Architecture
Architecture?

Architecture is concerned with the design of individual buildings, urban spaces and landscapes. In this context the Architecture program works alongside broad cultural, environmental and aesthetic issues.

The UWA architecture program comprises two degrees; the Bachelor of Design and the Master of Architecture.

Why study Architecture at UWA?

When you choose architecture at UWA, you are choosing to study at a university ranked in the world’s top 1% with a globally endorsed course structure. There are also many more reasons why this is a smart choice. The Faculty of Architecture, Landscape and Visual Arts has:

- Excellent facilities including three computer labs with 24 hour access, an AISL plastic extrusion 3D printer, laser cutters, printmaking studio with 2 etching presses, spray booths and Mac lab for multimedia production
- Teaching staff from around the world including Italy, the US, the UK, Germany, Spain, Portugal and Serbia

What does the study involve?

To qualify as a registered architect:

STEP 1
Complete an undergraduate Bachelor of Design or the Bachelor of Philosophy (Honours) with majors in Architecture and Integrated Design as your first degree.

STEP 2
Complete the postgraduate Master of Architecture.

STEP 3
Undertake a minimum of two years’ professional work experience under the direction of a registered architect and then pass the Architectural Practice Examination (APE) to register as an architect in Australia.

Bachelor of Design (BDes)

Studying architecture at UWA begins with the Bachelor of Design – a three year undergraduate course taken with double majors in Architecture and Integrated Design.

These majors have been structured around the central role of the design studio and the course structure includes a design studio in each of the three years:

1ST YEAR STUDIO
Introduces you to studio practice and explores, at a basic level, the primary issues informing design. The studio is intended to develop your conceptual and compositional abilities and impart the skills to effectively communicate design propositions.

2ND YEAR STUDIO
Offers a series of projects that develop and test theoretical concepts of moderate complexity, and promote a developing competence in the development of architectural strategies, vocabulary and composition. The emphasis in the unit is on the application of general principles and you’ll address issues of context, construction, spatial planning and detailing to a schematic level.

3RD YEAR STUDIO
Exposes you to more demanding programs of greater technical, programmatic and conceptual complexity. In addition, a higher level of architectural design resolution is required for the final folio submitted.

The studio units are supported by a range of theoretical and technical units, these include architectural and cultural history, theory, environmental and construction units.

Master of Architecture (MArch)

The Master of Architecture is a two year postgraduate course and follows on from the successful completion of the Bachelor of Design. The Masters course is professionally accredited, involves a wide range of design studio options, technical studies options, history & theory options and professional practice study programs.

The structure of the course gives you greater choice and control over the direction and timing of your architectural education. It will also enable you to develop a greater level of specialisation within the discipline.

Within the course you’re required to fulfil a minimum amount of study within three streams: Design, Critical Studies, and Technology.

- Design represents the core of the program and comprises the largest proportion of your time and study over the two year program.
- Critical Studies options are developed to equip you with contemporary analytical, critical, communication and research skills in a wide ranging selection of topics.
- Technology options build upon the necessary regulatory frameworks and their implementation and develop research into common and emerging technologies, material behaviours, structural systems and environmental performance.

The Design studio aims to achieve competency across different scales, various typologies and diverse materials.

The studio program is augmented by options which include:

- City as Site
- Non Euro-American Architecture
- Urban Design
- Architectural Dissertation
- Architecture of Furniture
- Key Texts
- Publications
- Architectural Technical Resolution amongst many others.

You’ll also complete units in Technical Compliance, Professional Practice and Research Preparation to prepare you for work as a graduate.
LEVEL 1 & 2 STUDIOS
(BDes)
The studio units such as Architecture 1001 and 2000 introduce you to studio practice in design and explore a range of design topics and issues from simple shakers to small public spaces and places. Your individual responses to these design projects are encouraged and will result in the compilation of a design portfolio for assessment at the end of the semester. You will explore a variety of media from simple pencil drawings to computer based renderings.

URBAN DESIGN STUDIOS
(MArch)
The urban design studios are generally taken in the final year of the Master’s program. Essentially these studios recognize that cities will intensify over time and that the architect has a critical role to play in exploring and developing alternative urban futures if we are to create urban environments of quality and substance.

COMPLEX BUILDING STUDIOS
(MArch)
Complex Buildings Studios are typical of one of the kinds of studio program that you can expect to undertake in the Masters program. The complexity is in the mixed use program and in the requirement that the integration of structures, building services and architectural design are explored fully in the Design Development process of the project.

Who’ll be teaching me?
Below is just a selection of some of the academic staff associated with the Architecture program currently...

Winthrop Professor
Simon Anderson
Simon Anderson was appointed to lead the Faculty of Architecture, Landscape and Visual Arts as its Dean in 2010. Simon has taught and practiced architecture at The University of Western Australia (UWA) since 1989. He has won University and national awards and citations for excellence in teaching; won awards, prizes and commendations for buildings and competition designs for residential, multi-residential, institutional and industrial buildings; curated major architectural exhibitions; exhibited buildings and projects internationally; written on contemporary Australian architecture and been an elected councillor of the Australian Institute of Architects (AIA) for a decade.

Additionally he has frequently been a design award juror, design competition judge, and professional journal editor and advisor. Simon was part of the creative team involved in curating the Augmented Australia 1914–2014 exhibition in the Australian Pavilion at the 2014 Venice Biennale.

Associate Professor
Sophie Giles
Sophie is an Associate Professor, coordinating and teaching in Design, Drawing History, as well as Architectural Technology in the Master of Architecture program. Sophie has worked in an award-winning Australian practice since registering as an architect, and is now a Director of this practice. Very much a ‘hands on’ architect, she has developed a Master of Architecture elective (Built Work) to enable final year students to construct 1:1 details and to understand ‘the great works’ in their physical form as well as their theoretical place.

Sophie was a Fay Gale Fellow in 2012 and was a visiting academic and critic at ETH-Zurich and in the Graduate Emtech Program at the Architectural Association London in the latter part of 2012. Sophie was also part of the creative team involved in curating the Augmented Australia 1914–2014 exhibition in the Australian Pavilion at the 2014 Venice Biennale.

Lecturer
Romesh Goonewardene
Romesh Goonewardene is an architect with a background in a wide range of architectural practice and policy and has taught in every subject stream at every level in the Architecture program. Romesh’s research focuses on the applicability of architectural knowledge within a curriculum development framework, and has led him to continue exploring these fields within the most active architectural economy in contemporary times, the Asian services sector. Romesh plays a key role in developing overseas studio offerings and has run architectural studios in Sri Lanka, India and China.

Assistant Professor
Pedja Vujosevic
Tijana studied architecture at Yale and architectural history at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). Her doctoral thesis, Architectures of Everyday Life in 1920s and 1930s Russia (MIT, 2010) explores the aesthetics and politics of bodily movement, interior design, hygiene, public transportation, and landscaping in the context of everyday life reform. Her broader interests include machine aesthetics, utopia, domesticity and gender, and the intersection of architecture and literature. Tijana has taught at Yale, MIT, University of Virginia, Northeastern University, and Boston Architectural College. She is currently working on the manuscript of her first book, Russian Machism. She was appointed to the faculty staff in 2012.

MORQ's work ranges from small/medium residential projects to large scale design competitions and it is widely published internationally. In 2007 Emilia was appointed as Associate Professor at the University of Western Australia teaching Design studios, Architecture Technology and, in 2012, Interior Architecture. In 2013 Emilia published Landscapes – Pilgrimage to Olot: A photographic insight into the world of RCA Architects.

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International study opportunities

The Faculty of Architecture, Landscape and Visual Arts offers a range of international study opportunities. It is the aim of the Faculty’s internationalisation strategy to ensure that every student has at least one international study experience.

These overseas study experiences range from whole-semester exchange to short-term in-country programs in a number of countries including the USA, Italy, France, Greece, Spain, Indonesia, India and China.

Careers in Architecture

- Architect
- Urban Designer (upon completion of BDes and MUrbDes)
- Architectural Technologist
- Architectural Educator/Academic
- Government Policy Advisor

Working in:
- Architectural and urban design practice
- City and regional planning
- Government agencies
- Higher education
- Property development
- Architectural illustration and modelling
- Construction and materials research
- Building and built environment research

When seeking to gain professional registration you are required to undertake a period of two years in practice under the supervision of a registered architect (some of which can be undertaken prior to graduation) and pass the architectural practice examination administered by the Architects Registration Board of Western Australia. This examination comprises a national examination paper and an interview.

The strong population projections for Western Australia suggest that there will continue to be opportunities for graduating architects locally. These opportunities include work in architectural, urban design, and increasingly, urban planning practices as well as opportunities in State Government agencies such as Landcorp, the Metropolitan Redevelopment Authority and Building Management and Works. In addition the strong growth in the region will provide opportunities further afield.

What do our graduates say?

Jenny Watson
Graduate Architect
ARM Architecture

"While I received an excellent grounding in the practicalities of architectural practice, the point of difference at UWA was the focus on design as a research tool. Design isn’t just about drawing pretty buildings – it is used to solve problems, ask questions of ourselves and the society we live in, harness new technologies, and perhaps accidentally create things that we never could have imagined.

The Master of Architecture allowed me the freedom to develop and follow my own interests, which lead me to a graduate role at a firm at the forefront of architectural research-by-design."*

Patrick Kosky
Director
Kerry Hill Architects

"Learning to be an architect is a challenging and arduous process. It is also deeply rewarding. The convergence of creative, technical and cultural thinking that underpins the architecture course makes it uniquely interesting.

My time at UWA offered a strong grounding in the technical, social and ethical issues that are inherent in the practice of architecture. Central to this was an understanding that design was the primary tool of the architect. A tool for investigating, problem solving and helping realise the physical forms that shape the spaces around us.

Upon graduating from UWA, I found employment with a prestigious international practice in Singapore. This gave me the opportunity to work on projects within the Asian region. As a young architect I was fortunate to travel to places like Japan, Cambodia, Thailand and Jordan on project related trips. Reflecting on this, I am also grateful for the international outlook of the Architecture course at UWA. Although the course was interested in the local Western Australian condition, it was also deeply concerned with contemporary ideas and practices from overseas – and I feel this helped provide me with the opportunity to live and work abroad."**
If you wish to become an architect and have a Bachelors degree in an unrelated field, the course structure of the Master of Architecture provides a pathway for you. If you take this ‘non standard’ pathway, a preliminary one and a half year course would precede the usual two year Masters program.

The course comprises essential units for instruction identified from the undergraduate Architecture and Integrated Design majors, tailored to each individual student according to their background.

Successful completion of this 3.5 year Masters’ degree would enable you to apply for professional registration in the same way as those students who completed a BDes and MArch.

Want to know more?

To be clear about whether a career in Architecture is for you, why not attend one of our prospective student events? The following run annually and are open to school students in Year 11 and 12 (with exceptions considered on request):

A Day in the Life of an Architecture Student
Run in the July school holidays, this free event provide you with a valuable insight into a typical day at the Faculty of Architecture, Landscape and Visual Arts, with a number of fun, interactive and informative workshops to participate in.

Design Studio for School Students
The annual Design Studio introduces you to Design at UWA over a week in the January school holidays. The Studio covers architecture, landscape architecture, urban design and visual arts through intense tuition sessions with the Faculty of Architecture, Landscape and Visual Arts’ academic staff. See: alva.uwa.edu.au/studio

Further information is available online at:

Admission requirements and more studyat.uwa.edu.au/architecture and studyat.uwa.edu.au/courses/master-of-architecture-coursework

Professional information architectsboard.org.au architecture.com.au comarchitect.org canberraaccord.org

If you have any enquiries please contact our Faculty Administrative Officer via telephone on +61 8 6488 2064.