools and strategies for analysing user needs, sustainability, and the regulatory frameworks that shape housing production in the UK. Through physical and digital outputs, students will articulate their understanding of housing at multiple scales, culminating in a portfolio and verbal presentation.

This module addresses design processes and communication and ethical and professional practice by emphasising user-centred housing design. Students explore housing typologies, socio-political contexts, and sustainability, integrating environmental performance and construction systems into designs that respond to community needs.

Features: Housing-Focused Design: Develops understanding of the socio-cultural and environmental dimensions of domestic architecture.

Iterative Design Development: Encourages the exploration of housing typologies and responsive design through iterative processes.

Integration of Contextual Analysis: Embeds research on urban, socio-political, and planning influences into design development.

Environmental Performance: Focuses on energy efficiency and construction systems for sustainable housing design.

Creative Assessment: Combines a portfolio of physical and digital outputs with a verbal presentation to demonstrate analytical and representational skills.

Educational aims: The aim of this module is to enable students to design places to live that address contemporary challenges, balancing cultural, environmental, and technological considerations. By the end of the module, students will:

Develop proposals that respond to user needs, environmental principles and

construction methodologies.

Explore the cultural and ideological contexts of domesticity and their influence on housing design.

Integrate environmental performance and construction considerations into housing designs.

Communicate design ideas effectively through drawings, models, verbal presentations, and written reflections.

Outline syllabus: The module emphasises the study of housing design through research, precedent analysis, and iterative project development. Students will begin by examining housing typologies and their cultural, social, and environmental contexts. This includes an exploration of the ideological and spatial narratives of domesticity, such as public/private relationships, daily life practices, and social-spatial relations.

Precedent studies will focus on single-unit and cluster housing types, considering cultural and site-specific factors that influence housing design. Students will analyse neighbourhood-scale urban contexts, exploring planning frameworks, regulatory considerations, and socio-political influences that shape the places we live.

The module will introduce contemporary strategies for off-site manufacturing and energy-efficient construction systems, encouraging students to integrate these approaches into their design work. Iterative design processes will guide students in developing housing proposals that balance environmental performance, cultural appropriateness, and user needs.

The final phase of the module focuses on the production of a portfolio that documents research, design development, and final housing proposals. Students will also present their work verbally, reflecting on their process and design outcomes.

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods: The module employs a studio-based approach, supported by lectures, workshops, and tutorials to develop students' design and critical thinking skills. Key methods include:

Studio Tutorials and Feedback Sessions: Provide regular, constructive feedback on design development and encourage iterative refinement.

Lectures and Seminars: Cover key themes such as housing typologies, planning regulations, environmental performance, and construction methodologies.

Workshops: Focus on representational techniques, including physical model-making, drawing, and visualisation.

Independent Study: Encourages students to conduct research, refine designs, and develop a cohesive portfolio.

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

MO1 Develop housing designs for a specific user group that address urban, cultural, and environmental contexts while satisfying user needs.

MO2 Integrate sustainable construction and environmental principles into housing design.

MO3 Communicate architectural concepts effectively through drawings, models, and written reflections applying professional conventions.

MO4 Evaluate planning and socio-political structures that inform housing design in different contexts.

Hours to be allocated: 300

Contact hours:

Independent study/self-guided study = 192 hours

Face-to-face learning = 108 hours

Reading list: The reading list for this module can be accessed at [readinglists.uwe.ac.uk](https://rl.talis.com/3/uwe/lists/A54E7CF8-6DE0-972A-2822-5533FF26FE99.html) via the following link <https://rl.talis.com/3/uwe/lists/A54E7CF8-6DE0-972A-2822-5533FF26FE99.html>

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: Assessment Type: Portfolio

Rationale: The portfolio assessment enables students to document their engagement with the module themes and present their housing proposals. This format emphasises the integration of contextual research, environmental considerations, and user-centred design. The portfolio includes drawings, models, and written reflections, culminating in a verbal presentation where students articulate their design rationale.

Assessment Objectives: The portfolio assesses students' ability to analyse contextual influences on housing design, produce housing proposals that respond to user needs and environmental considerations, integrate construction methodologies into their designs, and communicate ideas effectively through a range of representational media.

Formative Opportunities: Weekly studio feedback sessions provide students with regular, constructive input on their progress, enabling them to refine their work and align it with the module's learning outcomes.

Plagiarism Prevention: The portfolio assessment is designed to require original work, including models, drawings, and reflective writing. Regular reviews and iterative submissions ensure authenticity and personal engagement with the module content.

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 revised submissions that meets the original assessment objectives.

Assessment tasks:

Portfolio (First Sit)

Description: Design Portfolio

Weighting: 100 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4

Portfolio (Resit)

Description: Design Portfolio

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] BSc (Hons) 2025-26

Architecture and Planning [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2025-26

Architecture and Environmental Engineering [Frenchay] BEng (Hons) 2025-26