Module Specification

Architecture Studio 3

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Contents

Part 1: Information

Module title: Architecture Studio 3

Module code: UBLL7Y-60-3

Level: Level 6

For implementation from: 2027-28

UWE credit rating: 60

ECTS credit rating: 30

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: Architecture Studio 2.2 2026-27, Studio 2.1 - Living 2026-27

Excluded combinations: None

Co-requisites: None

Continuing professional development: No

Professional, statutory or regulatory body requirements: None

Part 2: Description

Overview: This module serves as the capstone of the BSc (Hons) Architecture programme, providing a platform for students to engage in research-driven and experimental design development. It spans the entire academic year, offering opportunities to critically and creatively address complex and multi-faceted architectural briefs. Students will progress from brief formulation through site analysis, conceptual exploration, and iterative design development to the creation of a well-resolved architectural proposal. Interlinked with the Critical Contexts and

Connected Construction and Digital Design modules, this studio encourages a holistic approach, enabling students to explore theoretical, environmental, ethical and technological dimensions of their design processes and outcomes. The module supports students in developing a professional designer identity, fostering critical thinking, and preparing them for future academic or professional endeavours. Emphasis is placed on thematic studios led by staff expertise, allowing students to pursue areas of personal interest such as urban regeneration, speculative futures, or adaptive reuse.

This module incorporates a focus on safe, healthy and resilient design, as well as effective design processes and communication. Through their projects, students gain experience in designing for resilience, safety, and sustainability, aligning their work with standards in health and life safety.

Features: Year-Long, 60-Credit Studio: Provides extended engagement with complex design challenges.

Research-Driven Design: Encourages experimental and critical design thinking rooted in interdisciplinary research.

Integration with Year 3 Modules: The module draws on knowledge and skills developed in related Year 3 modules to allow integration technical, theoretical, and design considerations where appropriate.

Thematic Studios: Studio pathways are designed to encourage individual exploration and innovation within a broad theme while ensuring the scope is realistic and suitable for undergraduate-level learning.

Comprehensive Support Framework: Tutorials, workshops, and group sessions offer step-by-step guidance to help students navigate the integration of research, technical details, and creative design processes.

Educational aims: The aim of this module is to prepare students for professional and academic practice by enabling them to develop and communicate an integrated architectural proposition. It supports students in developing a professional design

identity aligned with their interests and career goals, introducing advanced design processes that recognise social, cultural, economic, and historical factors, as well as sustainable practices shaping the built environment.

By the end of the module, students will:

Develop a coherent architectural proposition that synthesises conceptual, technical, and contextual considerations.

Demonstrate an ability to research, analyse, and apply interdisciplinary approaches to address complex architectural challenges.

Integrate environmental, sustainable, and structural considerations, into their design proposals.

Articulate their architectural vision through a portfolio, verbal presentation, and other media appropriate to the design intent.

Broaden their awareness of building types, user needs, and architectural evolution, equipping them to address diverse design challenges critically and creatively.

Outline syllabus: The content and structure of the module are shaped by the design studio teaching team, aligning with current national and international agendas, staff expertise, and student feedback from previous years. Students will begin with a studio brief within a thematic studio requiring them to formulate individual project briefs tailored to designated sites and agendas. These briefs will be informed by multi-faceted research, including historical, environmental, cultural, and social contexts. A key emphasis will be placed on sustainability as a core agenda driving all stages of the design process.

Students will engage in a research-driven design process, progressing through key phases to develop their projects. The journey will include contextual research and site analysis, where students will undertake detailed investigations into the physical,

cultural, and environmental aspects of their project site.

Students will define their design intentions through the creation of conceptual narratives. These will be informed by interdisciplinary research, addressing user needs, site conditions, and broader societal and environmental challenges. This encourages students to position their work within a wider architectural discourse, grounding their projects in theoretical and practical contexts. This research, supported by precedent studies and critical analysis, will form the foundation of their exhibition submission.

The iterative design exploration phase emphasises experimentation and refinement. Students will test conceptual ideas through iterative processes, drawing on insights from humanities and technology modules. Students will incorporate sustainable design principles, structural systems, and environmental technologies into their proposals. This ensures alignment between design intent and practical considerations, including regulatory compliance and buildability, while reinforcing the connection between technical resolution and creative vision.

The project culminates in a well-resolved design project. This will be presented in comprehensive portfolio that documents both their research and design journey, highlighting how sustainability principles have informed their decisions. This is alongside verbal and visual presentations of their work to articulate and communicate their architectural vision effectively through representational techniques.

In this module the following competencies are met and assessed to passing standard:

Prepare and present architectural design projects of diverse scale, complexity, and type in a variety of contexts, using a range of media, responding critically to a brief.

Prepare, appraise, refine and engage with building briefs of diverse scales and types, accounting for client, user, site, environmental and contextual requirements.

Demonstrate a critical and creative approach to architectural design.

Produce designs that integrate the artistic, spatial, environmental, social and experiential aspects of a building with the technical requirements of its construction.

Propose strategies for structure, construction technology, materials, services, ventilation, thermal environment and lighting and acoustics that are appropriate to a project's brief and context.

