



## **Module Specification**

### **Design Studio 5**

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## Part 1: Information

**Module title:** Design Studio 5

**Module code:** UBLMRP-60-M

**Level:** Level 7

**For implementation from:** 2023-24

**UWE credit rating:** 60

**ECTS credit rating:** 30

**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:

Architecture Unit – enrolled on MDes Architecture and Planning Urban Design Unit –  
enrolled on MA Urban Design

**Educational aims:** See Learning Outcomes

**Outline syllabus:** The content of the module (subjects for investigation and the design tasks) will be decided upon by staff at the start of each academic year. They will focus on the exploration and response to ideas of place and how these ideas can inform design outputs.

The module will start with all students working together on short, local projects so as to share ideas of place and to introduce each other to alternative ways of reading place. The focus will be on exploring the wide range of source material (literature, art, film, maps, people etc...) and interpretations of it through various media culminating in appropriate design responses to the place being investigated. The work of each student will be subject to critical review by their peers and internal and external experts. This sharing of experience is essential to the module and continues throughout the year whatever unit is being followed.

Once this initial phase has been completed (approx. 6-8 weeks) students will then choose either the architecture unit or the urban design unit. In effect the choice is determined by their prior study and future ambitions.

Students with the appropriate prior architectural education (eligible for BA Hons Architecture and Planning) and who wish to pursue ARB / RIBA / RTPI professional accreditation will follow the architecture unit. This unit will focus on the relationship between building and place and include a deliberate focus on creative urbanism as part of the design response to a brief set by staff. Students will be expected to research the theoretical, social and cultural and historical contexts and demonstrate a rigorous response to these in an individual design response that will take the form of a building on a real site, informed by appropriate precedents. The final proposal will be accompanied by evidence of the student's investigation into technical matters and details (environmental, constructional, services etc.)

Students on the MA Urban Design degree will follow the urban design unit. This will use the same site and contexts as the architecture unit but will produce a range of creative responses to places other than a building. The focus will always be on narratives of a given place and a design based response to it and the output is an equally major design project that includes an exhibition and / or presentation of the

work. The urban design practice can cover a range of rigorous spatially based interpretations but must be informed by design as a process in its resolution.

In both units students are working in a deliberately open syllabus but on the same bounded site. This allows a learning response that is structured to the students' interpretations of the brief and allows for specialisation within the unit.

Studio culture is an important aspect of the module and in both units students are expected to work together in studio and share their experiences, interpretations of and responses to the brief. Presentations will be made to tutors and peers at various stages – this is an essential part of the design process and to the development of thinking about place.

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

**Teaching and learning methods:** Teaching and learning in studio modules focuses on independent study under the supervision of the module leader, design tutors and research advisers. Studio sessions typically include a combination of studio presentations and lectures, workshop activities, group and individual tutorials and independent study.

Design Studio 5 is a framework in which students explore ideas of place as they see them pertaining to their developing practice. The teaching activities respond to those emerging specialisms and are framed around them. It is an important part of design learning that students are exposed to the ideas and critiques of their peers. This is built into the studio teaching and continues throughout the year. Students are working on the same site as each other and students from one unit will be consistently exposed to the ideas of students in the parallel unit so as to enhance their own understanding of the brief and responses to place. The two units work side by side, not separately, with specialist tutoring directed to the units as required to help students achieve the learning outcomes.

The design projects will be divided into stages with a programme of tutorials and

reviews for each. Students will make verbal presentations to tutors and peers explaining their proposals. The feedback and other staff contact will provide formative feedback and help students configure their final submissions.

Students are expected to be working on the studio on two days per week. Outside of that time they are expected to be undertaking independent learning.

The module is designed to run with students in one unit only or in both units working side by side.

Tutorials/Seminars/Formative Reviews 100 hours

Supervised studios 30 hours

Visits 20 hours

Lectures 15 hours

Summative assessment 15 hours

Self-directed learning 420 hours

Total student hours 600 hours

Scheduled contact hours will constitute approximately 180 hours of the 600 hours of work necessary to complete the module. This includes 2 days per week in the studio.

