



Module Specification

Histories and Theories of Architecture

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Part 1: Information

Module title: Histories and Theories of Architecture

Module code: UBLMD1-15-2

Level: Level 5

For implementation from: 2024-25

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: This module extends students' knowledge and understanding of architectural history and theory and broadens the scope of this analysis to include cultural contexts and theoretical approaches to thinking about place. The module aims to analyse and interpret architectural precedents through the urban and cultural forces that inform them; and conversely reflect on the impact that an architectural intervention may have to a culture and place.

Features: Not applicable

Educational aims: The module will develop an ability to evaluate evidence, arguments and assumptions in order to make and present sound judgements within a structured discourse relating to architectural history, theory and urbanism.

The module encourages the development of visual and written literacy and the development of an academic argument that may include a range of media and methods of communication. To this end the module delivery concentrates on students developing the discipline of diagramming, critical reading and note-taking.

The teaching leads on to the creation by the student of an artefact, visual study or essay that explores an aspect of architectural history and theory, which is supported by a short structured piece of critical writing that reflects upon the students' individual research.

Outline syllabus: The module will contribute to students' knowledge and understanding of the cultural, social and intellectual histories, theories and technologies that influence the making of place and how these cultural and urban forces have influenced architectural design.

The module will explain a brief chronology of place-making. It will introduce students to the main periods of urban growth and connect this to the architectural typologies central to each period. This will ensure that students have an appropriate vocabulary and understanding to describe the history of urban development both internationally and in the UK. This introduction is essential to develop the context for a thematic analysis of key influences and forces on the formulation of architecture and place. Appropriate themes may include:

-Power and Place; the role of democracy, imperialism, politics, defence, religion and other models of power and law in shaping place through time, including present day agencies (eg governments and governance).

-Trade and Place; the influence of trade, past and present, in the distribution of towns and cities and the form of cities eg medieval Venice, C18 Bristol, C20 Europe, C21 financial quarter of London and modern China.

-Education and Place; the role of thinking and discovery, from the early university towns (eg Bologna, Oxford) through to the Grand Tour and Enlightenment, the red brick universities and to modern campus developments and centres of discovery (eg Silicon Valley)

-Art and Place; the Renaissance (c14-16) and its influence (eg Covent Garden), the landscaped place (c17-18), the aesthetic (C18 Georgian, C19 Paris, Vienna) the city beautiful movement (c19-20), conservation movements (eg National Trust, English Heritage). The depiction of place in art (eg Lowry).

-Industry and Place; the increase in industrial output in C19 and the urban problems it caused, leading to the birth of modern town planning. The first part of this theme deals with the UK, US and western Europe during the Industrial Revolution, the second part explores the more recent development of industry in the Far East and South America.

-Housing and place; the fundamental need for housing is explored through time. The theme covers the spread of cities outwards, suburbia, housing standards, council housing, apartments as opposed to houses and recent regeneration of inner cities.

-Post-Industrial Places; how the form of towns and cities of the developed world have responded to the challenges of global change in manufacturing. Out of town (eg Edmonton), edge cities (eg Detroit), the city of leisure (Disneyland) etc...are covered.

-Movement and Place; an exploration of how the need for goods and people to move has meant the reshaping of place over time and now places great demands on urban areas around the world. This section of the module covers travel by air sea, train, car and foot.

-Utopian Place; the forces and people (eg Ebenezer Howard) that have sought to counter the accepted way in which places have developed: eg philanthropic housing, garden cities, new towns, kibbutz and the key thinkers behind them.

-Planning History since 1947; whilst the whole module explores the way in which places have been planned this theme particularly focuses on the development of planning systems in western Europe, and the UK in particular, as a response to the problems of the Industrial Revolution and the aftermath of World War 2. The reasons for establishing a planning system in 1947 and the key players involved are explained. The history of that system and the places it produced through the 1950s until the present day is handled in some detail (incl the influence of strategic scale planning, public participation, conservation, urban regeneration eg London Docklands and sustainability agendas eg eco-towns)

Students are required to provide themselves with a sketchbook for exclusive use in this module. Great emphasis is placed on attendance at lectures so that students can learn the discipline of recording visual information (sketching) from the pace of projected slides and commentaries. This book should also be seen as a repository for note-taking and reflection on readings associated with the course.

The Historical Study and Written Commentary will give students experience in making a design research output, informed by scholarship that engages with the discipline of architectural and urban history.

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods: The module's learning outcomes can be achieved through attendance at the lectures, and recommended background reading. Attendance at lectures is actively encouraged so that students can be part of a learning discourse.

