

Diploma in Architecture Study Guide

Exemption from Part II of RIBA/ARB Examination in Architecture

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

The Diploma of Architecture course is **Part 2 accredited** and provides exemption from the Part 2 of the Examination in Architecture ARB/RIBA.

We are uniquely positioned within a wider community of artists and designers at the Glasgow School of Art and this allows our students the opportunity to make connections both academically and socially.

Our approach to architecture is simple we care about how buildings and places are made and used to provide positive impact for the individual, society and the planet.

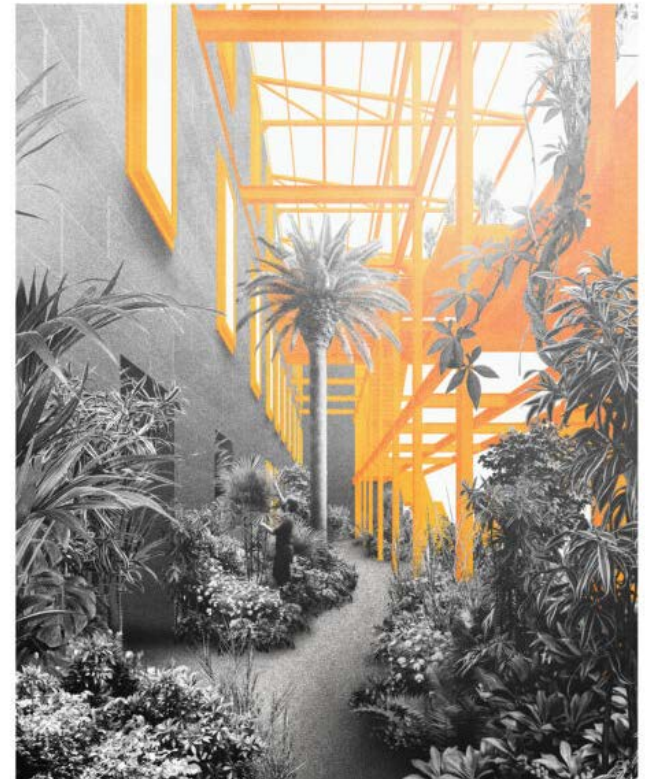


Image: Fredrik Frenidin, The Ruin and the Garden 2021

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Testing the City

We do this through testing the 21st Century world around us to examine the social, cultural, political, economic and environmental issues driving the contemporary changes in the built environment today and in the future.

Climate

We are specifically interested in our students gaining awareness of the climate emergency and how we can address the global challenges facing society and the planet. Our Architectural Technology courses are designed to support our students understanding, application and expertise in the climate framework through their integration into the Studio projects.

Inclusive Studio Culture

Our course is studio based and project driven. The studio environment provides a forum for critical discussion, support and encouragement. We foster inclusivity through a mutually respectful, supportive, collaborative studio culture. We recognise diverse ways of teaching and learning and encourage our students to develop their own personal response to architecture.



Image: Gabriella Togni, A Manifesto for Scarcity and Abundance 2021

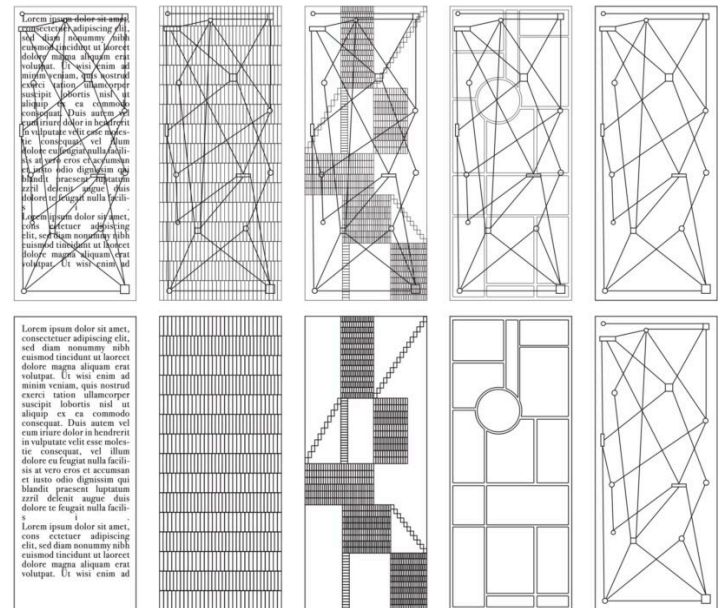
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Teaching Methodology

Through a systematic and disciplined teaching methodology, we develop the core skills of architectural production. The integration of Architectural Technology, Professional Studies and History and Urban Studies into the Studio supports a holistic response to architecture. Through rigorous research and investigation, we encourage our students to communicate through design, an architectural response to the ethical challenges facing the contemporary world.

Critical Architectural Thinkers

Throughout the course we support our students to become independent thinkers through the use of critical self-reflection and peer collaboration, both of which we see as central components to the learning experience. We aim to help our students to identify their role as an architectural thinker, designer and maker within wider society.



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Year 1 Diploma (Stage 4)

The first year of the Diploma allows students to develop a rigorous design methodology. We ask our students to gather, organise, analyse, synthesise and deploy information through an iterative process to address the complexity of the City of Glasgow.

The course comprises of Studio, Architectural Technology, Professional Studies and A Research Project.

The Studio element of the course focuses on Glasgow and is delivered with the support of a combination of academic staff and practicing architects within Scotland. Through lectures, discussions, group tutorials and individual tutorials students are supported to develop their response to an architectural theme and question posed.

Architectural Technology is delivered through a variety of lectures, seminars, specialist workshops and tutorials which are integrated into the Studio project.

Professional Studies is delivered through a variety of lectures, seminars and group workshops.

The Research Project provides students with the opportunity to develop their own line of enquiry. This self-directed project can be evidenced in a variety of different mediums to support a more diverse and inclusive way of undertaking and presenting research.



Image: Willam White Howe, Salutogenesis 2021

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Year 2 Diploma (Stage 5)

Within the second year of the Diploma, students are asked to test a European City to examine the architectural and ethical forces driving contemporary change in the built environment. Through a Thesis investigation students identify their role as professional architectural thinkers and makers. We aim to give our students the confidence and ambition to enable positive change for the safe future of the people and the ecology of our planet.

The course comprises of Final Design Thesis, Architectural Technology, Professional Studies and the Post Graduate Elective.

The Final Design Thesis is the Studio element of the course and focuses on a European City. The Thesis is delivered with the support of a combination of both academic staff and practicing architects. Through a variety of lectures, discussions, group tutorials, peer tutorials, individual tutorials and reviews, students are supported to develop their own personal response to an architectural theme. Students are encouraged to explore and communicate their architectural response which draws on the research and investigation into their chosen theme.

Architectural Technology is delivered through a series of specialist workshops and tutorials which is wholly integrated into the Studio project.

Professional Studies is delivered through a variety of lectures, seminars and group workshops.

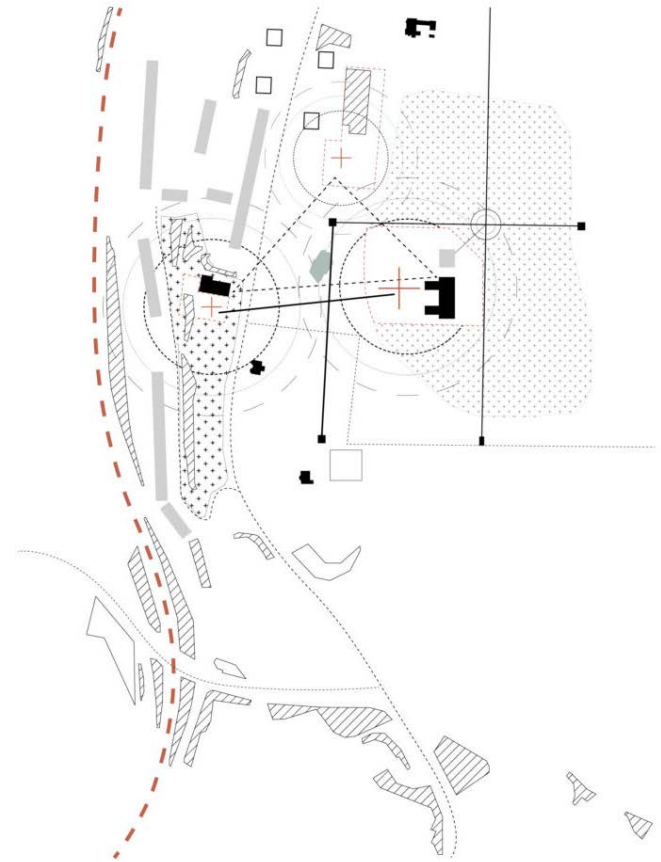


Image: Maisie Tudge, The Atlas of the North 2021

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Year 2 Diploma (Stage 5)

The Post Graduate Elective offers students the possibility of studying within another part of Glasgow School of Art, with electives offered from the School of Fine Art, Design, Innovation and Simulation and Visualisation.

There is an opportunity for students on study abroad for the first semester of Stage 5. Students who do this develop their Final Design Thesis whilst on exchange and continue to work on this on their return to Glasgow.



Image: Mate Gehberger, Glasgow the Puppet 2021

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Masters in Architecture (by Conversion)

Students who complete the Diploma course may be eligible to proceed to the Masters by Conversion course where there is the opportunity to develop and aspect of work produced in their fifth year, in greater depth.

The programme lasts 1 semester (15 weeks) and runs from September to January.

The course is centred on the Studio with a series of complimentary lectures at Masters level. The lecture series consists of lectures in Architectural Research, Energy and the Environment, Contemporary Urban Practices, Urban Buildings and The Ideal and the City, looking at philosophy, literature, arts and science and their influence on architecture and urbanism.

The Studio element is delivered by the Head of School and the Professor of Architecture principally.



Image: Andrew Zi Hang Law, Antwerp Archipelago, 2021

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Part Time Modes

The Diploma of Architecture is available in a part time mode.

The Part time course is undertaken over 3 years.

- The first year allows students to undertake the Stage 4 Studio Project and Architectural Technology 4 course.
- The second year allows students to undertake the Professional Studies course 4 and 5 plus the Research Project and the Post Graduate Elective.
- The third year allows students to undertake the Final Design Thesis and Architectural Technology 5 course.

Students who wish to undertake the part time mode must have employment within an architectural practice.

The Masters of Architecture (by Conversion) course may be undertaken part time with agreement from the Head of School and would last 2 semesters.



Image: Eve Parsons Part Time Student, Opening the Edge 2021

Diploma in Architecture

Examples of work undertaken by students on the Diploma course can be found on our 2021 Graduate Showcase.

[Examples of Diploma year 1 \(MSA stage 4\)](#)

[Examples of Diploma year 2 \(MSA stage 5\)](#)



Image: Charles Dunn, Stage 4 2021