



FUTURE PRACTICE AND SUSTAINABLE RESPONSE

INSTRUCTOR

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ISSUE

How should architects practice? Each generation of architects brings changes to the society. Architectural education provides the ability to design, critically question, and tackle design challenges, as a prelude to practice and integration into the full complexity of daily life. As practitioners, we should develop a critical view not only on design but also on our role as professionals and as contributors to the community.

This course prepares students to practice architecture by providing critical reflection the fundamental roles and values of an architect. Through the study of both traditional and alternative possibilities in architectural and spatial agencies, the course is designed to inspire students to look beyond customary practices and consider their own responsibility and contribution to the ever-changing society.

DESCRIPTION

What is “work” for an architect?

The course prepares students to practice, through the understanding of fundamental roles and values of architect, with discussions on professional conduct and procedures that are related to practising life, students must look beyond “work as an employment” but the meaning of “work” as an architect in the society.

Having the prior learning on design and understanding the basics of architecture, this course introduces the ways to practice and reflect on the purpose of practicing. We have learnt “what” and “how” to make architecture, and we have to ask “why” we practice.

The objectives of this course are as follow:

- To provide a basic understanding of the nature of professionalism and the duties and responsibilities of architects to clients, building users, constructors, co-professionals and the wider society
- To provide a basic understanding of the role of the architect within the construction industry
- To provide a basic understanding of the fundamental legal, professional and statutory responsibilities of the architect
- To provide a basic understanding of the professional inter-relationships of individuals and organisations involved in procuring and delivering architectural projects
- To provide a basic understanding of management theories and business principles related to running both an architects’ practice and architectural projects, recognising current and emerging trends in the construction industry
- Develop understanding and critical thinking on professional ethics

IMPACT AND SUSTAINABILITY

The course aims to equip students with a critical mind for working as an architect and remind them of architects' fundamental role and position in the profession. With the understanding of the fundamentals, critical thinking, and practising essential proposal skills, the students could advocate new ideas in future proposals to change society. The course includes discussions of diverse architectural and related careers to open up and support students' future endeavours.

The course positioned architects as a responsible party for sustainability, especially on social and environmental impact from the architect's role. The course encourages students to critically reflect on the consequences of architects' works and introduce sustainable alternatives to common practices to showcase feasibility.

COURSE SYLLABUS

TOPIC 1: PROFESSIONAL ROLE OF ARCHITECT

TOPIC 2: SUSTAINABLE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT IN PRACTICE

TOPIC 3: ALTERNATIVE PRACTICING METHODS

METHODS

This course is composed of theoretical studies and case studies in the form of lectures, invited guest lectures, in-class discussions, and exercises. To provide a basic understanding of roles, values, and ethics in the architecture profession, as well as explore possible outcomes after graduation.

The course will be in 2 parts:

Part 1: Focus on values, balance and ethics in practising architecture. Discussion on professional topics, including professional integrity, conduct, health and safety, planning of works, and the fundamentals of law and contract. Students shall present their understanding of topical issues through group work.

Part 2: Focus on future pursuits after graduation. The student will investigate different ways of doing architecture and offer insights into the opportunities that exist within a complex society and challenging future. The course includes discussions of diverse architectural and related careers, including practising, getting qualifications, organising and operating practices. In-class group exercises shall be carried out to analyse practices. Students shall submit essay writing on their individual views on their future vision.

FIELD TRIPS

One Field trip will be arranged to visit an architectural practice or a project by architects in Hong Kong.

DELIVERABLES

1_ Reflection Essay

- 800-1000 words essay (two A4 pages)

2_ Group Project

- A research of alternative practice (presentation and A4 report)
- A project proposal (A4 portrait format) with 15 mins presentation pitching the ideas of the project

LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Students shall acquire a deeper understanding of the values and ethics of architectural works in the society, on professional issues
2. Students shall learn options available after they graduate. They shall develop critical views and understand the alternative options for their future career. They would acquire knowledge to propose a suitable and responsible path for their practising future.
3. Students shall understand the profession of architecture and the role of architect in construction team and society, including the duties and responsibility of architects to different stakeholders.
4. Students shall acquire knowledge in preparing briefs that take account of social factors.
5. Students shall understanding the importance of current methods and trends in the construction of the built environment.
6. Students shall acquire knowledge of the industries, organisations, regulations and procedures including the legal, professional and statutory responsibilities, regulations and statutory procedures, land and development control and health and safety legislation.
7. Students shall acquire understanding of contractual relationships in building works and the responsibility of architects in the contract.
8. Students shall acquire knowledge in management and business principles related to running architects' practice and architectural projects, recognising current and emerging trends in the construction industry.