The activity of recording visual notes (sketching) during the lectures is regarded as a key method for attaining a knowledge and understanding of the material. It is hoped that the module will encourage students' independent interest in this key subject area, which will be manifested through independent visits to buildings and wider scholarship, although neither of these activities will be expected or assessed.

Students will be given guidance on how their Historical Study addresses the syllabus and outcomes of this module, and their design studio. This guidance will, where possible, also be given during formative studio assessments.

It is stated above that the process of making visual and written notes is important in learning and understanding the architectural humanities. The individual Lecture Notebook has been chosen as an appropriate vehicle for developing this skill, and the completed Notebooks are formally assessed as an element of the overall module assessment.

The Historical Study and Written Commentary forms an essential part of each award's development of skills in academic scholarship. It is concerned with demonstrating an understanding the history of architecture and place-making.

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

MO1 Through the method of diagramming and notetaking explain the cultures, contexts, thinking, ideas and architectural movements that have influenced the form and function of towns and cities over time.

MO2 Use a variety of methods of communication (visual &/or modelmaking and written) to analyse and contextualise place as appropriate for the disciplines of planning and architecture.

MO3 Demonstrate an understanding of the thematic relationships between an urban conception of place and the architectural interventions that contribute to that conception.

MO4 Develop an element of academic research in the architectural humanities and present this as a structured argument.

Hours to be allocated: 150

Contact hours:

Independent study/self-guided study = 128 hours

Face-to-face learning = 32 hours

Total = 0

Reading list: The reading list for this module can be accessed at [readinglists.uwe.ac.uk](https://rl.talis.com/3/uwe/lists/D8B2498C-5950-6B14-F51D-DE59BBB420A6.html?lang=en-GB) via the following link <https://rl.talis.com/3/uwe/lists/D8B2498C-5950-6B14-F51D-DE59BBB420A6.html?lang=en-GB>

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: The module develops a student's ability to take a position on the qualities of design, histories and cultures that inform a building or place and formulate an argument, supported by visual analysis and secondary research, on that position. In support of these aims the student develop skills in design analysis through drawing and diagramming, and in structuring an argument to communicate their view of a work of architecture. The assessment strategy tests these developing abilities in two ways.

Firstly, the students are asked to develop an individual sketchbook as an assessed element of the module. This sketchbook will include visual notes of the lectures and material presented and is to demonstrate:

- Evidence of attendance and engagement at the lectures and seminars.
- ability to understand and analyse the image that has been presented, rather than copying an image photographically.
- care in presentation and development of technique.

Secondly, the creation of a Historical Study. Identifying a diversity of formats for the development of this historical study is an appropriate method of assessment because it is a design research activity that provides each individual student with the opportunity to choose a method of investigation that is suited to their skillset and learning preferences. Allied to this study, a short, written commentary is required for each individual's submission to confirm the framework of analysis employed by each student in their research and analysis and to encourage the student's self-reflexive evaluation of their mode of learning.

Assessment:

PORTFOLIO - Each student submits an academic portfolio that will include a Lecture Notebook, Historical Study and Written Commentary. The details of these are as follows:

- The Lecture Notebook comprises notes and diagrams made contemporaneously with the lecture series.

- The Historical Study takes one of a variety of forms to suit the student's preference – these format may include models, short films, photographic studies, hand-drawn studies or written pieces. The variety of formats are agreed and finalised by the Module Team and their scope and extent should be adjudged as equivalent to a 1500-word essay - or indeed, a 1500-word essay may be one of the study formats.

- The Written Commentary is a short (maximum 500-words), written statement summarising the ideas and sources explored by the student in their Historical Study, and reflecting on this academic scholarship and mode of learning.

RESIT PORTFOLIO - a similar brief to that described above, which may include some topic changes.

Assessment tasks:**Portfolio (First Sit)**

Description: Lecture notebook, historical study and written commentary.

Weighting: 100 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4

Portfolio (Resit)

Description: Lecture notebook, historical study and written commentary.

Weighting: 100 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4

Part 5: Contributes towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

Interior Architecture [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2023-24

Architectural Technology and Design [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2023-24

Architecture and Environmental Engineering [Frenchay] MDes 2023-24

Architecture and Planning [Frenchay] MDes 2023-24

Architecture and Planning [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2023-24

Architecture and Environmental Engineering [Frenchay] BEng (Hons) 2023-24

Architecture [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2023-24

Interior Architecture {Foundation} [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2022-23

Architectural Technology and Design {Foundation} [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2022-23

Architectural Technology and Design {Foundation} [GCET] BSc (Hons) 2022-23

Architecture and Planning {Foundation} [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2022-23

Architecture and Environmental Engineering {Foundation} [Frenchay] BEng (Hons)
2022-23

Architectural Technology and Design {Foundation} [GCET] BSc (Hons) 2022-23