

**Course Code:**

ARDFINALDES

**1. Course Title:**

Final Design Thesis

**2. Academic Session:**

2011/12

**3. Level:**

SCQF 11

**4. Credits:**

70

**5. Lead School/Board of Studies:**

Mackintosh School of Architecture

**6. Course Contact:**

Robert Mantho

**7. Course Aims:**

The course extends design skills within a rigorous creative studio environment and provides the opportunity to explore architecture, demonstrate strategic and critical thinking and develop a personal approach to design through a self-directed comprehensive design project.

**8. Intended Learning Outcomes of Course:**

At the end of the course each student should have the ability to demonstrate and/or work with:

**Category 1: Knowledge and Understanding**

- Knowledge that covers and integrates most, if not all, of the main subject areas of the discipline of architecture – including their features, boundaries, terminology and conventions
- A critical understanding of the intellectual and aesthetic content of selected buildings to substantiate architectural judgements
- A coherent expression of a critical approach to making architecture at this time.
- An ability to pursue an independent line of enquiry
- Researched, critical and detailed evaluation of the briefing and performance of buildings applied to the self-directed design project.

**Category 2: Practice – Applied Knowledge and Understanding**

- Architectural judgements that have been explored critically and to a conclusion
- The ability to plan and compose buildings that are self selected and directed, and demonstrate a range of investigations and more detailed resolution.
- Explicit strategies for structural design, environmental design and for the choice of materials

that together contribute the architectural expression of the self-directed design project.

- Research and critically evaluation of the social, economic, political and cultural factors that influence the self directed design project

### **Category 3: Generic Cognitive Skills**

- Apply critical analysis, evaluation and synthesis to issues which are at the forefront or informed by developments at the forefront of information.
- Deal with complex issues and make informed judgements in situations in the absence of complete or consistent information

### **Category 4: Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills**

- Communicate on an expert level in a variety of roles and contexts.
- Communicate using appropriate methods, to a range of audiences with different levels of knowledge or expertise.

### **Category 5: Autonomy, Accountability and Working with others**

- Exercise autonomy and initiative in carrying out a self-directed programme of study.
- The ability to manage time and physical resources in relation to self- directed programmes of study as an individual and as a group member.
- Take account of Health & Safety regulations in studio practice and adhere to safe working practices.
- Collaboration with peers and others in sharing knowledge and researching their self directed design project
- Deal with complex ethical and professional issues and make judgements on issues not addressed by current professional ethical codes and practices.

## **9. Indicative Content:**

Students are expected to undertake a self directed project of the design of a sustained and thoroughly researched building of reasonable complexity and ambitious architectural intention, encapsulating a critical architectural position and maturity of judgement.

Typically the thesis, programme and site are student selected, reflecting personal architectural interests, and are of a scale commensurate with demonstration the required synthesis of skills and knowledge of a student to achieve ARB/RIBA Part 2 exemption and on the threshold of entering the architectural profession.

## **10. Description of Summative Assessment:**

All learning outcomes for the Course are assessed through written examination, and where appropriate through practical examination.

### **10.1 Please describe the Summative Assessment arrangements:**

Learning level outcomes stated for course must be achieved, and ability to fulfil these is graded against the marking scheme (see Academic Regulations).

Work is assessed by exhibition. It is the student's responsibility to prepare and produce work to allow the discussion and development of work through the session, and edit, prepare and produce a final exhibition for assessment. The work exhibited should be supported by design studies, reports precedent studies and sketchbooks as appropriate to the thesis and design proposal.

The submission is assessed in three stages, firstly by the teaching team for the course, then by the

internal examination board, and finally through an oral presentation of the exhibition and portfolio to an external examiner.

**11. Formative Assessment:**

Verbal feedback is given at regular tutorials. Written feedback given at reviews and following the interim submission.

**11.1 Please describe the Formative Assessment arrangements:**

An interim submission of work is made fifteen weeks into the session, coinciding with PGT stage 1. The work is assessed by the teaching team and an advisory grade and written feedback is given. This grade is advisory and does not contribute to the final grade at the summative assessment point.

However should a student wish to exit the programme at this point the grade will become summative and if sufficient credit has been achieved across courses the exit award of Postgraduate certificate will be awarded

**12. Collaborative:**

Yes

No

**12.1 Teaching Institutions:**

Mackintosh School of Architecture

**13. Requirements of Entry:**

Successful completion of stage 4 or equivalent .

**14. Co-requisites:**

Architectural Technology 5; Professional Studies 5; Research Project 5

**15. Associated Programmes:**

**16. When Taught:**

Term 1, 2 and 3

**17. Timetable:**

Monday 26 Sept 2011	General introduction
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> February 2012	Interim submission / formative assessment
Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> May	Final submission / internal presentation
Wednesday 30 <sup>th</sup> and Thursday 31 <sup>st</sup> May	External examination

**18. Available to Visiting Students:**

Yes

No

**19. Distance Learning:**

Yes

No

**20. Placement:**

Yes

No

<b>21. Learning and Teaching Methods:</b>		
<b>Method</b>	<b>Formal Contact Hours</b>	<b>Notional Learning Hours (Including formal contact hours)</b>
Lecture		
Studio		
Seminar/Presentation	5	
Tutorial	70	
Workshop	5	
Laboratory work		
Project work		280
Professional Practice		
E-Learning / Distance Learning		
Placement		
Examination		
Essay		
Private Study	Not Applicable	340
Other (please specify below)		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>620</b>

<b>22. Description of "Other" Teaching and Learning Methods:</b>
n/a

<b>23. Additional Relevant Information:</b>

<b>24. Indicative Bibliography:</b>
Bibliographies will be specific to individual topics of study.