



Design Speculation

Module Descriptor

Module Code:	LSA7DES
Version:	V1.0
Status:	Final
Date:	23/04/2025

Summary Module Details

Module details

Module Title: Design Speculation

Module Leader: Ruth Lang

Module Mode: Full time face to face

Semester/Term: 1

Level: 7

Credits: 20

Learning Hours: 200

Contact & Study Hours

Directed Study Time: 40 hrs (20%)

Self-directed Study Time: 160 hrs (80%)

Assessment Type

Portfolio: 100%

Module Summary

Design Speculation is the first of three modules in Second Year. The module provides the framework for an intense period of design experimentation to deliver a first iteration of the Comprehensive Design Project in a form akin to a competition submission. Each student will bring a design brief with them as set out in Design Direction, the final module of First Year, as well as a critical position as established in their Critical Practice Manual and Manifesto. The design brief will set the context (the 'who', 'what', 'why', 'where' and 'when') for an individual design thesis to be undertaken throughout Second Year. Design Tectonic and Design History are modules run concurrently and are in support of the design thesis work.

The tutor teams from each of these modules are engaged in the Design Speculation review process. Integration of the different modes and methodologies are aimed at supporting students to articulate a coherent design approach for the production of an architectural proposal.

A design hypothesis is evidenced and tested through an architectural proposition (a building), co-ordinated with iterative tectonic solutions and historical precedent. A critical reflection on the result of this module informs the direction of design and

Design Speculation

project development in the subsequent modules, Design Thesis and Design Synthesis.

Taken on which Programmes

MArch Designing Architecture (C)

Core (C) or Elective (E)

Pre-requisites

All modules on the programme must be completed and passed in the sequence outlined within the programme structure section of the programme specification except where progression has been approved by the Board of Examiners due to mitigating circumstances.

Module Aims

- This module asks students to take a critical position on the type of architecture they would like to design, and the practitioner they wish to be, in their future careers.
- Student's gain experience in how to deploy historical, theoretical, cultural, social, political and technical precedent effectively in their design process. Design History and Design Tectonic are incorporated into a design proposal to give further definition to the student's design practice and language.
- Students make multiple tests for possible design positions, strategies and outputs relevant to their brief, and seek to enhance their design skills in making spatially sophisticated, technically and contextually appropriate architectural proposals.
- Students present an architectural strategy and design proposal in the form of a competition entry.

Module Learning Outcomes

On completion of this module students are expected, within the parameters of their individual project, to be able to:

- LO1. Create a design proposal of an appropriate scale, complexity and type in the context of an identified London borough, using a range of media, and in response to a brief

Design Speculation

- LO2. Synthesise complex requirements into a design proposal, demonstrating a conceptual and critical approach that reconciles the aesthetic aspects of a building, the technical requirements of its construction and the needs of the user
- LO3. Incorporate knowledge of relevant histories and theories (architectural, cultural, social, intellectual, technological and so on) into a design proposal
- LO4. Apply appropriate theoretical concepts to the reflective and iterative development of a design proposal
- LO5. Apply knowledge of the fine arts and contemporary culture to enhance the development and realisation of a design proposal in its conceptualisation and representation
- LO6. Evaluate appropriate strategies for building construction and integrate knowledge of structural principles and construction techniques into an outline design proposal

Indicative Module Syllabus

The module is organised in three stages to provide a design framework that can be adopted and practiced by each student regardless of their thesis content. The stages will scope out the key elements to be included in an architectural scheme proposal, from design strategy to defining material and context, to articulating the form and figure.

Each stage requires responses to be tested and explored through 2d, 3d and 4d modes of representation, including sketching, physical and digital modelling tests, orthographic drawing and time-based media.

The module is taught in parallel with Design Tectonic and Design History which provide for the mutual testing of conception and realisation of the Comprehensive Design Project.

Overview of Summative Assessment

Module learning outcomes	Assessment	Word count or equivalent	Weighting
LO1-LO6	Assessment 1 Portfolio	N/A	100%

Module Pass Mark (as a weighted average of all assessments): 50%

Key Module Learning Resources

Core Sources and Texts

Indicative bibliographies for each module can be found in Module Booklets.

Module tools

Students will work individually, in tutor groups, with a design tutor to undertake research and design challenges, participate in round table reviews, clinics and the end-of-year Design Fair. Each student will produce a module portfolio submission of a specified page count + 3 x A1 boards to summarise the project.

A series of seminars will run throughout the module led by members of the Practice Network and faculty drawing on relevant expertise.