

Welcome to Level 5

Aug 2015

Welcome

Introduction

Welcome to Level 5. The Aim of this document is to provide a clear overview of what to expect, and what is expected of you, as well as introductions to the modules and events happening this year.

Aims of Level 5

The theme of Level 4 was *Principles*. Over the course of the last year you developed skills, knowledge, and vocabulary relevant to the study and practice of Architecture. The Level 5 theme *Process* builds upon this foundation.

Level 5 is where you begin to define both yourself as a designer, and your career trajectory. Over the coming months you will investigate contemporary design process, explore the symbiotic relationship of theory and practice, experiment with various design processes and begin to define your own work-flow and methodologies.

By successfully completing Level 5 you will:

- Demonstrate knowledge and critical understanding of the well-established principles of their area(s) of study, and of the way in which those principles have developed
- Demonstrate the ability to apply underlying concepts and principles outside the context in which they were first studied, including, where appropriate, the application of those principles in an employment context
- Demonstrate knowledge of the main methods of enquiry in the subject(s) relevant to the named award, and ability to evaluate critically the appropriateness of different approaches to solving problems in the field of study
- Demonstrate an understanding of the limits of their knowledge, and how this influences analyses and interpretations based on that knowledge.
- Be able to use a range of established techniques to initiate and undertake critical analysis of information, and to propose solutions to problems arising from that analysis
- Be able to effectively communicate information, arguments and analysis in a variety of forms to specialist and non-specialist audiences, and deploy key techniques of the discipline effectively
- Be able to undertake further training, develop existing skills and acquire new competences that will enable them to assume significant responsibility within organisations.
- Demonstrate the qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment requiring the exercise of personal responsibility and decision-making.



The framework for higher education qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland
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Experience

Level 5 is a step up.

You will investigate contemporary architects, dissect their design processes, and the critique contexts in which they operate. You will experiment with different design processes, and reflect on their relative merits. You will take ownership of your own development, identifying and then testing the skills needed to achieve your goals.

Ultimately you will develop your critical awareness of both the profession and practice of Architecture, and begin to define your own role within it. To support this development a varied program of events will give you opportunities to observe the role of Architects from numerous perspectives.

Interdisciplinary Design Team

The technology design project is being done in conjunction with students from year 3 of the BEng. program at the University of Birmingham. Shared studio-sessions are planned over the course of the technology project.

Work Placement

The two-week work placement takes place after the Easter vacation from 18th April – 29th April 2015. Most of the practices are in Birmingham, however, if you wish to undertake the work placement in a practice in your hometown it may be possible to arrange this.

Elective Study

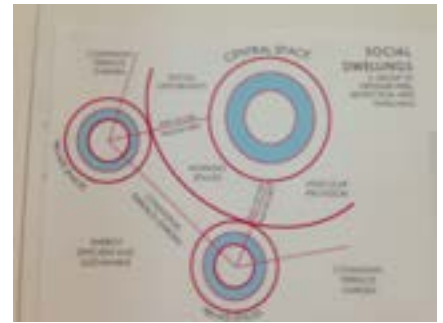
Co.LAB Module offers a range of options for projects. These range from working with members of the public to specialised manufactures.

Site Visits

A number of visits to local construction sites have been arranged. It is a chance to see behind the hoardings and ask questions of people who make buildings.

Erasmus

BSoA has an Erasmus link with Umea School of Architecture in Sweden. They is opportunity to elect to spend Term 2 in Sweden following their program of work.



Welcome

Modules

Level 6 consists of 6 Modules, all of which relate to the year theme of Process.

ARC5010 Architectural Theory

Module Leader: Christopher Maloney

Delivery day: Friday

Relationship to Theme: In this module students will examine the design processes of some of the world's leading architecture practices and practitioners. They will critique these processes against well established theories of architecture and urbanism, and draw conclusions about the context of their development.

