



Design Synthesis

Module Descriptor

Module Code:	LSA7DSY
Version:	V1.0
Status:	Final
Date:	23/04/2025

Summary Module Details

Module details

Module Title: Design Synthesis

Module Leader: Ruth Lang

Module Mode: Full time face to face

Semester/Term: 2 and 3

Level: 7

Credits: 40

Learning Hours: 400

Contact & Study Hours

Directed Study Time: 54 hrs (13.5%)

Self-directed Study Time: 146 hrs (86.5%)

Assessment Type

Portfolio: 80%

Viva Voce: 20%

Module Summary

Design Synthesis is the final module in Second Year and is the last stage of development of the Comprehensive Design Project. The module is aimed at producing a resolved architectural thesis and design proposal that demonstrates a mature handling of spatial complexity, high resolution of the design ambitions; clear articulation of a critical position; evidenced appropriate ethical and professional judgement; sophistication in visual and verbal communication. Impact of work undertaken in the Design Tectonic module should be evidenced in the development of the design, and Design History studies demonstrably presented and argued through the thesis.

Students will produce a final portfolio and verbal presentation aided by visual material drawn from the portfolio. They will be able to demonstrate a high level of rigour and precision of method that parallels real-world conditions and constraints. An edited presentation is made for the live Viva Voce and then further distilled to be exhibited at the LSA Summer Show.

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

To prepare students for entry to the profession as a provocative and powerful design practitioner, this module aims:

- To provide students with the opportunity to demonstrate a clear architectural ambition, realised through a critically rigorous design proposition.
- To support students to develop the tools and methodologies to hold on to the integrity of their architectural intent, reconciling the strategic skills of envisioning with the core competencies of delivery, integrating aesthetic and technical concerns, and balancing speculation with plausibility.
- To enhance a student's ability to articulate and discuss their approach to design and to develop a design language, represented and communicated through an personal graphic signature.

Module Learning Outcomes

On completion of this module students are expected, within the scope of a personal project brief, to be able to:

- LO1. Apply appropriate theoretical concepts to the reflective and iterative development of a design proposal
- LO2. Design sophisticated spatial proposals demonstrating understanding of current architectural issues, originality in the application of subject knowledge and, ideally, testing new hypotheses and speculations

Design Synthesis

- LO3. Evaluate and apply a comprehensive range of appropriate visual, oral and written media to test, analyse, critically appraise and communicate design proposals
- LO4. Solve problems, form professional judgements and make proactive and appropriate decisions in complex and unpredictable circumstances

Indicative Module Syllabus

Students draw up an individual plan of work for this module in discussion and in agreement with their tutor. Based on feedback from previous reviews, the plan identifies all elements of the Comprehensive Design Project that require further clarification, articulation and refinement to attain a high level of design resolution.

Design Synthesis aims to consolidate the year's work into a single portfolio and edited presentation. The module is taught in parallel with Design Tectonic which provides for the mutual testing of conception and realisation of the Comprehensive Design Project through 2d, 3d and 4d modes of representation, including an artefact at 1:1/1:15 scale, sketching, physical and digital modelling tests, orthographic drawing and time-based media.

The programme of Praxis talks, Practice Network talks, workshops and all-school design charrettes are all important reference points in the design teaching of the programme.

Overview of Summative Assessment

Module learning outcomes	Assessment	Word count or equivalent	Weighting
LO1 – LO6	Assessment 1 Portfolio	N/A	80%
LO1 – LO6	Assessment 2 Viva Voce	N/A	20%

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.

Design Synthesis

Module tools

Students will work on their individual thesis topics guided by a design tutor. They will participate in tutorials, reviews, school-wide design events, including the end of year Summer Show and term-end viva voce presentations.

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