

Archi Schola a



Archi-Schola: Classes in Architecture

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Course B: **Studio Accelerator**

July 2025

OVERVIEW

This course is designed for continuing students in the senior years (Y4–6) of architecture programmes in the UK/EU.

If you are enrolled in an earlier year (Y1–3), please refer to **Course A: Studio Fundamentals**.

If you have no previous experience of studying at a British or EU university, please refer to **Course C: Studio Onboarding**.

The main objective of Course B: Studio Accelerator is to help you start the new semester with confidence, making the most of your limited teaching time at your home university.

We will discuss progression from basic to more complex projects, typical of senior years; critical approaches to site; development of one's own design brief; formulation of an architectural design thesis; and presentation of your thesis project at critical reviews.

We will also provide advice on adapting your academic work for professional applications.

COURSE CONTENT

The course consists of five online sessions:

Session 1 – From Interest to Project: How to (Re)invent your Site

- “What’s interesting?” How to start without stalling in senior years
- The death of site analysis: how to approach a site differently
- Mapping context(s): how to show the relevance of your proposal
- Materiality matters: practical methods & techniques for surveys

Session 2 – Working with the Brief

- Design briefs by others: what to expect in senior years
- Critical Practice: on reflexive ways through design
- The Tightrope and the Safety Net: writing your own brief
- [Practice Exercise 1]: Draft a short design brief for a thesis/studio project

Session 3 – Drawing Out the Invisible: Design as Research

- Reframing: design-as-object vs. design-as-process
- Hands-on: hybrid techniques (hand/digital), layering, critical montage
- [Practice Exercise 2]: Find an example of a research drawing you find interesting and discuss it (sample web sources will be provided)
- [Homework 1]: Develop a series of drawings that apply the techniques and approaches discussed during the session

Session 4 – Critique Lab: Work-in-Progress Reviews

- Homework 1 review and discussion
- Review of past or ongoing projects: studio-style reviews with structured feedback

Session 5 – Outlook: Towards Portfolio & Career

- Editing and reframing academic work for portfolio
- Writing reflective project descriptions
- How to demonstrate growth, criticality, and design thinking in a professional context

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Through engagement with the course, you are expected to meet the following learning outcomes:

- **CLO1: Site and Context** – Demonstrate knowledge of canonical and novel methods of studying, documenting and representing a site
- **CLO2: Design Brief** – Demonstrate techniques for interpreting design briefs by others and the ability to write an outline design brief for a new design project
- **CLO3: Design Research** – Understand the role of design as a process that can form new knowledge

SESSION FORMAT

Sessions are designed to last **90 minutes**.

A 5-minute break is included in this time.

The maximum number of participants is 8.

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