

General Information:

Name of Course:

BASICS OF ARCHITECTURE MODULE 'B'

Course Code:

PM-RTENE009A

Semester:

1st

Number of Credits:

3

Allotment of Hours per Week:

2 Lectures /Week

Evaluation:

Signature (with grade)

Prerequisites:

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Instructors:

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Introduction, Learning Outcomes:

Through the introduction of common problems related to the design of buildings and the architectural environment, Basics of Architecture aims to help students approach the essence and inner structure of a building. Through examples of national and international contemporary architecture, students study the methodology of the design process as well as those important factors which determine the location, geometry, etc. of the future building. Students must be able to interpret certain architectural solutions and situations.

In the framework of getting prepared for design, students study operating buildings with similar functions and examples published in professional literature. On this basis they finalize their design project. In addition to their final drawing plans, they hand in their assignments at the end of the semester. Also assessed are the preliminary studies, the evaluation of different alternatives and the technical description of the concept together with the necessary sketches. The buildings are modelled as well.

The course focuses on exploring the complexity and beauty of architecture, and students develop a specialized area of interest within the field of architecture. The course provides a foundation in the culture of architecture, which students will pursue through affiliated courses on the subject.

Students have to be able to demonstrate their understanding of architecture in historical context, to review architectural harmony and to analyze design ideas.

The projects are shown and presented throughout the semester to demonstrate the process of acquiring architectural knowledge and abilities – with the chance of improving the tasks.

The course will focus on:

- planning methods in small scaled building design
- space and form developing
- drafting and modelling techniques
- analyzing examples of architecture history, contemporary architecture
- sustainability in building design – analyzing the geographical and climatic aspects

General Course Description and Main Content:

This subject includes a small scaled architectural design project where students can practice and further develop the content of the lectures and the essentials of other modules.

In their semester assignment, students present the problems arising from mass and space formation of buildings in relation with construction by preparing experimental models of their own small scale designs, and are taught techniques and tools of presentation (drawing tools, methods and tools for modelling).

The course includes:

- Lectures about the theoretical basics of architectural design
- Regular (weekly) supervisions in every given task like homework and project work.

- Requirements for the final presentation.
 - o Booklet about the design process (minimum 15 A/4 pages) prepared with diagrams, sketches, ideas, - explained in a succinct and coherent written manner - inspirations, examples, conditions, spatial attitudes and other requirements, etc.)
 - o A hard line drawing plan of the design project 1:100 / Floor plans with main dimensions and the close surroundings; Sections –necessary for understanding, with all the typical height measurements, showing the structures and materials; Elevations; Views – at least from 3 different points
 - o Site Plan (1:500)
 - o Paper Model 1:200

Methodology:

The course provides basic architectural and design skills.

Schedule:

The course outline is as follows:

Week 1: [Introduction](#) / *project work* /

Week 2: *visiting the project location – meeting/ start 10.15 at the buffet*

Week 3: [Architectural and design terms](#)– *HW 1 Favorite architect or building, and why I want to be... (10p)*

Week 4: *presentations of HW1 / Correlation of location, era, and-man - Overview of the history of architecture /*

Week 5: *examples, analysis of site HW2 (10p) / Cohesion of structure, material and shape*

Week 6: *concept developing, experiments with forms, volumes / Interrelation of structure, space and function*

Week 7: *experiments with forms, volumes/ Interrelation of structure, space and volume developing*

Week 8: [Sketching](#) / [Modelling](#)/ *Idea developing*

Week 9: fall break

Week 10: *Midterm review HW3 (20p) digital presentation with landscape model + draft paper model*

Week 11: [Analysis of scale, proportion, contrast and rhythm](#) / [Architectural shapes and compositions](#),
[Architectural synthesis](#)

Week 12: *Developing the final shape and structure / Primary shapes, Primary elements of design , regular and
irregular forms, transformation of forms*

Week 13: *Detailing, finalizing the drawings /Space defining elements: Light, View, Surface articulation /
Sustainability*

Week 14: *Final model, feedback for the project/ Final test of the studied material (20p)*

Week 15: Final Presentation 40p - Evaluation of the term

Studio Culture:

The course is based on lectures enhanced by collaboration, participation and discussions. This is an interaction between Students and Faculty; using teaching methods like 'Problem-based learning' and 'learning-by-doing'. The communication and work should reflect respect for fellow students and faculty.

Attendance:

Attendance is required and will impact the grade (max. 10%). Unexcused absences will adversely affect the grade, and in case of absence over more than 30% of the total number of lessons will result in failing the class. To be in class on time and stay until the scheduled end of the lesson is required, tardiness of more than 20 minutes will be counted as an absence. In the case of an illness or emergency a valid excuse, such as a doctor's note, should be presented.

The highest possible grade on a belated project (within 2 weeks) is '2'.

Evaluation + Grading

Grading will follow the course structure with the following weight: Project Presentation 40%, Homework and other assignments 40%, Final test 20%, and there is a chance to get extra points (5p) according to participation, progress, effort and attitude. Please note that attendance will adversely affect one's grade, both in direct grade reduction and in missing work in the development of a project. The final grade will be based on the following guidelines:

5. Outstanding work. Execution of the work is thoroughly complete and demonstrates a superior level of overall achievement with a clear attention to detail in the drawings, models and other forms of representation. The student is able to synthesize the course material with new concepts and ideas in a thoughtful manner, and is able to communicate and articulate his /her ideas.

4. High quality work. Student work demonstrates a high level of craft, consistency, and thoroughness throughout the drawing and modelling work. The student demonstrates a level of thoughtfulness in addressing concepts and ideas, and participates in group discussions. Work may demonstrate excellence but less consistently than a '5' student.

3 Satisfactory work. Student work addresses all of the project and assignment objectives with few minor or major problems. Graphics and models are complete and satisfactory, exhibiting minor problems in craft and detail.

2. Less than satisfactory work. Graphic and modelling work is substandard, incomplete in significant ways, and lacks craft and attention to detail.

1. Unsatisfactory work. Work exhibits several major and minor problems with basic conceptual premise, lacking both intention and resolution. Physical representation in drawing and models is severely lacking, and is weak in clarity, craft and completeness.

Grading Scale:

Numeric Grade:	5	4	3	2	1
Evaluation in points:	86P-100P	71P-85P	56P-70P	41P-55P	0-40

PTE Grading Policy:

Information on PTE's grading policy can be found at the website of the faculty too.

Students with Special Needs:

Students with a disability and needs to request special accommodations, please, notify the Deans Office. Proper documentation of disability will be required. All attempts to provide an equal learning environment for all will be made.

Readings and Reference Materials:

Required:

CHING, Francis D. K. (2007) Architecture – form, space and order ISBN 978-0-471-75216-5

More:

FREDERICK, Matthew (2007): 101 THINGS I LEARNED IN ARCHITECTURE SCHOOL The MIT Press; 3rd Edition ISBN 978 0262062664

DEPLAZES, Andrea - (2008). Constructing Architecture – materials processes structures – A handbook - Birkhäuser Verlag AG, ISBN 978 3 7643 8631-3

ULLMANN Franziska (2011). Basics – Architecture and Dynamics, Springer Wien New York ISBN 978-3-7091-0323-4