Produce the designs that consider the relationship between people and built environment, between buildings and their context, and the need to relate buildings and the spaces between them to human needs, inclusivity, user experience and scale.

Prepare and document designs that demonstrate appropriate consideration of fire safety, life safety and wellbeing and inclusivity of users, the public and building constructors.

Use techniques of research, enquiry and experimentation to develop effective solutions to architectural problems and to broaden their knowledge base.

Critically evaluate a diverse range of architectural precedents in order to inform design thinking.

Locate and evaluate evidence that may be incomplete or contradictory, critically evaluating the quality of knowledge sources, making judgements and drawing appropriate conclusions that can inform architectural practice.

The principles and relevance of social sustainability, social value and inclusive design.

Communicate effectively with both specialists and non-specialist audiences through a range of media.

Display a committed approach to equity, diversity and inclusion, including in their approach to designing environments and in their relationships with colleagues, employees, clients and communities.

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods: The timetabled sessions of studio will comprise tutor-guided and student self-directed learning activities. The scheduled studio sessions, guided by the teaching team, will engage students in a range of lectures, group and one-to-one tutorials, workshops, etc., as well as presentation opportunities for formative feedback (e.g., design reviews, exhibitions) to support the development of their projects.

To ensure the module remains accessible and effectively supports undergraduate learning, thematic studios will focus on clear and achievable objectives, providing opportunities for exploration and creativity while ensuring alignment with students' level of experience. Tutorials and workshops will provide structured guidance to help students integrate research, technical details, and design into cohesive proposals. These sessions will emphasise skill development in areas such as contextual analysis, iterative design processes, and the application of advanced technical strategies.

Self-directed learning time is intended for students to prepare for, develop, and resolve design projects, as well as respond to feedback and prepare final presentation material and content for submission.

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

MO1 Demonstrate the ability to conduct contextual research and analysis, including environmental and sustainability considerations, to inform key design ideas using appropriate media.

MO2 Develop and resolve a complex design proposal that responds to complex briefs, integrating innovative and sustainable approaches to articulate a clear architectural intention.

MO3 Apply statutory frameworks and material performance criteria to develop spatial strategies that enhance relationships between space, form, and user experience in complex design contexts.

MO4 Communicate a well-resolved design proposal effectively, using professional standards of media and architectural conventions.

Hours to be allocated: 600

Contact hours:

Independent study/self-guided study = 384 hours

Face-to-face learning = 216 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/CF3C46DE-CA2D-D8CE-1677-84B17E692888.html

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: Assessment 1: Design Research Exhibition (30%)

Content: The Design Research Exhibition is held at the end of Teaching Block 1, showcasing site analysis, brief formulation, and concept development. Students will present their research and initial design explorations through a combination of visual media such as drawings, diagrams, and models. The exhibition should effectively communicate their understanding of architectural precedents, contextual analysis, and the formulation of a coherent design direction informed by critical and contextual research.

Objectives: This assessment evaluates students' ability to conduct and communicate focused research, critically engage with architectural ideas, and translate research

insights into the early stages of the design process. Students are expected to demonstrate clarity in presenting design challenges and opportunities, critically reflect on their methodologies, and integrate contextual, cultural, and environmental considerations into their work.

Assessment 2: Design Portfolio (70%)

Content: The Design Portfolio is submitted at the end of Teaching Block 2 and represents the culmination of the student's architectural thesis. It showcases the evolution of the project from conceptual ideas to a resolved architectural proposal, demonstrating spatial, technical, and experiential qualities. The portfolio should include a variety of media, such as detailed architectural drawings, physical and digital models, and visualisations, to communicate the final design effectively. It should also highlight how research insights informed the design process and demonstrate the integration of sustainable, cultural, and technological strategies.

Objectives: This assessment measures the student's ability to synthesise research and design into a cohesive architectural project. Students will be expected to develop innovative solutions that address user needs, contextual conditions, and regulatory requirements while demonstrating creativity and technical competence. The portfolio should communicate the project effectively, employing a range of media appropriate to the audience, including technical drawings, models, and narrative explanations of design intent and development.

Formative Feedback
Formative feedback is provided throughout the module, including during studio tutorials, interim reviews, and research presentations. This iterative process allows students to refine both the Design Research Exhibition and the Design Portfolio, ensuring alignment with module objectives and supporting the development of their architectural thesis.

Assessment tasks:

Exhibition (First Sit)

Description: Design Research Exhibition
Weighting: 30 %
Final assessment: No
Group work: No
Learning outcomes tested: MO1

Portfolio (First Sit)
Description: Design Portfolio
Weighting: 70 %
Final assessment: Yes
Group work: No
Learning outcomes tested: MO2, MO3, MO4

Exhibition (Resit)
Description: Design Research Exhibition
Weighting: 30 %
Final assessment: No
Group work: No
Learning outcomes tested: MO1

Portfolio (Resit)
Description: Design Portfolio
Weighting: 70 %
Final assessment: Yes
Group work: No
Learning outcomes tested: MO2, MO3, MO4

Part 5: Contributes towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

Architecture [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2025-26