

MODULE DESCRIPTIONS

ARCHITECTURAL STUDIO

The 'architectural studio' is a traditional space in and methodology of the education and professional practice of architectural professionals. In this module students can work in a real office as well as in the academic studio. Students will create various sets of drawings that relate to the design and documentation at the scale of a simple double storey building. The drawings will form part of the student portfolio created as a record of the year's work and evidence of the competencies mastered, when applying for either work in practice or towards further study.

CREATIVITY FOR ARCHITECTURAL PRACTICE

Design is a creative act. In the making of buildings, the architectural professional employs creativity and artistic skills to put materials, methods and technology together to make buildings. This module introduces creativity for architectural practice by exploring the nature of creativity. The student will be exposed to design thinking and the design process through a variety exercises and projects. Collaborative design and participation in design discussions are important and necessary skills of an architectural professional. Fostering creativity is essential to develop an all-round architectural professional.

INTRODUCTION TO SPATIAL AND ARCHITECTURAL PRINCIPLES

The act of design, the design process and design thinking underpin the architectural discipline. This module contextualizes the historic development and organization of human habitation and settlement, with a specific focus on the African continent. Students are introduced to design theory and process as the foundation for spatial design. Precedent studies, in the form of both historic and contemporary dwellings, are explored through basic research and diagrammatic analysis.

INTRODUCTION TO SUSTAINABLE CONSTRUCTION

This module gives the student introductory knowledge to the making of buildings. A variety of traditional and alternative materials, methods and services will be explored. A hands-on approach will enable students to physically engage with the materials and the methods of making that are used in the construction of simple double storey buildings. The module is underpinned by environmental and passive design principles necessary for making sustainable living environments in a range of physical contexts.

LITERACIES FOR ARCHITECTURAL PRACTICE

A set of specific literacy skills are required to design, to solve construction problems and to develop building documentation. This module exposes the student to these skills. Graphic techniques for drawing by hand in a variety of media and drawing software for application in communication and documentation sets the foundation for a career in the architectural profession. Basic numeracy skills that support draughting, construction principles and basic project management are introduced. Language skills and vocabulary that the professional will apply in practice is defined. Basic academic research and writing skills are covered.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The architectural profession operates within clear legislative boundaries in South Africa and collaboration with professionals from other disciplines is essential. In this module students are made aware of the different role players and related legislation in the built environment. Specific attention is given to different types of architectural practice. Awareness of contextual and socially conscious as well as collaborative practices, are emphasised, together with an entrepreneurial mind-set. The student will be exposed to the operational systems of an architectural office and to the conduct of an experienced architectural professional. Students are introduced to career options and how to develop their own career plans.