Archi
Schola

Archi-Schola: Classes in Architecture
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Course A:
Studio Fundamentals

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OVERVIEW

This course is designed for students in the early years (Y1–3) of architecture programmes in the UK/EU. It is open to applicants or those who consider studying architecture.

 If you are enrolled in a senior year (Y4-6), please refer to **Course B: Studio Accelerator** instead for a dedicated course for you.

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 A: Studio Fundamentals* is to teach you representational techniques and design methods that will serve you throughout your studies at university.

We will discuss design as a way of *developing* ideas (rather than simply 'communicating' them); open approach to site and studio brief; formulation of an architectural proposition; and presentation of your project at critical reviews and exams.

We will also provide advice on developing your academic work for professional placement applications (in the UK called 'Part 1') and further years of study.

COURSE CONTENT

The course consists of five online sessions:

Session 1 – Studio, Site & Brief. Fundamentals

- Studying Architecture. A brief overview.
- Reading Between the Lines. How to approach studio brief critically.
- Site–Brief–Designer. Setting out the triangle of subjects.
- Materiality matters. Practical methods & techniques for surveys

Session 2 – Design (as) Development

- Architectural conventions: rules and when to break them
- Drawing in series. Why one is never enough
- [Practice Exercise 1]: Drawing charette
- [Homework 1]: Find an example of a drawing you find interesting and discuss it (sample web sources will be provided)

Session 3 – Architectural Proposition

- Homework 1 review and discussion
- Drawing Out the Invisible. How to surprise yourself (and others)
- Hands-on: hybrid techniques (hand/digital), layering, critical montage
- [Practice Exercise 2]: Design charette
- [Homework 2]: Develop a *series* of drawings that further develops the techniques and approaches discussed during session 2 & 3

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

- Homework 2 review and discussion
- Review of past or ongoing projects: studio-style reviews with structured feedback

Session 5 – Studio Presentation and Crit Skills

- "It's Nothing Personal!" How to survive and thrive during the crit
- [Practice Exercise 3]: Testing visual and verbal rhetoric
- How to demonstrate growth, criticality, and design thinking in a professional context (Part 1 placement advice)

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

- **CLO1: Studio and Brief** – Understand the importance of critical approach to studio brief. Be able to read a brief closely.

- **CLO2: Design Development** – Understand basic architectural conventions. Demonstrate techniques and methods for using design to progress the thinking through the brief and site.

- **CLO3: Critical Capacity** – Understand the role of critique in design. Demonstrate techniques for preparing work for critical reviews.

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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