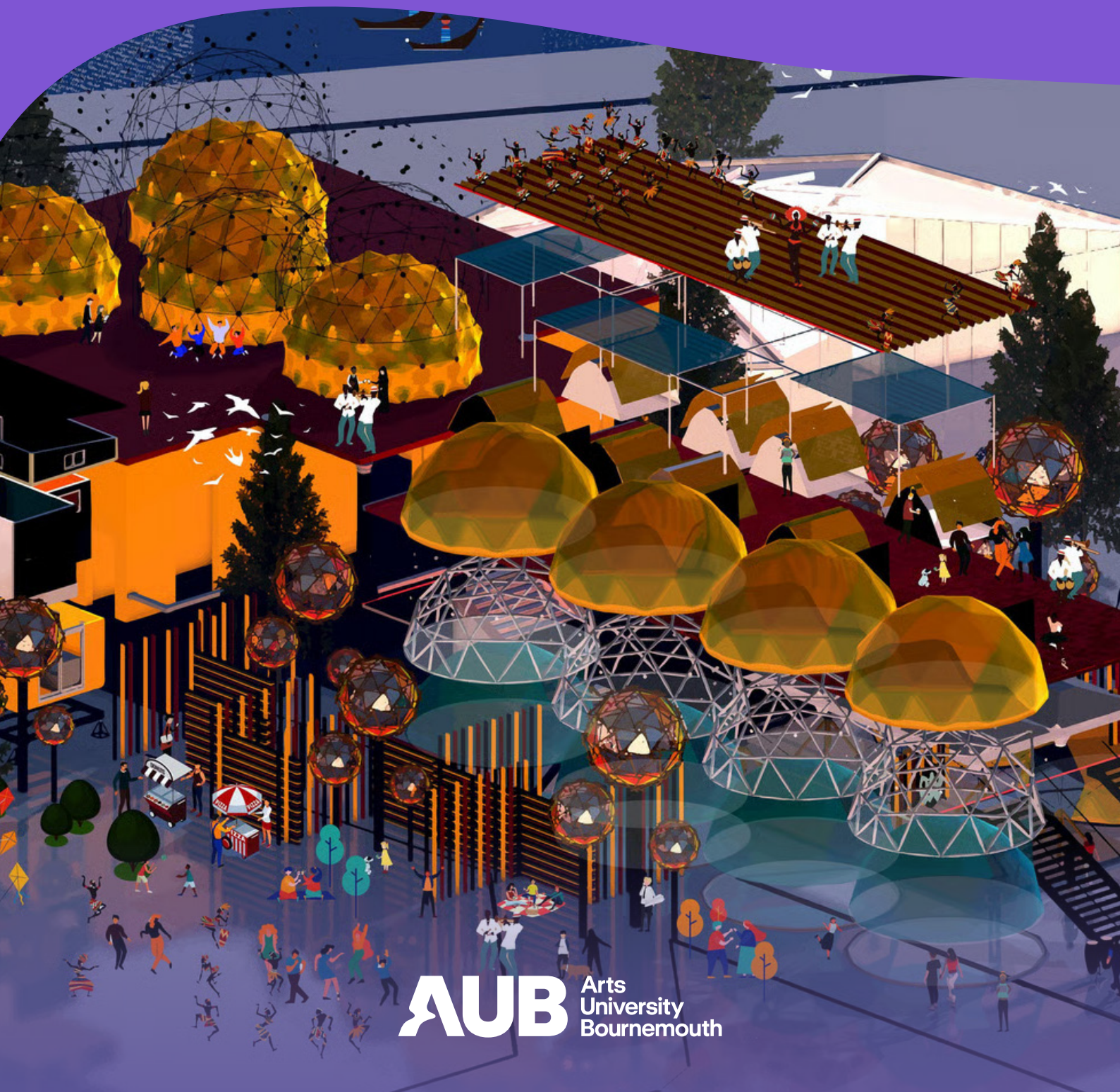
Course Specification

MASTER OF ARCHITECTURE (PART 2 RIBA/ARB)



Arts University Bournemouth

About the Course Handbook

This Handbook provides you with basic information about your course. Through the approved course specification, it provides you with the aims and outcomes of your course and outlines the content and how this will be delivered.

The course is subject to a rigorous process of quality assurance and enhancement. This may result in changes to individual units as the course develops, to ensure that the relevance and quality of the course is upheld. You will be consulted by a member of the course team before any changes are made.

Information in this Handbook should be used in conjunction with the HE Assessment Regulations. It is your responsibility to ensure that you are aware of the regulations that apply to your course and you should refer to the regulations throughout your studies. If you have any questions, you should speak to your Course Leader, or member of the course team. The Assessment Regulations can be located on the Induction section of Canvas, or https://aub.ac.uk/regulations

Important information about key policies which apply to your academic studies is available on the Induction section of Canvas. Please view this material on the Induction section of Canvas.

If you would like a copy of this Handbook in an alternative format, please contact equalities@aub.ac.uk.

ARTS UNIVERSITY BOURNEMOUTH

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

The Programme Specification provides a summary of the main features of the **Master of Architecture** course, and the learning outcomes that a 'typical' student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if they pass the course.

Further detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching and learning methods of each unit may be found in the Unit Descriptors, which forms part of this Handbook.

Key Course Information	
Final Award	Master of Architecture
Course Title	Master of Architecture
Award Title	Master of Architecture(ARB/RIBA Part 2)
Teaching institution	Arts University Bournemouth
Awarding Institution	Arts University Bournemouth
Offered in the School of:	Design and Architecture
Professional accreditation	ARB/RIBA Part 2
Level of final award (in FHEQ)	Level 7
Subject benchmark statement	Architecture
Length of course and mode of study	2 years full-time
Language of study	English
External examiners for course	Details available on request
Please note that it is not appropriate for students to contact external examiners directly.	
Date of Validation	2011
Date of most recent review	2021
Date programme specification written/revised	July 2022

Postgraduate Ethos

The Master's course recognises individuals and their aspirations, and celebrates ideas, making, and creative risk-taking. Our guiding principle is to offer distinctive, exciting and challenging opportunities for you to engage in your respective subject disciplines in order to critically engage with, and redefine, your particular approaches to your practices and position them within your chosen external, creative, economic, and cultural environment.

We support this principle through our passionate engagement with interdisciplinarity

and collaborative practices, with the integration of theory and practice, with our understanding of the particularities of individual practitioners and the broader world, global view, and with an attitude to career development which places professionalism and risk taking in dialogue.

Such a context affords possibilities to engage with fresh, often unpredictable and certainly challenging methodologies and techniques with which you can research, test, develop, progress, interrogate, take risks, make and confidently reflect on your own practice and subject discipline. Whilst you will be encouraged to develop your own themes, relationships between the aesthetic, the political, the ethical and 'value' are ever-present, and the courses support your engagement with what are often difficult contemporary issues.

Crucial to the courses and their inherent multifaceted, creative, artistic outcomes, is that you demonstrate a committed passion for your practice and the particular media within your chosen subject discipline. Each course devises specific discipline-focused project work to enable you to be suitably informed in taking the right path towards your chosen career in a diverse range of professions/industries or progress to further study at doctorate level. This discipline focus is, however, enhanced by your experience of interdisciplinary and collaborative approaches and activities which enrich your journey. Our focus on the relationships between personal professional development and the development of communities of practice through sharing and collaboration is underpinned by the unique AUB reputation for truly collaborative working across disciplines, i.e. the practice of complementarity.

Through involvement in cross-course groups, shared lectures and other MA activities, you will have opportunities to work together with other MA students to form a 'postgraduate network' that will facilitate a wider dialogue around art and design, sustainability, ethics, the political and the often-global reach of creative industries and professions. Our ethos focuses on not only developing your systematic and critical understanding of knowledge and of the application of that knowledge in an appropriate, professional context but also in having the resolve, the skills and the acumen to exercise initiative and personal responsibility in a world which is asking many questions of all of us withrespect to our abilities and desires in coexisting with a global community.

In other words, our ethos focuses on the ability for our graduates not only to develop their careers and be employable but also to be engaged in the redefinition of what employment might look like in what are times of tremendous social, political, economic, and ecological change, and indeed upheaval.

Course Description

The AUB Master of Architecture (RIBA/ARB Part2) is the second part of the three-part qualification in becoming an architect. The MArch is a two-year, full-time, design-based course with a collaborative, making and ecological approach.

The MArch takes this approach from the context of the studio-based arts university where all courses share an interest in making. The course aspires to innovation,

collaboration and a connected learning experience through studio practice that is both professional and critical, preparing the student to enter architectural practice with innovative and progressive approaches. The ecological approach through practice, performance, drawing and modelling are supported and encouraged through the first year, with research, theory and professional practice integrated into the final year Thesis Design project. This is a complex design project, that is student led and agreed through Learning Agreements, and that needs to fulfill the design, representation, practice, theoretical and technical requirements of the course.

Architecture as a discipline is an investigation of how we think about inhabitation, individually and collectively, through the spatial relationships we materially construct and inhabit. Making architecture means crafting thoughtful and tangible propositions that mediate between the individual, the world, and those we live with. The scale of these propositions can vary from the local to the global, the micro to the macro. Indeed, architecture is informed by influences across all possible scales and in response your propositions can vary from urban design proposals to modification of our studio environment. These can also vary in temporal impact from temporary interventions to long-term changes. The design propositions respond to the established or innovative expressive and practical potential of the materials and methods of construction. Researching and critically understanding building as making is fundamental to practice.

Collaboration

At AUB the collaborative works both across the distinctive arts context and the wider world; various collaborations stimulate the student's particular architectural direction. Located within a specialist art, design, media and performance institution, the course offers the potential to study alongside other creative and cultural disciplines and to determine your individual emphasis of practice through interdisciplinary collaborations, both formally and informally, with Textiles, Graphic Design, Fashion, Photography, Animation, Film, Fine Art, Dance or Acting. Each discipline at AUB has a distinct maker-culture, but shares certain values and qualities: professional, social and ethical. Our values aspire to an innovative, collaborative and connected learning experience.

Professional Practice

AUB supports strong links with professional practice and industry. Architecture is a creative **practice** of the built environment and construction industry. The course has strong links with local and national architectural practices and RIBA Dorset. This provides opportunities to meet and visit local practices and potential employers, through mentorship and the employers' forum, increasing your knowledge of current issues in architectural practice regionally and nationally, giving you valuable insight into the requirements and context of practice. The course also has European and international links. Regular contact and visitors from practice and construction, the ARB, and RIBA keep students informed of trends and changes in the world of practice. Local stone, brick and timber industries and consultants contribute to the course, and there are collaborations with external clients and manufacturers in live projects and international collaborations such as the Venice Biennale
Your own interests and aspirations are encouraged. The course will support your

personal development towards a creative contribution to architecture and the wider world after graduation. The Professional Development Portfolio (PDP) documents all your engagement with course enrichment activities (such as cross-course collaborations and exhibition visits) and any other related activities you initiate. The final Thesis Design year in MArch gives you the opportunity to develop your own research design project that integrates making and collaboration through an ecological narrative.

Ecological & Regional

The ecological narrative, as revealed by Guattari's 'Three Ecologies', covers the individual mental, the social, and the environmental ecologies. It expands the thinking and approach of the MArch to that of the relationship to other species. The relationships between the body and the architecture change, sometimes it is temporary such as an intervention, sometimes it is permanent such as a monument. The architecture shifts between the social, political body and the cultural landscape.

There is researching, studying and questioning of the wider world and the local with an understanding of how these relate to **global issues of concern**. AUB is located on the south coast of Britain, in the dispersed urban conurbation of Poole Bay, Bournemouth and Christchurch, surrounded by sensitive natural environments (land and sea). Global climate changes and population growth have an increasing impact on our location. As an individual student you are studying and practising architecture in this location, and you will have to respond to these challenges and the possible roles you will play in our environment.

Course Mapping

The course Learning Outcomes are mapped to the Graduate Attributes andCriteria held by the ARB and QAA and were (QAA Subject Benchmark Statement on Architecture 2020). The Course responds to the on-going advice and guidance from the RIBA and ARB on Climate Literacy, Fire and Life Safety, Ethics and Research.

In each of the four, sixty credit, units that build towards the Thesis Design project there are six integrated LOs, covering six key areas of your project work that are related to the key Part 2 ARB Graduate Attributes and Criteria).

1. Design (GA2.1)
2. Representation (GA2.2)
3. Technology (GA2.3)
4. Contextual Studies (GA2.4)
5. Professional Practice (GA2.5)
6. Critical Reflection (GA2.6 & 2.7)

Professional Qualification as an Architect

Entry on the UK Register of Architects and the right to use the protected title of 'architect' is based on a three-part examination administered by the Architects Registration Board (ARB). Satisfaction of the requirements of this process by UK-

based candidates, however, is normally achieved by successful completion of academic qualifications carrying exemption from the exams.

See RIBA for general enquiries on study and membership: https://www.architecture.com/education-cpd-and-careers/how-to-become-an-architect

This is normally achieved by three years of full-time academic study leading to Part 1, followed by a year in practice. Part 2 requires a further two years of full-time study. This is then normally followed by a second year in practice, which may be undertaken concurrently with part-time study for Part 3. Completion of all elements of this process is prerequisite to entry on the register. This route is also adopted by the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) as a condition of membership. Students seeking to complete practical training experience should acquaint themselves with the current rules operated by the RIBA and seek additional advice from the Professional Studies Advisor.

Course Aims

The course aims to:

A1 Meet the ARB/RIBA/QAA Benchmark graduate attributes and criteria;

A2 Engage critically and/or 'creatively' from the body to the wider landscape, in ethical and ecological spatial transformation, encouraging speculation and risk-taking, whilst maintaining a critical awareness of its possible environmental and social effects;

A3 Provide a stimulating forum for critical debate and inter-disciplinary approaches to architectural practice and environmental change, encouraging research and the development of analytical, cognitive and conceptual skills;

A4 Support you in the instigation of new directions in your architectural work, based on a deep understanding of architectural issues, technologies, historiesand theories, in order that you might evaluate and extend your own practice;

A5 Develop modes and levels of representation, digital, analogue and other, that enable you to communicate to professional and non-professional audiences;

A6 Prepare you for employment with professional maturity and judgment as entry level professional architects, for other opportunities of employment in related domains, or for further study at PhD or another post-graduate level.

Course Outcomes

On completion of the course, you will have demonstrated:

1. **Ability** to generate **complex design proposals** showing understanding of

current architectural issues, originality in the application of subject knowledge and, where appropriate, ability to test new hypotheses and speculations (GA2.1);

2. **Ability** to **evaluate and apply** a comprehensive **range** of visual, oral and written **media** to test, analyse, critically appraise and explain design proposals (GA2.2);

3. **Ability** to **evaluate materials, processes and techniques including construction, structures and environmental systems** that apply to complex architectural designs and building construction, and to integrate these into practicable design proposals (GA2.3);

4. **Critical understanding** of how knowledge is advanced through **research** to produce clear, logically argued and original written work relating to architectural **culture, theory and design** (GA2.4);

5. **Understanding** of the context of the architect and the **construction industry**, including the **architect's role** in the processes of procurement and building production, and relevant legislation (GA2.5);

6. **Ability** to take the initiative and make appropriate decisions in complex and **unpredictable circumstances** using problem solving skills and professional judgement and to identify **individual learning needs** and understand the personalresponsibility required to prepare for qualification as an architect (GA2.6 & GA2.7);

Reference Points

UK Quality Code for higher education, including:
- Subject Benchmark Statement: Architecture, 2020
- Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ)

AUB Regulatory Framework and Postgraduate Assessment RegulationsAUB
AUB Strategic Plan 2030
AUB Employability FrameworkARB Criteria for Prescription RIBA Criteria for Validation

Learning and Teaching Strategies

A wide range of delivery methods will be used during the course, including:

Practical Workshops
Competence in using relevant workshop equipment and in working with a range of materials and techniques is developed through sessions of practical activity withinthe studio and/or workshop led by a tutor or technician tutor.

Studio Practice
This describes learning through practical work in support of a project or negotiated Learning Agreement, and the production of work in the studio environment, including

related resources. Studio practice may be unsupervised independent study or timetabled with technician tutor support.

Critiques and Presentations
Critiques and presentations are held at various stages and at the conclusion of some projects. You are required to present work to a group and explain your thinking together with reasons and factors that shaped it. You are encouraged to contribute actively in critiques through argument and debate.

Lectures
Lectures are used to introduce new concepts and ideas and to underpin student activity in both theoretical and practical subjects. The purpose of lectures is not only to provide the necessary information on which the course work is based, but also to provide a springboard for further individual enquiry.

Seminars
These complement lectures and are used as a student-centred means of drawing out themes and examples to illustrate issues raised within the course. They are also used to enhance transferable personal, interpersonal and presentation skillshighlighted in the course.

Research
This describes learning using the Library or other sources. It may require you to contact professionals and organisations external to the university. Research also includes studio-based investigations of methods and materials and structured explorations of visual forms.

Work Experience
The University does not currently offer placements to students on the MArch, although the course may include a brief period of work experience as part of a project, where this is negotiated through the Learning Agreement. Your awareness of current practices and developments within the industry will be built up through, for example, working on case studies and live briefs, as well as (in some instances) entering competitions. Most Visiting Tutors and many staff members are practising professionals, and this is further supported through Guest Lectures from experienced academics or professionals within architecture. In addition, the area of Management, Practice and Law is taught and learned within a specific unit as well as being integrated in various design projects.

Independent Study
At the MArch level, student-initiated study and research forms a substantial part of thecourse, and particularly in the final thesis project.

Educational Visits
Throughout the programme, visits may be organised to venues of educational and cultural interest, e.g. different cities, galleries, museums, studios and events; the student is also expected to initiate such visits for themselves and their peers.

Tutorials and Academic Support
Tutorials are carried out throughout the course, in group and on a one-to-one basis as required. Tutorials are usually carried out in parallel with collective studio working

which can have a great educational benefit to those who work and use the studio creatively. The tutorials provide the opportunity for you to discuss matters relating to your creative or theoretical work or the course in general.

Blended and Remote Learning
There may also be occasions where digital delivery is appropriate. Where this is the case, this might include on-line lectures, seminars, presentations, and one-to-one tutorials. It is important that you engage with on-line course delivery in the same way that you would if you were on campus.

MyAUB
Following enrolment, students will be able to access 'MyAUB', the electronic folder of the University. The course-related contents of MyAUB are managed by the course team.

Learning Agreements
Negotiated agreements between yourself and your Unit Tutor are an important strategy in supporting your continuing development as an autonomous learner. Learning Agreements enable you to identify your own learning needs, to focus on the issues that you wish to pursue in your research, to define the scope and nature of your study, to identify the access to resources that you need and to work towards achieving individual goals.

You are asked to provide a synopsis of your proposed study including an explanation of how your idea for the proposal originated. Each Learning Agreement must be based upon the stated Aims and Learning Outcomes of that unit, and you are asked to state how you intend to achieve the Learning Outcomes. You have the opportunity to negotiate your own Assessment Requirements so that the form of your work or presentation accords with your personal needs. You must establish with the Unit Tutor the percentage weighting for each of your Assessment Requirements and state those in your Learning Agreement. An action plan including any self-imposed or external deadlines will help you to manage your own progress and to receive tutor support when most appropriate.

Following preliminary negotiations for a draft agreement, your Learning Agreementfor the unit is signed by you and your tutor. You may ask for a re-negotiation of an agreement, but the extent of such re-negotiation is sanctioned by your Unit Tutor.

It is important that outcomes are realistic and attainable in each agreement and that there is a parity of requirements for assessment for all students in the unit. The role of the Unit Tutor is therefore central in taking responsibility for all Learning Agreements in the unit and monitoring their implementation. The Unit Tutor signs all negotiated agreements in the unit that he/she is responsible for and reports to the Course Leader. The Unit Tutor manages tutorial support within the unit and monitors guidance in relation to progress towards the agreed outcomes.

Professional Development Portfolio
Throughout your course you will be encouraged to develop your own professional development portfolio, a means by which you can record, monitor, build and reflect on your personal and professional development and learning, both in and around the

course (skills, interests, research, collaborations etc.). It links with the Learning Agreements made within the course and is intended to support the reflective practice that is key to the transition to more independent learning at masters' level. As such it helps you to achieve your full potential and become an effective and critically reflective learner. It also helps you to prepare for lifelong learning, employment or further study, linking with your practice work, and to Continuing Professional Development (CPD).

Research
The course recognises that research is understood in a broad sense. You will research architecture's theories, histories, and methodologies. You will also needto do research on various aspects of both design-related and discourse-related areasfor your proposals and spatial transformations, including reviewing precedents relevant to the function, organisation and technological strategy of design proposals. The crossovers with the other MA- level programs create the potential for innovation and the collaboration of ideas and research methodologies. The course is set within the context of the staff's individual and/or collaborative research, the resources provided by the architecture open lectures; text + work with the gallery; the design collection such as the plastics museum; and institute-wide research-related events.

Teaching and Learning of Contextual Knowledge
Contextual learning constitutes how knowledge is advanced through research to produce clear, logically argued and original written work relating to architectural culture, theory and design. The architecture course at AUB stresses the importance of exploring and understanding how architecture is situated within a larger field of interconnected disciplines and domains of knowledge, including the social, the technological and the cultural. The course promotes and encourages both concept and research driven approaches to architectural design that link history, theory and design. Through the study of contexts and their histories, you will develop ways to address, critically discuss and creatively apply the cultural, social, and intellectual histories, theories and technologies that influence the design of buildings. You will improve your academic writing skills, attend lectures and seminars (many of which take place in the studio) and engage in practical workshops (such as collaging and bookbinding). This learning outcome is assessed through the analysis of history and theory appropriate to the studio project, and the production of clear, logically argued and original written, illustrated and applied design work. All bibliographical citations and in-text referencing are done by the AUB/Harvard method.

Assessment

Each unit is assessed separately, and the assessment forms part of the unit. Assessment both provides a measure of your achievement, and gives youfeedback on how your learning is developing.

For every unit of your course, we will inform you of what you are expected to learn, what you have to submit, how your work will be assessed, and the deadline for presenting your work for assessment.

You will receive a final mark for each unit in the form of a percentage, which will be

recorded on your formal record of achievement (transcript). Each component of assessment is graded using a notched marking scale, whereby only certain marks are used within each grade. The only marks available within any ten-point band are *2, *5 and *8 (e.g. 62, 65, 68). These marks correspond to a low, mid, and high level of achievement within each grade band.

All learning outcomes are equally weighted in all units. Each learning outcome must be passed to successfully complete the unit.

Merit & Distinction

A Master's Degree with Merit or Distinction may be awarded. For further information on assessment and awards please visit: https://aub.ac.uk/regulations

For the award of Master of Architecture (MArch), you must have achieved 240 credits, and any specific requirements of the course as outlined in the individual units.

Course Structure

The two-year masters-level course builds through a series of design-based projects with integrated theoretical and professional elements. In the first year there is an underlining of the principle of making and collaboration as a necessary and constructive part of architectural practice. In the second year one main design project, the Thesis, runs through the year from briefing, programme and budget analysis to theoretical, detail and reflective thoughts on a major complex project.

For the award of Master of Architecture (MArch), you must have achieved 240 credits, of which a minimum of 180 credits must be at Level 7; and any specific requirements of the course as outlined in the individual units.

Course Content

ARC771 Body and Landscape: Performative Interventions is the first unit of the MArch where the key course concepts of collaboration and making are put into practice with a performance-based project developed on complex sites and landscapes. The unit questions and engages with both the body's relationship to space and the wider context, urban, rural and/or coastal, considering environmental, social and spatial issues. A potential research question and site for the Thesis Design Project are identified and an essay proposal developed.

ARC772 Research: Experimental Fabrications: Design proposals are analysed and tested through speculative models and drawings, with consideration of construction, structures, environmental systems and sustainability strategies. A brief and rationale for the Thesis Design Project is developed and the essay proposed in the first unit completed.

ARC773 Thesis Design 1: Procurement and Practice: In a real and professional

way, you will consider your thesis proposal and its ecological context: people, materials, land, and climate. The practice set up, project programme and legal relationships will be investigated. Your proposal will understand how technologies of passive and active environmental modification, and the climate, affectus.

ARC774 Thesis Design 2: Detail and Reflection*:* The details, both design and legislative will be embedded in your final design project. The final thesis portfolio will be produced, and your practice future considered. You will reflect on the creative path you have been on with this project and the programme as a whole.

Course Units

Unit Code	Unit Title	Credit Weighting
ARC771	Body and Landscape: Performative Interventions	60 credits
ARC772	Research: Experimental Fabrications	60 credits
ARC773	Thesis Design 1: Procurement and Practice	60 credits
ARC774	Thesis Design 2: Detail and Reflection	60 credits

Course Diagram

This diagram shows the proposed start/end dates for each unit and shows teaching weeks only; holiday periods are not included.

Year 1

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
	Autumn Term										**Spring Term**												**Summer Term**							
Induction week	**ARC771 Body and Landscape: *Performative Interventions* (Weeks 1-15)** (60 credits)													Assessment		**ARC772 Research: *Experimental Fabrications* (Weeks 16-30)** (60 credits)													Assessment	

Year 2

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
	Autumn Term										**Spring Term**												**Summer Term**							
	ARC773 Thesis Design 1: *Procurement and Practice* (Weeks 1-15) (60 credits)													Assessment		**ARC774 Thesis Design 2: *Detail and Reflection* (Weeks 16-30)** (60 credits)													Asses sment

Image: Joel Wallace Erabu | Master of Architecture (Part 2 RIBA/ARB)