ARC5011 Praxis

Module Leader: Ian Shepherd

Delivery day: Friday

Relationship to Theme: Praxis introduces students to the professional context in which Architects practice today, covering elements of management and law. The module includes a two week work placement in practice.

ARC5012 Design Process

Module Leader: Christopher Maloney

Delivery day: Tuesday

Relationship to Theme: Students will investigate various design methodologies and approaches to problem solving through experimentation and documentation.

ARC5013 Collaborative Practice

Module Leader: Alessandro Columbano

Delivery day: Monday, Wednesday, or Thursday

Relationship to Theme: Working with people from diverse backgrounds, projects will introduce cross-disciplinary and trans-disciplinary collaborative processes.

ARC5014 Technical Integration

Module Leader: Jim Sloan

Delivery day: Thursday

Relationship to Theme: Students will bring their skills to collaborate with structural engineering students as part of a design team.

ARC5015 Design Resolution 2

Module Leader: Christopher Maloney

Delivery day: Tuesday

Relationship to Theme: Students will use the skills developed through the year to resolve and communicate complex design problems.

Note: You will receive detailed information about each module.

Photographs by Author



Welcome

FAQs

What is the first day back?

The first teaching day will be Tuesday 29th September.

Do I need to come to every teaching session?

Attendance is critical to achievement, so make sure you place priority on scheduled university time when putting your timetable together. All the modules relate strongly to each other, and all are designed so you get the most out of them. There is strong correlation between absence and struggling to pass, and support is available if you miss a session or two - so keep us up to date.

When can I book a holiday for?

Term 1 is September 28th - December 20th

Term 2 is January 18th - March 20th

Term 3 is April 11th - June 26th

You **must** be available during these dates. It is also worth noting that should you need it, the resubmission date is July 15th, so it is worth being available until that date.

Enrolment?

The Faculty Office will contact you via e-mail early September about completing the online pre-enrolment process.

When will I know the timetable?

Your studio day is Tuesday, this is when you will meet with you Design Studio tutor. Your integrated studio day is Friday, this is when you will receive a mixture of lectures and workshop exercises. You will receive a detailed timetable in the next few weeks which will include content and room numbers.



Prologue

Project 1: Creative Space

Design Process

Aim

The aim of this project is to test skills and knowledge developed in Level 4. It will help you to identify your strengths and weaknesses. The project will also introduce the key themes of Level 5 Design Studio.

Brief

Taking yourself as the client, develop a brief, and design your ideal working space, no more than 100m².

Assessment

Assessment of the work will be pin-up discussion with your tutor and tutor group.

Focus of the discussion will be:

- Comprehension of the resource material provided below - did you watch / read it + do you have an informed opinion?
- Comprehension of the multiple meanings of 'context', and their communication in relation to the scheme - is the physical and social location of your building clear?
- The quality of spatial resolution in your scheme - does the building work?
- The quality of your communication skills - are your drawings, models, and verbal communication clear, neat, and legible?

Resources

What is creativity? What role does creativity have in design? What spaces are needed for creativity, design, and production?

Watch the video, read the article:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=weIQ1thC3Ks>

<http://www.brainpickings.org/2013/08/28/the-art-of-thought-graham-wallis-stages/>

Assessment requirements

2 x A2 sheets.

These sheets must clearly communicate your scheme. The selection of images and visual information will be discussed in the review.

Sketchbook / workbook.

Your work must be supported by material showing the development of the scheme, and the design process you went through.

Model(s).

You must produce at least one physical model to support your presentation. The size and scale is at your discretion.

Assessment date

The work must be pinned-up before 09.45 on Tuesday 29th September 2015.



1. Enric Sagnier



2. Eero Saarinen



3. Frank Lloyd Wright



4. Casey Neistat



5. James Whistler

Design Process

Site

The site is a gap site, located in Digbeth adjacent to Moor Street Station.

8 Bordesley St
Birmingham B5, UK
52.478823, -1.890151



Design Process

