

**MODULE TITLE:** Cultural Context of Architecture I  
**MODULE CODE:** ARC115B1  
**MODULE LEVEL:** 1  
**CREDIT POINTS:** 10  
**MODULE STATUS:** Compulsory for BA Hons Architecture  
**LOCATION:** Belfast Campus  
**ELEARNING** On WebCT once registered  
**PREREQUISITES:**  
**CO REQUISITES:**  
**MODULE CO-ORDINATOR:** Dr Bill (William J) Thompson RIBA  
**TEACHING STAFF** Bill Thompson, Liam Kelly

**HOURS:**

Lecture	11 hours
Seminar	11 hours
Coursework (typically)	10 hours
Independent learning, typically	68 hours
<b>Total</b>	<b>100 hours</b>

**ACADEMIC SUBJECT:** Architecture

**RATIONALE:**

Students have to become aware of the complexities of architecture and the way in which it involves us in social reproduction and cultural hegemony requiring in response an existential effort from the architect.

**AIMS:**

- To develop a basic understanding of the relationships between people and buildings, the world we live in and historical, social and cultural conditions.
- To identify historical, cultural and social influences in architecture
- To assist the student to explore texts, buildings and www
- To assist the student with useful discursive practices

**INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

100% of the assessment will be by coursework to allow essay writing as the mode of assessment and include feedback to the students during the semester interactively with seminars/lectures.

A Successful student will be able to show that he/she can:

### **Knowledge and Understanding**

- K1 Demonstrate that relationships between personal, historical, social and cultural circumstances can alter architecture

### **Intellectual Qualities**

- I1 Demonstrate the complexity of architecture by referring to scholarly texts dealing with historical, social, cultural and psychological issues in architecture
- I6 Comprehend that historical, social and cultural and psychological issues influence the design of buildings

### **Professional/Practical Skills**

- P4 Cognize historical, social, cultural and ethical concerns in architecture
- P5 Express historical, social, cultural and ethical concerns using text

This module will increase the students ability to describe, name, outline and explain historical, social, cultural and ecological issues that are referred to as 'theoretical', particularly when participating in design modules and visits relating to design module requirements.

### **CONTENT:**

One assisted visit to the library (including one lecture within the library) to acquaint the student with the application of research and retrieval of information for private study from web based and shelf-based literature. [Scheduled by Library Staff]

Introduction to the Cultural Context Modules  
[Bill Thompson lecture x 1]

Introduction To Cultural Context of Architecture  
Group seminars - on specific issues of interpretation and application raised by the lectures (on architecture understood as historical, as language, political and social science issues)  
[Bill Thompson x 4]

Introduction to Irish and International History  
Irish architecture and art [Liam Kelly x 2]

Introduction to Heritage and Conservation  
[Ulster Architectural Heritage Society lecture x 1]

Schoenberg – Historical Parallels in Music  
[Hilary Bracefield x 1]

Portfolio element relating ergonomics and functional issues to design in an elementary way.

## TEACHING AND LEARNING METHODS:

Students will be encouraged to use the library and e-learning resources.

Student attention will be directed toward specific texts and references within a given range of texts and illustrative material that architects and/or their clients may use as a resource in contemporary architectural discourse.

Seminars will encourage interactive debate and exploration by tutors and fellow students.

Students will be encouraged to give feedback from essays and presentations

Students will consider ergonomics in a basic representational exercise

## ASSESSMENT:

**The assessment of this module will be 100% continual assessment, marked against assessment criteria.**

Assessment element	LO	ARB	overall %
One menu (with A4 graphic)	I6		20% of mark
2 visual tests	P4		10% of mark
*One illustrated essay of 2000 words	K1, I1, P5	<b>D3</b>	60% of mark
Ergonomics information	I6		10% of mark

**\*Essay Title:** Why is Architecture Like Wine?

Each student must demonstrate in their writing how architectural design is informed by historical, theoretical, material, artistic and cultural influences  
Please also see academic references guide below

**\*Students must note that the essay of 2000 words examines the ARB requirement for D3 - Architectural histories and theories, of physical, artistic and cultural contexts, and their use in informing the design process**

## **READING LIST:**

Reading specific to the module: students will also be referred to texts in seminars and lectures.

### **Essential reading:**

**Addis B**, Building, Phaidon Press, 2007

**Colquhoun A**. Modern Architecture. Oxford. Oxford University Press. 2002

**Harbison P** et al. Irish Art and Architecture. Thames and Hudson. London. 1993

**Hearn. F**. Ideas That Shaped Buildings. MIT. MA. 2003

**Inglis D**. Hughson J. Confronting Culture. Cambridge. Polity. 2003

**Tilley A R**. The Measure of Man and Woman . John Wiley. New York. 2002

**Warburton N**, The Basics of Essay Writing, London and New York, Routledge, 2007

### **Recommended reading:**

**Davis M**. The Universal Computer. W W Norton. . 2000

**Graham P**. Building Ecology. Blackwell. Oxford. 2003

**Greenfield. S**. The Human Brain. Phoenix. -. 2000

**Hale. J**. Building Ideas. Wiley. London. 2000

**Martin B Sparke P**. Women's Places. Routledge. London. 2003

**Pevsner N**. Pioneers of Modern Design. Penguin. London. 1991

### Schedule of lectures/seminars

Week	Lecture/seminar
1	Perception
	<i>Introduction to coursework and assessments</i>
2	Money as Debt
3	Ecological Perception
4	Ideological and Utopian Constructs
	<b>The Following Titles and Presenters may change</b>
5	<b>Arnold Schoenberg</b>
6	<b>Heritage Lecture</b>
7	<b>Irish Art Lecture</b>
8	<b>Library Lecture</b>
9	<b>Gender Lecture</b>
	<i>Feedback Session</i>
10	<b>Film Lecture</b>
11	<b>Review</b>

**Handouts will be added during the semester to provide information on assessments and alterations etc.**

### **Summary ARC115B1**

This module prepares the student for discussions about architecture in the studio and in social life by recognizing the way architecture is influenced and mediated by social, historical and cultural discourse. It also draws the student's attention to the way some other activities on other courses; music and literature for example, participate in the socio-cultural hegemony.

The student will begin to acquire practical skills using text and discourse that will be useful additions to the skills s/he will expect to learn (drawings and models for example) in order to understand 'design'. The student will be able to cognize arguments relating to historical, social and cultural influences on architecture.

# ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Students please note that in all cases except the ergonomics model (which must be photographed and each photograph treated as follows): you are to produce **three** copies of work on each occasion – one for your own portfolio, one to submit for marking and one digital one for the school portfolio (the school's record of your work) – every single page is to be marked with the module - your name and student number, on the back if you wish, preferably on the front as a **designed** part of your submission.

## Appendix A: Assessment Criteria for Essays Level 1

**Essay Title:** **Why is Architecture Like Wine?**

Each student must demonstrate in their writing their understanding that architectural design is informed by historical, theoretical, material, artistic and cultural influences

Please also see academic references guide below: Appendix B

\*Students must note that the essay examines the ARB requirement for D3 and that a failure in the essay will seriously affect the chances of an architectural career

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Student Number

60% of the total mark will be for the essay as follows:

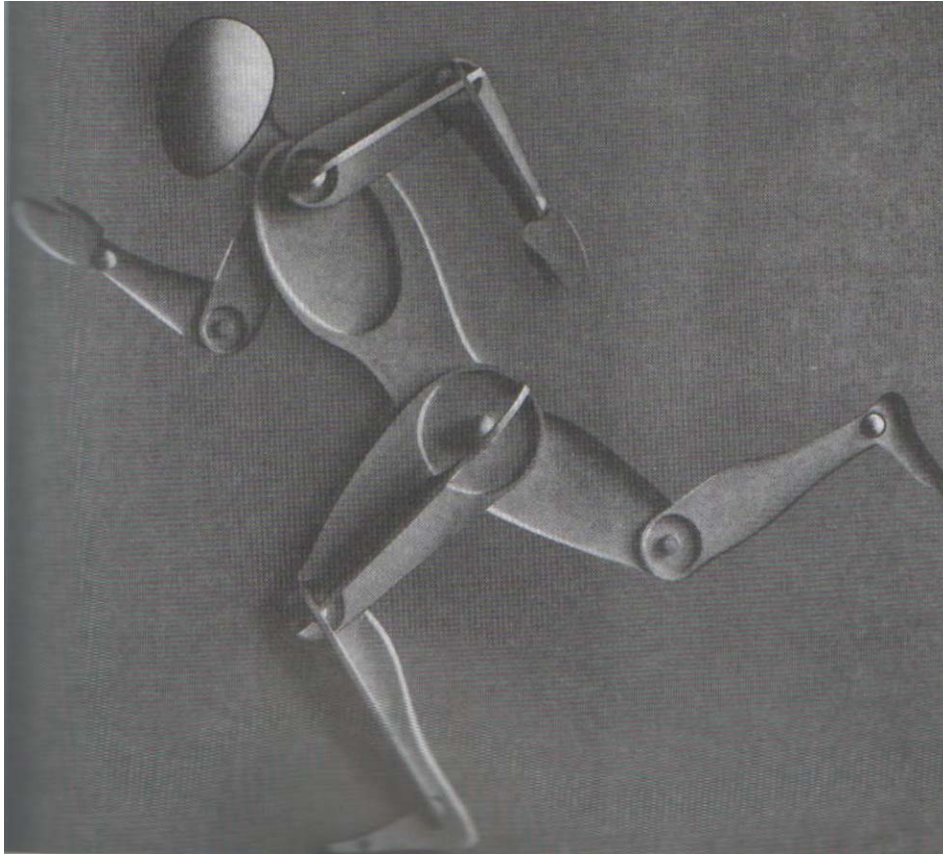
<p>INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTION            9-10 Discursive and Original            7-8 Engaged and Original            5-6 Interested and Original            3-4 Interested            1-2 Competent</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 30px; height: 30px; margin: 0 auto;">1</div>	
<p>UNDERSTANDING            9-10 Excellent comprehension of the nature and significance of the topic            7-8 very good ditto            5-6 good            3-4 reasonable            1-2 adequate</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 30px; height: 30px; margin: 0 auto;">1</div>	
<p>INTERPRETATION            9-10 Excellent demonstration of meaning based in and around the topic            7-8 very good ditto            5-6 good            3-4 reasonable            1-2 adequate</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 30px; height: 30px; margin: 0 auto;">1</div>	
<p>APPLICATION            9-10 applied to architecture and/or architectural subject brilliantly            7-8 ditto very well            5-6 ditto well            3-4 ditto reasonably            1-2 ditto adequately</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 30px; height: 30px; margin: 0 auto;">1</div>	
<p>EVIDENCE OF READING            9-10 excellent correlation between text/visuals and sources            7-8 very good ditto            5-6 good ditto            3-4 reasonable            1-2 adequate</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 30px; height: 30px; margin: 0 auto;">4</div>	
<p>REFERENCING            9-10 excellent referencing of text and web            7-8 very good ditto            5-6 good ditto            3-4 reasonable            1-2 adequate</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 30px; height: 30px; margin: 0 auto;">1</div>	
<p>PRESENTATION            9-10 Clear layout with intelligent use of visual material            7-8 Clear layout with adequate use of visual material            5-6 Obviously considered layout but dull            3-4 Minimal consideration of layout            1-2 Thrown together</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 30px; height: 30px; margin: 0 auto;">1</div>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>WEIGHTING MARK</b></p> <p>Note: 'evidence of reading' is provided by giving references of what you have read!</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100%; height: 100%; position: relative;"> <div style="position: absolute; top: 0; right: 0; font-size: 48px; font-weight: bold;">100</div> </div>	



*Appendix B: Avoiding Plagiarism*

*Please see pages 55-62 of  
The Basics of Essay Writing  
by Nigel Warburton, Routledge, 2007*

## Appendix C: Ergonomics Exercise



This is an articulated figure made at the Bauhaus in around 1932 by Joost Schmidt [p.551, Bauhaus, Wingler H M, Cambridge ma; London, MIT Press, 1976]

Note that it SEEMS TO have articulated joints.

You are required to make a flat card **articulated** figure which is to be a not too detailed replica of yourself (e.g. leave off the hair) to a scale of 1:10 which you must then use to trace around to show you at the table eating, at the kitchen sink and climbing stairs using dimensions taken from your living accommodation

For reference see above -

<b>Tilley A R</b>	The Measure of Man and Woman	John Wiley	New York	2002
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Marks will be awarded, equally shared, for the perfection of the figure, the quality of line drawings required (above) and the accuracy and economy of observation (no line that is not necessary in the submission) and 'as usual' the enthusiasm that we think we can see in the submission as 'quality'.

Student Number

20% of the total mark will be for your **menu** as follows:

Effort of exploration 9-10 very good 7-8 good 5-6 Interested 3-4 adequate 1-2 less than adequate	1	
Relationship to Gastronomic Pleasure 9-10 Excellent 7-8 very good ditto 5-6 good 3-4 reasonable 1-2 adequate	1	
Illustration 9-10 well related to the written stuff 7-8 very good ditto 5-6 good 3-4 reasonable 1-2 adequate	1	
complexity and/or sophistication 9-10 strong but profound subject area or witty comment 7-8 ditto but not exceptional 5-6 ditto but ordinary 3-4 ditto reasonably 1-2 ditto adequately	1	
REFERENCING 9-10 excellent referencing of wine and food 7-8 very good ditto 5-6 good ditto 3-4 reasonable 1-2 adequate	2	
PRESENTATION 9-10 Clear layout with intelligent use of visual material 7-8 Clear layout with adequate use of visual material 5-6 Obviously considered layout but dull 3-4 Minimal consideration of layout 1-2 Thrown together	4	

WEIGHTING

MARK

100

Student Number

10% of the total mark will be for the **ergonomics exercise** as follows:

Enthusiasm 9-10 very good 7-8 good 5-6 Interested 3-4 adequate 1-2 less than adequate	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 30px; height: 30px; margin: auto; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;">2</div>	
Economy of Observation 9-10 Excellent 7-8 very good 5-6 good 3-4 reasonable 1-2 adequate	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 30px; height: 30px; margin: auto; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;">2</div>	
Accuracy of observation 9-10 very accurate 7-8 accurate 5-6 reasonable 3-4 tolerable 1-2 at least it's done!	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 30px; height: 30px; margin: auto; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;">2</div>	
Quality of the Drawing 9-10 exceptional 7-8 good 5-6 ordinary 3-4 reasonable 1-2 adequate	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 30px; height: 30px; margin: auto; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;">2</div>	
Perfection of the Ergonomic Figure 9-10 excellent 7-8 very good 5-6 good 3-4 reasonable 1-2 adequate	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 30px; height: 30px; margin: auto; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;">2</div>	
	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100%; height: 30px; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;">WEIGHTING</div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100%; height: 30px; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;">MARK</div>
<div style="border: 2px solid black; width: 200px; height: 100px; margin-left: auto;"></div>		