# General Information

**Curriculum:** Architecture BSc, Architecture OTM, Architecture MSc

**Name of Course: Chinese Architecture: Past and Present**

**Course Code:** ……

**Semester:** fall

**Number of Credits:** 3

**Allotment of Hours per Week:** 2/0/0

**Evaluation:** Mid-term grade

**Prerequisites:**

Course director: Dr Tianyu ZHAO, DLA Lecturer

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## General Course Description

This course offers a comprehensive introduction to the history of Chinese architecture, exploring its development, principles, and contemporary applications from ancient times to the present. The course adopts a topic based approach, allowing students to understand key concepts in Chinese architectural practice, such as conceptual mindset, urban design, and cultural symbolism. Through comparative perspectives, students will discover both the unique characteristics and cross-cultural influences between Chinese and global architectural traditions, fostering an appreciation for cultural diversity and interdisciplinary dialogue. The course also includes hands-on projects encouraging students to apply historical knowledge to creative design tasks.

## Learning Outcomes

This course aims to extend students’ design view by introducing a foundational understanding of the history and theory of Chinese architecture. It summarizes the developmental streams and formal characteristics of Chinese architecture within its cultural and historical context. Students will develop their skill of inter-cultural design and contemporary adaptation to heritage items.

## Subject content

It covers the following topics: history periods of Chinese architecture, sorting architecture in Chinese history system, mindset and principles of ancient Chinese architecture, religious architecture, urban design, traditional residential buildings, Landscape design, blend of west style in China in the 1800s, adaptation in contemporary design and adaptive reuse.

**Examination and evaluation system**

*In all cases. Annex 5 of the Statutes of the University of Pécs, the* ***Code of Studies and Examinations (CSE)******of the University of Pécs*** *shall prevail:*

[*https://english.mik.pte.hu/codes-and-regulations*](https://english.mik.pte.hu/codes-and-regulations)

**Attendance**

In accordance with the Code of Studies and Examinations of the University of Pécs, Article 45 (2) and Annex 9. (Article 3) a student may be refused a grade or qualification in the given full-time course if the number of class absences exceeds 30% of the contact hours stipulated in the course description..

Method for monitoring attendance: attendance sheet

**Mid-term assessments, evaluation and their weighting as a pre-requisite for taking the final exam**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Type** | **Assessment** | **Ratio in the final grade** |
| Semester drawing and paper model | 40 pt (min. 16 pt) | 40 % |
| Final design work | 60 pt (min. 24 pt) | 60 % |

**Requirements for the end-of-semester signature**

Attendance of the classes according to the CSE.

Submission of the semester tasks until the deadline.

**Calculation of the final grade (CSE 47§ (3))**

Mid-term performance accounts for 100 %.

**Calculation of the final grade based on aggregate performance in percentage**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Grade: | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
|  | A, excellent | B, good | C, satisfactory | D, pass | F, fail |
| Performance in % | 85%-100% | 70%-84% | 55%-69% | 40%-54% | 0-39% |

## Readings and Reference Materials

Recommended:

1. Liang Ssu-ch'eng. A Pictorial History of Chinese Architecture, The MIT Press, 1984. Cambridge
2. Chambers W. A Dissertation on Oriental Gardening, Royal Academy, 1773. London
3. Jeffrey W. Cody. Chinese Architecture and the Beaux-arts, University of Hawaii Press, 2011. Honolulu

## Methodology

Lectures are held during the semester. Students prepare their separate semester tasks.

*Detailed requirements and schedule of the Course*

**Tasks and minimum requirements**

The full task includes a set of drawing of a Chinese heritage building, its paper model and an associated design. The drawing should contain a perspective, a layout and a detail of the chosen building, making their composition on an A/3 paper. Any kind of manual technique can be used. The use of computer is not allowed. The paper model is suggested to be in scale 1:200. The topic of the associated design work can be chosen by the students, ther are 2 options offered. Option 1 is to design a contemporary pop-up visual exhibition installation to the building (build into the paper model). Option 2 is to design a little merch - cultural and creative product - for the building (make a prototype). The semester tasks should be done at home. The semester task should be presented to the lecturer during the semester latest in the time set in the course syllabus. It is possible to have a consultation after each lecture. Latest submission deadline is 08.12.2025 10:00.

## Schedule

**Week Topic Reference Deadline**

1. week: Introduction about the time schedule of the semester and about the tasks

**Annunciation of the semester tasks 13. week’s class**

Lecture: History periods of Chinese architecture Slides of the lecture

1. week: Lecture: Sorting architecture in Chinese history system Slides of the lecture

**Decision of the semester tasks**

3. week: Lecture: Mindset and principles of ancient Chinese architecture Slides of the lecture

4. week: Lecture: Religious architecture: temples, grottoes, towers Slides of the lecture

5. week: Lecture: Urban design developments Slides of the lecture

6. week: Lecture: Traditional residential buildings Slides of the lecture

7. week: Consultation about the semester task

8. week: FALL BREAK

9. week: Lecture: Landscape design Slides of the lecture

10. week: Blend of west style in China in the 1800s Slides of the lecture

11. week: Consultation about the semester task

12. week: Adaptation in contemporary design and adaptive reuse Slides of the lecture

13. week: Consultation about the semester task Slides of the lecture

14. week **Hand in and presentation of the semester task start of the class**

**Supplemental hand in of the semester tasks 08.12.2025 10:00**

Pécs, 29.08.2025

Dr Tianyu Zhao

course director