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

**MO1** Critically investigate important theoretical and cultural concepts that relate to an understanding of place and rigorously integrate them into a creative design proposal, testing new hypotheses as part of the design process

**MO2** Demonstrate a rigorous and professional contribution to interdisciplinary discussion and critiques about place within the context of the design studio

**MO3** Produce complex design proposals within the framework of a chosen design unit in the form of (a) architecture unit - either a structure, building, buildings, groups of buildings or alterations to existing buildings or (b) urban design unit – either spatially sensitive interventions, exhibitions or practice based responses to place. In the case of both units the design proposal must

demonstrate originality, be resolved in detail and demonstrate a deep understanding of the method, materials, processes and technologies of its realisation

**MO4** Ensure that a design proposal responds creatively and critically to the requirements of clients and users within physical, social, economic and environmental contexts and is sensitive to the balance between the needs of present and future users and the natural world

**MO5** Critically assess a variety of methods of communication of the design proposal and its contexts and apply suitable methods to the final presentation of the design proposal

**MO6** Demonstrate a critical and professional knowledge of the practice based outputs other academics and practitioners and apply them as appropriate to the design proposal. Such work should inform design strategies and process

**MO7** 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

**MO8** Clearly demonstrate compliance with the relevant requirements of appropriate professional accrediting bodies

**Hours to be allocated:** 600

**Contact hours:**

Independent study/self-guided study = 420 hours

Face-to-face learning = 180 hours

Total = 600

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

## **Part 4: Assessment**

**Assessment strategy:** The module is assessed in two elements: a design substantiation and a technical substantiation. Students must pass both elements separately in order to pass the module. For clarity: 'substantiation' in this context is taken to mean a submission that explains: verbally, visually and in writing as appropriate and as prescribed by an assessment brief, a particular solution to a design problem and the technology associated with it. Full details will be given in assessment briefs for each substantiation.

The design substantiation will be specified in detail for each unit and it allows students to demonstrate that they have achieved the learning outcomes. In many cases this will be a portfolio of work but in others it might be an installation or exhibition for example. The precise means of presenting the design work will be the subject of discussion between student and staff. In the case of those students doing the either unit the output must be in the form of a design portfolio to meet relevant professional requirements.

The technical substantiation allows students to demonstrate the efficacy of their final design output. This can relate to, for example: methods, materials, constructional and other key underlying principles as appropriate to the design proposition and, in the case of architecture, those matters needed to meet professional requirements.

A small component of the design substantiation will be conducted as group work – for example, work relating to the development of an evidence base for the forthcoming project. This group work will equate to 10% of the overall workload (not assessment) for the module. Formative feedback and possibly a formative mark may be provided to groups at the conclusion of this group work, but no group mark component will be awarded as part of the summative assessment of an individual student's work. It is expected that each individual student will curate and interpret these group findings individually and separately as they develop their individual projects. Guidance on the development of the portfolio submission will require each student to develop their own individual presentation of the group work, clearly identify and reference all work within their portfolio that has group authorship and distinguish clearly between that group work and any individual work that is generated from it.

**Assessment tasks:**

**Portfolio (First Sit)**

Description: Design Substantiation (eg portfolio as specified in the project brief)

Weighting: 80 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

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

**Report (First Sit)**

Description: Technical Substantiation (eg report and/or drawings as specified in the project brief)

Weighting: 20 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

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

**Portfolio (Resit)**

Description: Design Substantiation (eg portfolio as specified in the project brief) This will be a reworked submission of the work presented at first sit.

Weighting: 80 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

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

**Report (Resit)**

Description: Technical Substantiation (eg report and/or drawings as specified in the project brief), This will be a reworked submission of the work presented at first sit.

Weighting: 20 %

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: