Architecture Modules for Visiting Students 2025/26

Architecture at Kingston is emphasised as a material practice, paying special attention to how buildings are made and how tectonic components are fundamental in defining architectural character.

Studio projects are an integral element of each year, forming 50 per cent of the course and equipping students with the skills and knowledge to tackle design issues in the built environment. Drawing and making skills are taught through workshops in techniques such as casting, pencil and charcoal rendering, detailed large-scale model-making, and computer-based graphics and CAD drawing. Theoretical, cultural, historical, social, sustainable, material and technical issues are also studied.

Level 4 is focused on the acquisition and consolidation of architectural representation and drawing skills. The Design Studio work features site-based projects, addressing the principles and context of architectural design. It also includes and real scale-built project. The coursework supporting studies comprise assignments on drawing, model-making, materials, sustainability, professional practice and the history of architecture.

At level 5, students work within independent studio groups, carrying out design projects that may last from a few weeks to a year. Students are encouraged to experiment creatively, and typically will work on a main design project each semester.

At level 6, students are involved in producing a thesis design project, developed over the year. The skills & knowledge acquired in the prior study/practice inform the development of this project, and the integration of students' professional knowledge gained will be demonstrated in the final presentation.

Updated April 2025/PJW

Entry requirements:

- GPA of 2.75 or above (out of 4.0) or equivalent
- Acceptance is dependent upon review of a portfolio.
- Portfolio details:
  - **See** Study Abroad programme | Kingston University London for Study Abroad/International (non-EU) Exchange students
  - **See** Erasmus+ and European Exchange | Kingston University London for Erasmus/EU Exchange students

Pre-requisites:

- Level 4: prior study of architecture
- Level 5: successful completion of introductory (level 4) architecture modules/study/practice.
- Level 6: successful completion of intermediate (level 5) architectural modules/practice**.**

Taught at: Knights Park campus

Study Option 1 = Whole Year
Study Option 2 = Autumn
Study Option 3 = Spring

Architecture Modules for Visiting Students 2025/26

Key to Module Descriptors
Suitability of Module for Students on Study Option ____
1: indicates module is suitable for students visiting KU on **Study Option 1** (**Whole Year**)
2: indicates module is suitable for students visiting KU on **Study Option 2** (**Autumn**)
3: indicates module is suitable for students visiting KU on **Study Option 3** (**Spring)**

Notes:

1. All modules are at undergraduate level only.
2. Students enrolled on Study Option 1 are required to study the entire module.
3. Within each level, all modules are interlinked and students would thus have to be enrolled in all modules. **Taking an individual Architecture (AR) module is therefore not possible**.
4. Whilst the University makes every effort to ensure that this information is correct at the time of updating (April 2025), it cannot accept responsibility for omissions or subsequent changes. Module availability and content may be subject to change, as part of the University's policy of continuous improvement and development.
5. Details of assessment for students enrolled on either Study Option 2 or 3 where provided are **indicative only** and may also be subject to change as part of the above policy.

Module Code	Level	Title	Suitability
AR5005	5	Reading: Architecture is Seen by Each of Us Differently	1, 2
AR5006	5	Professional Practice: Architecture Is Shaped by Society	1, 2
AR5007	5	Studio: Architecture is Formed by Climate & Comfort	1, 2
AR5008	5	Making & Representing: Architecture is Found in Play	1, 2
AR6005	6	Reading: Architecture is a Common Ground	1, 2
AR6006	6	Professional Practice & Making: Architecture Requires Ethics and Competence	1, 2
AR6007	6	Studio: Architecture Is…	1, 2

LEVEL 5 – INTERMEDIATE

Module Code: AR5005

Module Title: Reading: Architecture is Seen by Each of Us Differently

Level: 5

Prerequisites:

- Acceptance is dependent upon review of a portfolio
- Prior study of architecture

Credits:

- Full Year: 4 (US) 7.5 (ECTS)
- Single Semester: 2 (US) 3.75 (ECTS)

Suitability:

- Study Options 1 or 2
- **MUST BE STUDIED WITH AR5006, AR5007 and AR5008**

Content:

The Built landscapes of our world are a way of reading a society over time – its relationship to climate and material, along with ideas of social structure, ritual and use. Architects frequently draw their ideas from this living archive, and architectural historians thread their stories of how ideas may move through time and space. Each architect also does this, in an open manner, exploring works that fascinate them, finding ideas there that they enjoy and use. This ability for us to draw on thinking laid down by others is wonderful, a shorthand to developing ideas that otherwise might take considerable time.

As we do this we come to this field with our own histories in space and culture, and so how we absorb and respond to the work we see will vary from one another and will change over time as we see and study more and more works. In this process a conversation really helps, a teasing out of our different viewpoints and what we see and see how others respond to our observations. This conversation can take place in person, or in books, blogs or other places over time. In this module you will look at works and using drawings and writing tell each other and us what you observe, what you enjoy. You will see what others have said will critique and debate these as part of the process.

Staff across the school will share their own observations of buildings they have been shaped by, and you are to use these not as instruction, but as being illustrative of a way of seeing and reading architecture you can bring to bear to works of your choosing.

Overall Topics:

- Knowledge of architectural history and theory as a foundation for critique;
- Observation skills and techniques;

- Studying and analysing precedents;
- Advanced research skills using primary and secondary sources;
- Synthesis and analysis of primary and secondary sources;
- Skills in constructing a coherent argument, in planning and commencing a dissertation to include a literature review;
- Advanced research, writing, and referencing skills;
- Recap: Referencing, copyright, and integrity

➢ **Autumn Semester: Ideas & History**

- Introduction - Architecture and Ideas
- Critical Regionalism
- Politics and architecture - a discussion
- The history of architecture - an overview with examples
- Ideas in architecture - what is architecture?
- The Blind Person and Architecture and The External Room
- Interplay and reception
- Various themes (Brutalism, Promenade Architectural, The Five Points of Architecture)
- Various themes (Pattern Language, The Art of City Planning, Four Elements of Architecture, Townscape)

➢ **Spring Semester – dissertation preparation**

Teaching: lectures, seminars, tutorials, workshops and study visits

Assessment:

➢ Study Option **1:**

- Visual notebook of lecture notes – visuals & 100-word text (30%)
- 2,000-word essay (70%)

➢ Study Option 2:

- Visual notebook of lecture notes – visuals & 100-word text (100%)

Note: methods of assessment and weighting are indicative only

Last updated: 05/05/25 PJW

Return to Top.

Module Code: AR5006

Module Title: Professional Practice: Architecture Is Shaped by Society

Level: 5

Prerequisites:
- Acceptance is dependent upon review of a portfolio
- Prior study of architecture

Credits:
- Full Year: 8 (US) 15 (ECTS)
- Single Semester: 4 (US) 7.5 (ECTS)

Suitability:
- Study Options 1 or 2
- **MUST BE STUDIED WITH AR5005, AR5007 and AR5008**

Content:
Architects make the human habitat. This places us in a position of great responsibility. Our buildings should be safe in use, and fulfil the needs of their occupants. Given how important this act is; a huge number of laws and regulations govern the work of architects - ranging from planning to health and safety and rules concerning energy use, for example. More than this, each architect will also have their own ethical position on their responsibilities to their clients and the broader community they are part of, which includes future generations.

In this module students will learn about the overview of this territory by working in groups to examine the work of practicing architects, through in-depth engagement and process of research. Students will debate and develop your ethical position on what you learn, and seek to articulate your duties to yourself and to others. Students will also learn about the basic aspects of life safety and the use of resources from their legal framing - key aspects to understand as you design your buildings.

A key part of this module will involve students developing and articulating their views on the limits of an architect's agency, and strategies to develop your own voice in this context, as part of their continuing professional and personal development.

➢ **Content:**
- The architecture profession;
- The legal system as it relates to architecture, including contractual relationships;
- Professional terminology and procedures of architecture;
- Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion in the professional workplace
- Peer assessment and review skills;
- Effective self-management and reflective learning skills;
- An understanding of the professional design process;
- Addressing professional, regulatory, social, environmental or ethical issues within a design;
- Oral communication and presentation skills.
- Personal / Professional Development Planning (PDP)
- Team-working and team co-ordination skills
- Professional presentation skills
- How to write an evaluative project report

Teaching: Lectures, seminars, tutorials, workshops and study visits

Assessment:

- Study Option **1:**

Portfolio (100%):

- Group work case study report including evaluation of the process, outcomes and individual reflection on group work (max. 1500 words)
- Updated Personal Development Plan
- Professional profile (e.g. CV and LinkedIn profile)

- Study Option **2**:

- Updated Personal Development Plan
- Professional profile (e.g. CV and LinkedIn profile) (100%)

Note: methods of assessment and weighting are indicative only

Last updated: 05/05/25 PJW

Return to Top

Module Code: AR5007

Module Title: Studio: Architecture Is Formed by Climate and Comfort

Level: 5

Prerequisites:
- Successful completion of introductory architecture at university level
- Acceptance is dependent upon review of a portfolio

Credits:
- Full Year: 16 (US) 30 (ECTS)
- Single Semester: 8 (US) 15 (ECTS)

Suitability:
- Study Options 1 or 2
- **MUST BE STUDIED WITH AR5005, AR5006 and AR5008**

Content:

Architecture makes the human habitat. As such it is a mediation between the internal climatic requirements for inhabitation and the nature of the broader environment. What we make and how we make it is shaped by this fundamental concern. This embraces all aspects of a design - the materials we use, how we can engage with the available beauty of the world, and how our buildings respond in use.

In this module students will prepare a series of designs for places to dwell in a set site, with the specific goal of thinking carefully about these interconnected aspects. Construction and the bringing together of materials will be a driver in your research and proposals.

Working in a design studio, students will develop these with colleagues, critique them and iterate them. Drawing on the other modules work, students will explore new knowledge and research as a fundamental part of this process. Students will communicate their ideas with a view to seduce as well as to explain.

- **Topics:**

- How to survey a complex site and record it in two and three dimensions;
- Site analysis skills and the identification of the cultural context of a site;
- Identification and analysis of relevant precedent studies;
- Appraisal of the character of different buildings made with different materials and construction techniques;
- Climate literacy, ethical sourcing of materials to enhance wellbeing, minimise embodied carbon, waste and pollution, and reduce demands on energy and water
- Skills to respond to a given brief and site;
- Iteratively testing and refining a project in response to feedback and self-reflection;
- Informed risk-taking and learning from failure;
- Recording and producing a coherent documentation the development of the design process;
- How to identify and develop architectural and construction elements as part of a wider building composition
- Addressing professional, regulatory, social, environmental and ethical issues within a design, including health and life safety and climate literacy in relation to architectural practice;
- Skills in synthesising a more complex range of issues as a coherent design proposition;
- A personal approach to design and architectural representation;
- Working simultaneously at different scales and levels of detail;
- Exploring and inventing ideas and techniques;
- Oral communication and professional presentation skills.
- Technical understanding of a range of conventional analogue and digital architectural representation techniques;
- Application of interdisciplinary techniques;
- Photographic, and graphics software;
- Model making techniques

Teaching: Studio-based projects, lectures, workshops, tutorials, seminars

Assessment:

- Study Option **1:**

- Portfolio: two design studio projects, one per semester. Sustainability & structural strategy report for spring semester studio project.
- 1:20 Project study. May include: orthographic & 3D drawings, perspective illustrations, model / model photos, animation, text, diagrams, sketches, notes.

➢ Study Option **2:**

- Version of Study Option 1 portfolio (100%)

Note: methods of assessment and weighting are indicative only

Last updated: 05/05/25 PJW

Return to TOP

Module Code: AR5008

Module Title: Making & Representing: Architecture is Found in Play

Level: 5

Prerequisites:
- Successful completion of introductory architecture at university level
- Acceptance is dependent upon review of a portfolio

Credits:
- Full Year: 8 (US) 15 (ECTS)
- Single Semester: 4 (US) 7.5 (ECTS)

Suitability:
- Study Options 1 or 2
- **MUST BE STUDIED WITH AR5005, AR5006 and AR5007**

Content:
There is something about the act of designing that is hard to describe. Ideas do not arise on their own, but through acts of creativity. Here, the combination of the mind and the body differs from purely intellectual activity. There is a word for this of course – play. But we recognise that this word covers a wide territory – the play of the child being very different from the play of a skilled musician for example. In common however is a sense of immersion – an engagement with a task where matters of risk or worries about skills are set aside to explore something – to open new territories in this act. It is a critical part of your capacity to imagine.

In this module, there is engagement with the skilled play of the practitioner, exploring with freedom and openness. There will be refinement through iteration and debate, finding ways to make discoveries in process by doing, and then reflecting.

Disciplinary areas are Making and Representing.

Making:

- Environmental concerns in relation to architectural materials and spaces
- Surveying and recording skills and recognition through primary research of common construction and servicing techniques and methods;
- Appraisal of the character of different buildings made with different materials and construction techniques;
- The principles of environmental servicing, light, air and human comfort and the implications of these principles on building design and climate change;
- Technical construction detailing of a building design;
- Integration of structural, construction and building services materials and methods;
- General principles of structural engineering in relation to architecture.
- Climate literacy, ethical sourcing of materials to enhance wellbeing, minimise embodied carbon, waste and pollution, and reduce demands on energy and water

➢ **Representing:**

- Knowledge of a range of historic and contemporary examples of architectural interpretations and techniques of representation;
- Technical understanding of a range of conventional analogue and digital architectural representation techniques;
- Exploration of interdisciplinary techniques;
- CAD software;
- Advanced model making techniques;
- A personal approach to architectural representation;
- Exploring and inventing ideas and techniques;
- Selecting appropriate materials and techniques for the interpretation and representation of particular architectural subjects;

Teaching: studio-based projects, lectures, workshops, tutorials, seminars

Assessment:

➢ Study Option **1:**

- Portfolio: reflective portfolio presenting work from: Block-taught experimental representation studio; Series of representation electives (50%)

- Illustrated report: Tectonic group work which may include; orthographic & 3D drawings, perspective illustrations, model / model photos, text, diagrams, sketches, notes (not exhaustive) (max. 2,000 words)

➢ Study Option **2:**

- Illustrated Report - Tectonics Group Work (100%)

Note: methods of assessment and weighting are indicative only

Last updated: 05/05/25 PJW

Return to TOP

LEVEL 6 – ADVANCED

Module Code: AR6005

Module Title: Reading: Architecture Is A Common Ground

Level: 6

Prerequisites:

- Successful completion of intermediate-level architecture at university level
- Acceptance is dependent upon review of a portfolio

Credits:

- Full Year: 8 (US) 15 (ECTS)
- Single Semester: 4 (US) 7.5 (ECTS)

Suitability:

- Study Options 1 or 2
- **MUST BE STUDIED WITH AR6006 and AR6007**

Content:

Architecture strategically engages individuals, communities and society with the issues of place in practical, personal, cultural and political ways. Through a process of primary and secondary research across a broad range of subjects, architects appraise the fundamental conditions of site and context, in order to inform a strategic design approach for a particular place. The detailed study of buildings and places from other times and contexts, develops an architect's ability to critique these complex interacting conditions.

There is no orthodoxy in architecture, no set dogma needed to follow. There is the communal culture of the society we serve and the aspects of our discipline that we bring with us. While this responsibility means that architecture is not a vehicle for self-expression it also means that there is no more or less legitimate position from which to engage. There is only our skill and our ability to move with comfort as architects in both exploring and expressing our views on the subject. Finding common ground with others in developing your position on the subject is one of the most important parts of the subject as it allows you to draw on thinking by others and articulate your own informed by these views.

Establishing a foundation for lifelong learning and practice, this module supports the reading and interpreting of architecture through 2 projects: a tectonic precedent study, and a final thesis dissertation. Students will explore in-depth ideas embodied in the built works of others. They will articulate your informed positions on these aspects and critique by comparison and reflection, building a coherent argument as to where for you the value and meaning might be found in the work.

➢ **Topics:**

- How to research and integrate relevant precedent study analysis, and the social, cultural, and economic

context of a site;
- Analyse tectonics and technology through the study of a precedent building. Key areas of precedent analysis: structure, fabric, services and comfort, and sustainability
- Synthesizing and analysing primary and secondary material;
- Primary and secondary observation skills and research to support a dissertation;
- The structure and format of a dissertation;
- Appropriate visual representation skills to record a building precedent in support of a dissertation thesis;
- How to develop a coherent thesis, integrating history and theory knowledge;
- Dissertation writing, referencing and presentation skills;
- Teamwork skills; communication, support, problem-solving, listening and feedback, conflict management.

Teaching: lectures, workshops, tutorials, seminars

Assessment

➢ Study Option **1:**

- Report: tectonic precedent group assignment (Illustrated A3 report with 500 words self-reflective individual statement) (30%)
- 4,000-word dissertation (70%)

➢ Study Option **2**:

- Version of Study Option 1 assessment (100%)

Note: methods of assessment and weighting are indicative only

Last updated: 05/05/25 PJW

Return to TOP

Module Code: AR6006

Module Title: Professional Practice & Making: Architecture Requires Ethics and Competence

Level: 6

Prerequisites:

- Successful completion of intermediate-level architecture at university level
- Acceptance is dependent upon review of a portfolio

Credits:

- Full Year: 8 (US) 15 (ECTS)
- Single Semester: 4 (US) 7.5 (ECTS)

Suitability:

- Study Options 1 or 2
- **MUST BE STUDIED WITH AR6005 and AR6007**

Content:

Architecture involves the need to be competent - both in how we manage ourselves, our time and our development; and in how we design and construct. There is also a personal ethic that sits alongside this and which evolves in a situated manner.

Students are looking ahead to future employment and with an increased understanding of their own professionalism, the range of issues that affect how buildings are procured, built and occupied, and the role of architects within the construction industry and wider society. Students will explore and articulate their own professional ambitions in the context of their thesis design project.

Moreover, a good understanding of tectonics is vital to design. It enables students to create well informed proposals that address many demands, complexities and opportunities inherent in an architectural brief. This final degree year is dominated by the thesis design project, which is a culmination of the design abilities and application of understanding of social, cultural, professional, regulatory, structural, environmental, and material principles, developed in previous years.

In this module students will develop and articulate their understanding of these facets of the discipline. Students will also have space to explore in depth the limits of an architect's agency, and how differing forms of practice might enable a renewed level of engagement.

➢ **Topics:**

- The profession of architecture and of other construction professionals;
- The legal system as it relates to architecture and other construction professionals, including contractual relationships;
- The procurement of construction projects;
- Regulations, procedures and work stages of construction projects;
- Sustainability as a technical and cultural aspect of architecture.
- Effective self-management and reflective learning skills;
- Peer assessment and review skills
- Digital platforms for professional profiles
- Team-building and leadership models (e.g. distributed leadership)
- Co-ordination/organisational and leadership skills
- Critical peer review skills
- How to adapt and respond to change/uncertainty/unpredictability
- Critical appraisal of relevant precedents, research and testing of ideas
- Relevant regulation and performance standards, consideration of the needs of building users, and the ability to apply this to the thesis design project
- Personal / Professional Development Plan (PDP).
- Oral communication and professional presentation skills.
- How to write a Value & Management Report

Teaching: studio-based projects, lectures, workshops, tutorials

Assessment:

➢ Study Option **1**:

- Individual illustrated Report on regulatory context based on a group precedent study (max. 1,500 words) (10%)
- Group presentation: planning context of a project Site (20-mins) (25%)
- Professional portfolio:
  - ➢ Value & Management Report,
  - ➢ A3 Illustrated Report describing the structural, servicing, sustainability, and material strategy of the Thesis Design Project
  - ➢ Personal development plan
  - ➢ CV
  - ➢ Professional profile (max 4000 words)

➢ Study Option **2:**

- Illustrated report and group presentation (100%)

Note: methods of assessment and weighting are indicative only

Last updated: 05/05/25 PJW

Return to TOP

Module Code: AR6007

Module Title: Studio: Architecture Is…

Level: 6

Prerequisites:

- Successful completion of intermediate-level architecture at university level
- Acceptance is dependent upon review of a portfolio

Credits:

- Full Year: 16 (US) 30 (ECTS)
- Single Semester: 8 (US) 15 (ECTS)

Suitability:

- Study Options 1 or 2
- **MUST BE STUDIED WITH AR6005 and AR6006**

Content:

Architecture touches on so many areas of life and culture that each project represents a chance for you to understand the world anew. You can draw your ideas from anywhere, and as your skills develop your speed in responding to complex sites or briefs improves. This act of laying down the slow thinking that you can later draw on quickly takes years. In this module you will engage with a unit to engage in depth with a complex design challenge which will afford you space to really get to grips with a problem, and to articulate your own position in response, through Architecture.

In the research, testing and integration of diverse matters, you will give yourself the opportunity to develop your passions for the subject and to demonstrate your command of the skills required to be an architect. You will develop a thesis design project: a design portfolio with a theoretical foundation that demonstrates a critical and individual line of inquiry that results in a unique architectural proposition. This module will also facilitate a holistic and ongoing integration of tectonics, technology and sustainable issues throughout the development of the capstone Thesis Design Project. This capstone project is the culmination of learning throughout the course.

➢ **Topics:**

- Analysis of the requirements of the inhabitants and community of a design project;
- Critical analysis skills to appraise and develop a design brief on a specific site;
- Iteratively testing and refining a project in response to feedback and self reflection;
- Recording the development of the design process using various media and techniques;

- Responding to the professional, regulatory, social, environmental and ethical issues within a design proposition;
- Analysis of the strategic construction and assembly principles used in a range of built precedents;
- The development of technical details to resolve the construction and material nature of the design thesis project;
- Structural and services strategies from conception to proposition;
- Environmental strategies and services details as part of the holistic design of a project;
- Fabric, material, construction, structural and environmental design and their interconnected relationships in the design of a project;
- A personal approach to design and representation which explores and invents complex ideas and techniques;
- Selecting appropriate techniques and media for the interpretation and representation of inter-related subjects;
- Working at different scales and levels of detail simultaneously to produce a complete and coherent documentation of the project design thesis.
- Oral and visual communication and presentation skills.

Teaching: studio-based projects, lectures, workshops and seminars

Assessment

➢ Study Option **1:**

- Design Portfolio. Design project to include orthographic & 3D drawings, perspective illustrations, model / model photos, animation, text, diagrams, sketches, notes (not exhaustive) (maximum 100 pages) (80%)

- Technical Resolution Report: technical resolution of design project; may include orthographic & 3D drawings, perspective illustrations, model / model photos, animation, text, diagrams, sketches, notes (maximum 30 pages) (20%)

➢ Study Option **2:**

- Part of assessment for Study Option 1

Note: methods of assessment and weighting are indicative only

Last updated: 05/05/25 PJW

Return to TOP