UNDERSTANDING / KNOWLEDGE

1. The nature of professionalism and the duties and responsibilities of architects to clients, building users, constructors, co-professionals and the wider society
2. the role of the architect within the design team and construction industry, recognising the importance of current methods and trends in the construction of the built environment
3. the fundamental legal, professional and statutory responsibilities of the architect, and the organisations, regulations and procedures involved in the negotiation and approval of architectural designs, including land law, development control, building regulations and health and safety legislation;
4. the professional inter-relationships of individuals and organisations involved in procuring and delivering architectural projects, and how these are defined through contractual and organisational structures;
5. the basic management theories and business principles related to running both an architects' practice and architectural projects, recognising current and emerging trends in the construction industry.

ASSESSMENT SCHEME

SPECIFIC ASSESSMENT

- 00_Group Project (35%)
- 01_Individual Writing (20%)
- 02_Short Class exercises (25%)

03_Participation (20%)

Total: 100%

COURSE FORMAT

1_Teaching Days

1. Students must attend for F2F teaching during these teaching hours.
Teaching Day: Tuesday 9:30 am – 12:15pm
2. Teaching Venue: WNY_506
3. Field trips, lectures, and other learning activities may be scheduled outside of teaching days.

2_Student Study Effort_3 credit course (Total: 140 hrs)

1. Class Contact: 39 hrs (Lecture, Tutorial, Critique, Field Trip)
2. Other Student Study Effort: 100 hrs (Studio / Self Study)

REQUIRED READINGS

Till, J. (2013). *Architecture depends*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.
Samuel, F. (2020). Social value in architecture. *Architectural Design*, 90(4).
Awan, N., Schneider, T., & Till, J. (2011). *Spatial agency: Other ways of doing architecture*. Abingdon, Oxon: Routledge.
The Code of Professional conduct. (2017). Hong Kong: Hong Kong Institute of Architects.
Architects code: Standards of conduct and practice. (2009). London: Architects Registration Board.
Royal Institute of British Architects. (2020). *RIBA Plan of Work 2020 overview*. RIBA Publishing.
Hong Kong Institute of Architects. (n.d.). *HKIA agreement between client and architect & scale of professional charges*.
Hills, M. J. (1995). *Building contract procedures in Hong Kong*. Hong Kong: Longman.

RECOMMENDED

Samuel, F. (2018). *Why architects matter: Evidencing and communicating the value of architects*. Routledge.
Piber, A. (2018). *Wonderland manual for emerging architects*. Birkhäuser.
]The Building (Planning) Regulations (Cap. 123, section 38)
HKIA. (n.d.). *The rules of The Institute*.
Buildings Department. (2021). *Code of practice for site supervision plan 2021 edition*. Hong Kong SAR Government.
Buildings Department. (2009). *Technical memorandum for supervision plans 2009*. Hong Kong SAR Government.
Code of Practice for Fire Safety in Buildings 2011 (2024 Edition).

OTHER REFERENCES

Mossin, N., Stilling, S., Bøjstrup, T. C., Larsen, V. G., Blegvad, A., Lotz, M., & Rose, L. (2018). *An architecture guide to the UN 17 Sustainable Development Goals*. KADK.

IMPORTANT NOTE TO STUDENTS

Expectations for Professional Conduct

The motto of The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) is “Through learning and temperance to virtue”. This motto places equal emphasis on the intellectual and moral education of students. In addition to pursuing academic excellence, students of CUHK are expected to maintain and uphold the highest standard of integrity and honesty in their academic and personal lives, respect the rights of others and abide by the law. More information on Postgraduate studies can be found in the PG Student Handbook. <https://www.gs.cuhk.edu.hk/>

Attendance

Class attendance is required in all courses. For an excused absence, the instructor must be notified and presented with documentation of illness or personal matter. Please note: **Three (3)** or more unexcused absences may result in a failing grade for the course.

Academic Honesty

The Chinese University of Hong Kong places very high importance on honesty in academic work submitted by students and adopts a policy of zero tolerance on academic dishonesty

Attention is drawn to University policy and regulations on honesty in academic work, and to the disciplinary guidelines and procedures applicable to breaches of such policy and regulations. Details may be found at: <http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/>.

With each assignment, students may be required to submit a statement that they are aware of these policies, regulations, guidelines and procedures.

Third-Party Assistance

All intellectual work essential to the design project must be completed by the student and cannot, under any circumstance, be outsourced to a third party (including, but not limited to a company, consultant, alumni, and/or friend).

In the design studio context, students may utilize external resources, such as printing services for presentation materials, and/or laser cutting and 3D printing services for prototyping purposes. Use of such third-party services constitutes non-intellectual work done by others. It is only permitted with prior written consent from the studio tutor and acknowledgment of such work done by the third party.

Assistance from other students or friends for aspects of project production also constitutes non-intellectual work done by others; this is allowed only if declared and acknowledged in a written statement attached to any such work that has received assistance.

Under all circumstances, students must declare all work done by others by completing the school's designated form before assessment. This form must include a detailed explanation of the third party's identity (name and relationship to the student), when and how they were utilized, and the specific tasks they performed in the project. The completed form, signed by the student, must be endorsed by the tutor and presented during the final review. The school will collect and retain this form for record-keeping purposes.

Failure to follow this code of conduct may be considered a case of academic dishonesty, to be reviewed by a disciplinary board, and possible failure of the course.

Artificial Intelligence

Unless approved by the Programme or School Director, any use of AI tools such as ChatGPT or image generation tools (Midjourney) etc. is strictly prohibited and may result in disciplinary action in accordance with university policy on academic honesty. Students may refer to the CUHK 'Use of Artificial Intelligence tools in Teaching, Learning and Assessments' – A Guide for Students.

Student Work

Submission of studio documentation must be complete and correctly formatted. Missing or incomplete submission of the documentation folder will result in the grade for the course being withheld. This will prevent registration for the following term or delay graduation. In addition, a grade deduction of *one letter grade* will be made.

GRADE DESCRIPTOR

Grade	Descriptor	Criteria	Points
A	Excellent	Outstanding performance on all learning outcomes.	4
A-	Very Good	Generally outstanding performance on all (or almost all) learning outcomes.	3.7
B+	Good	Substantial performance on all learning outcomes, OR high performance on some learning outcomes which compensates for less satisfactory performance on others, resulting in overall substantial performance.	3.3
B			3
B-			2.7
C+	Fair	Satisfactory performance on the majority of learning outcomes, possibly with a few weaknesses.	2.3
C			2
C-			1.7
D+	Pass	Barely satisfactory performance on a number of learning outcomes.	1.3
D			1
F	Failure	Unsatisfactory performance on a number of learning outcomes, OR failure to meet specified assessment requirements.	0

Term 2: 6 January 2025 (Monday) – 19 April 2025 (Saturday)

WEEK 01		
07.01	LECTURE	Introduction: The role of architect
WEEK 02		
14.01	LECTURE	Planning of building works
WEEK 03		
21.01	LECTURE	Balance in professional projects (Contract)
WEEK 04		
28.01	NO CLASS	Chinese New Year
WEEK 05		
04.02	LECTURE	Professional conduct and integrity
WEEK 06		
11.02	NO CLASS	Mid Term review
WEEK 07		
18.02	LECTURE	Health and Safety and responsibility
WEEK 08		
25.02	LECTURE	Social responsibility and Sustainable Response
WEEK 09		
04.03	READING WEEK	Site Visit
WEEK 10		
11.03	LECTURE	Practicing after graduate
WEEK 11		
18.03	LECTURE	Traditional and alternative paths
WEEK 12		
25.03	LECTURE	Other options of practicing
WEEK 13		
01.04	TUTORIAL	Group Project Presentation
WEEK 14		
08.04	NO CLASS	Pre-Final Week
WEEK 15		
15.05	NO CLASS	Final Review Week

Written Feedback to Students

Term: _____

Grade: _____

Course: _____

Date: _____

Assignment: _____

Student Name: _____

Studio Tutor: _____

Student ID: _____

Feedback from Studio Tutor:

Achievements:

Challenges: