

**MA ARCHITECTURE:
PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION
2016/17**



Royal College of Art
Postgraduate Art and Design

PROGRAMME TITLE:
MA ARCHITECTURE (RIBA PART II)
NAME OF FINAL AWARD:
MA RCA (RIBA PART II)
ACCREDITATION DETAILS (RIBA/ARB VALIDATION/PRESCRIPTION):
PREVIOUS RIBA VALIDATION: 2013
PREVIOUS ARB VALIDATION: 2016
LAST RCA (INTERNAL) VALIDATION:
2009
FIRST RIBA PART II ACCREDITATION:
1983

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CALENDAR

First year	Week	
Prior to enrolment	4	receive general reading list
Autumn term selection	11	Architectural Design Studio (ADS) introductions and workshop inductions autumn term live project and crits history & theory studies and seminars media studies and workshops critical & historical studies (CHS) lecture
Christmas holiday	3	
Spring term	11	studio design project and crits technical studies tutorials history & theory studies and seminars media studies and workshops critical & historical studies (CHS) lectures Work in Progress WIP show
Easter holiday	3	
Summer term	10	studio design project and crits technical studies lectures technical studies - comprehensive design project CHS research method seminars for dissertation interim design exam dissertation tutorials with CHS dissertation synopsis deadline
Year Two		
Summer holiday		CHS dissertation research and writing CHS dissertation hand in first week of term
Autumn term	8	Professional practice seminars
Autumn term	11	ADS taught programme thesis preparation and brief writing professional practice tutorials, research/project work
Christmas holiday	3	
Spring term	1	Professional practice draft submission
Spring term	9	Professional practice feedback/ tutorial
Spring term	11	ADS taught programme thesis project design Professional practice hand-in/submission WIP show
Easter holiday	3	research/project work
Summer term	2	Professional practice results
Summer term	10	Complete course questionnaires

thesis project design and development
final exam
summer show
graduation ceremony (Convocation)

OVERVIEW

The MA programme is a two year masters degree that has been part 2 RIBA credited since 1983.

Students should have achieved a high quality first degree in architecture (RIBA Part I) or an international equivalent degree or higher, and should have at least one year's work experience in a design office.

Students are required to submit a completed RCA MA application form and a portfolio of no more than six completed projects together with any relevant supporting design material. If students wish to gain exemption from RIBA Part II, they must have completed their RIBA Part I satisfactorily. Design and critical thinking are prioritized in the examination. Admission exams are conducted with the Dean or the Head of Programme.

The core of learning is project-based according to a unit system made up of eight architectural design studios (ADS) with a unique set of concerns, methods and critical frameworks. Each ADS has approximately sixteen students with first and second year students working alongside each other.

First year students work on a live project, and a studio project within pedagogical framework established by studio tutors. These projects form the foundation for the technical studies course and fulfil RIBA GC1, GC8 and GC9. Studio is complemented by history & theory and media studies courses. The college wide CHS course provides a broader social and cultural context related to the design disciplines and fine arts.

Second year students work on a project based thesis comprising a design brief and design project. The year culminates with an exhibition of work at the degree show.

FIRST YEAR DESIGN STUDIO

SUMMARY

First year design studio requires the student to complete:

- two design studio projects including a live project.
- 1:1 prototype
- a technical studies journal
- an exhibition in the work in progress show
- a satisfactory assessment at the interim examination

Students work within their ADS groupings for tutorial support and pastoral care. Students will have at least one tutorial per week with their ADS tutors, in addition to limited tutorials with other staff.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Knowledge of:

- the history and theory of architecture and the related arts, and how theories, practices and technologies within the arts influence architectural design

And understanding of:

- the role of the architect within society and the political, cultural and economic context of architectural design
- the need to work within the constraints of planning policy, economic likelihood, the norms of the construction industry and to health and safety codes and other relevant regulations
- the relationship between people, buildings, user needs and the impact of buildings on the environment
- intellectual developments and design tendencies in the field of architecture

An ability to:

- produce architectural designs that develop a conceptual critical approach to architecture and that integrate and satisfy the aesthetic aspects of a building and the technical requirements of its construction
- combine various media such as sketching, model-making and digital modelling and to switch fluidly between them
- engage in critical design processes and develop designs iteratively through progressive stages of development, at progressive scales and demonstrations of complexity, while maintaining consistency of intention
- coherently communicate and demonstrate the creative application of appropriate theoretical concepts to design studio projects

TEACHING METHODS

- desk crits and tutorials
- lectures
- seminars
- first year crits (selection juries and review juries)
- technical tutorials
- WIP show exhibition and feedback
- interim examination feedback

ASSESSMENT

- design studio projects are assessed through on-going tutorials, crits and the submission of design work and its verbal presentation and discussion at the interim examination.
- exhibition in WIP Show assessed through student contributions of design work and peer assessment
- interim examination assessed by panel of tutors, the outcome enabling students to progress through to the second year of the MA programme.

TECHNICAL STUDIES**SUMMARY**

The technical studies requires a student to complete the key stages of:

- construction of 1:1 experimental prototype
- development of the design project in structure and energy and environmental methods toward a technical outcome for the CDP
- technical tutorials with TS tutors and consultant engineers
- TS Research journal submission documenting the CDP

The 1:1 is a design-and-make project related to the studio design project. Students are

encouraged to take risks while testing the process of prototyping, building and consulting with specialists, leading to a working prototype at full scale. The comprehensive design project (CDP) is the detailed development of technical aspects of the architectural design studio project. This is developed in tutorials with TS tutors and engineering tutors in terms 2 and 3. The TS journal documents and records the development of the 1:1 project and the design project and positions the work within a broader field of research in the chosen area. The intention is to explore how genuine interactions with innovative resolutions of a technical issue can feedback into a design process. The assessment is holistic, and all criteria need to be satisfied.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Knowledge of:

- the structural, construction and engineering principles associated with building design, building materials, and their properties
- the physical principles and technologies to provide comfort in buildings and protection against the climate within precepts of sustainable design

An ability to:

- work fluidly with the technical aspects of architecture, exploring innovative design solutions and revising design ideas based on the outcome of technical developments
- work with and elicit design requirements effectively from building specialists and members of other academic and professional disciplines
- document the technical design development of a design project in a reflective and analytical way demonstrating the integral nature of construction including technical structural and services.

TEACHING METHODS

- technical studies lectures
- CDP specialist technical tutorials
- 1:1 technical tutorials
- 1:1 workshop support

ASSESSMENT

- CDP technical submissions are assessed through ongoing tutorials, end of term crits and at final assessment in the interim examination
- The 1:1 prototype is assessed through ongoing tutorials, end of term crits, and at final assessment in the interim examination
- The TS research journal is assessed through on going tutorials and through a final assessment as a written piece of work

TS journal must:

- demonstrate an ability to carry out independent research
- viability of final solution and integration into the design project
- demonstrate reflective practice
- be clear and legible and the clarity of the final composition is included in the assessment

HISTORY & THEORY STUDIES

HTS requires:

- attendance at HTS lecture series
- participation in HTS weekly seminars
- attendance at HTS tutorials required for the essay
- an essay submission

SUMMARY

The HTS course offers the MA students a cultural framework aimed at helping them find a personal position. The lectures will alternate between one session held by the course tutor and one session held by invited guests. The course tutor's lectures will build a systematic understanding of the history of modern architecture, providing a methodology for the students to investigate their own individual essay themes. The objective of these lectures should be to construct a shared vocabulary able to provide the school's diverse student body with a common critical background. The guest lectures, on the other hand, will offer a broader cultural context, allowing the class to discuss specific case studies in depth, as well as offering an opportunity to understand different working methods. A year-long theme will be put forward by the course tutor in order to provide a specific research lens to both the course, and the students' own work.

After each lecture, the class will split into smaller seminar groups followed by an assistant tutor. The seminar should be a moment of collective discussion in which the group can explore further the topic of the lecture; it should also allow the students to introduce their own work and receive feedback.

The last term will be focused solely on seminars on the students' in-progress work.

LEARNING OUTCOMES**Knowledge of:**

- the relationship between modern architecture and its historical and political background
- the social implications of the main theoretical positions developed in the last two centuries
- the debate on the project of the modern city

And understanding of:

- the dialectical relationship between theory and practice, project and design
- the historical development of the social mandate of architecture
- the discourse on the role of architecture in the construction of political subjects

An ability to:

- offer a close-reading of a project / building / urban space
- position said project within a broader cultural and social background
- investigate independently a case study
- put forward and substantiate a personal argument

TEACHING METHODS

- lectures
- guest lectures
- seminar discussions
- public presentations

ASSESSMENT

- The course is compulsory only for first year students, who will follow both the lectures, and the seminars / tutorials. Second year students are encouraged to follow the lectures, but will not be assessed and therefore do not need to attend the seminars / tutorials.
- Verbal presentations will be a fundamental part of the weekly tutorial; each student will present at least once per term as well as discussing his/her work in ongoing tutorials
- A draft essay will be handed in at the end of term 1; the final essay will be handed in on the first day of term 3.
- In term 1, the minimum deliverables are: extensive bibliography on the chosen topic, 300-word abstract, draft paper of 1500 words, archive of 10 to 20 key images.
- The final essay should be between 3,000 and 5,000 words and be accompanied by a bibliography, illustrations, and original drawings produced by the author.

MEDIA STUDIES

SUMMARY

The media studies subject exposes students to a diverse range of contemporary and historical design and representation methods spanning architecture, visual arts, and science. Students work individually and within tutorial groups under the tutelage of lecturers and tutors with extensive experience in media and architecture practices. Students will have a minimum of 8 lectures and tutorials (including hands-on workshops and/or reading groups) per term. Students will use lecture halls, computer workshops, and the 6th floor studio space for their work and tutorials.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Knowledge of:

- the history of media in relation to architecture, visual art, and science and its impact on architectural design.

And understanding of:

- the role of media in the conceptualisation, representation, and implementation of architectural projects
- techniques of media creation including

An ability to:

- utilise diverse techniques of media creation including technical drawing, image creation and manipulation, video and animation.
- create high quality visual documents

TEACHING METHODS

- lectures
- tutorials
- reading groups
- technical workshops
- public presentations, including exhibitions and publishing

ASSESSMENT

- Media studies projects are assessed through on-going tutorials, crits and the submission of design work and its verbal presentation and discussion

CRITICAL & HISTORICAL STUDIES

CHS requires:

- attendance at CHS lecture series
- participation in CHS research methods and other seminars
- attendance at CHS tutorials required for the dissertation
- a dissertation submission

THE ROLE OF CHS

The RCA provides a unique environment for postgraduate art and design students to reflect upon their own practice, and to engage with students from their own and other disciplines. The role of Critical & Historical Studies (CHS) is to support the studio programmes in enabling these critical engagements to take place. CHS is part of the RCA School of Humanities and manages the college-wide provision for critical and historical teaching in all RCA related disciplines. The CHS staff team is comprised of subject specialists who each have strong profiles in art and design related research, practice, theory and history. CHS provision is co-ordinated by a Liaison Senior Tutor for each School.

The course offered by CHS to first year studio-based MA students propose an intellectual framework within which they can begin to establish a coherent relationship between theory and practice. During the course of your first year of study you will produce an assessed, written dissertation which you will develop with tutorial support from a CHS tutor. This dissertation forms 40 credits of your final MA award and is a mandatory requirement.

In the autumn and spring terms there are a series of College-wide seminars and lectures to support your development (known as CHS PLATFORMS). The autumn term series will relate to your particular discipline (though it is possible also to join one or more additional series being offered to students from other programmes), whereas the spring term series will be more broad-based and cross-disciplinary in nature.

Alongside this, there is a core programme of workshops, group and individual tutorials to support the dissertation process (known as CHS PRACTICE). This programme begins in the Autumn term, and runs throughout your first year leading to submission of the dissertation at the end of Year One. You are required to attend all your timetabled sessions, and submit a proposal (800-1000 words) and a draft text (c.5000 words) at staged points in the course of your CHS study. You will receive feedback on these submissions to help you progress your writing and research. Completion of both proposal and draft text is a requirement of your interim examination. The final dissertation should be between 6,000 and 10,000 words in length and is submitted at the end of the Summer Term of the first year. You will be informed of the outcome of your dissertation submission at the start of Year Two. Any student referred at this point is allowed one opportunity for resubmission according to RCA regulations. Successful completion of the dissertation is a mandatory requirement of the final MA award.

During the course of CHS PRACTICE you will be supported to develop your writing and research skills, and to share your ideas with your group and your tutor as they progress. Over the course of the first year, you should ensure that you devote appropriate time to independent research in support of your dissertation in addition to your timetabled sessions. CHS tutors will advise you on how to develop this programme of independent study. You are expected to manage your time for independent CHS work alongside your studio commitments throughout the course of your first year.

Full details of the CHS programme, including handbook, dissertation requirements, timetables and workshop/tutorial information can be found on RCADE, the college intranet (<http://intranet.rca.ac.uk>). You can contact CHS at chs@rca.ac.uk. Should you experience any particular difficulties with meeting CHS requirements during the course of your study, you should inform your Head of Programme in the first instance and at the earliest opportunity, as well as your designated CHS tutor.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Knowledge of:

- diverse research methods

An understanding of:

- the broader cultural context of architecture
- the ability to link theory and practice
- the multi-disciplinary context of the RCA

An ability to:

- develop a personal and original position or viewpoint
- write coherently, clearly and creatively in English
- conduct pertinent research in a systematic way
- present in a professional manner in terms of appearance and layout
- demonstrate contextualised critical engagement and reflection

TEACHING METHODS

- CHS symposia
- CHS tutorials (students are required to attend a minimum of two time-tabled tutorials. These will be documented with Personal Tutorial Forms on which a record of attendance and progress will be kept)
- ADS tutorials
- Introductory project crit and seminar
- Architecture lectures, digitally augmented architecture seminars and lectures
- CHS seminars (by CHS tutors, visiting lecturers and the RCA Information and Learning Services staff)
- Dissertation synopsis and feedback
- Dissertation submission and feedback

Tutorials are an essential component of the dissertation process. They help to determine student progress and the quality of their work, and the student's performance in tutorials will be taken into consideration in the final marking process. Whilst the teaching staff in CHS are keen to support a wide range of dissertation projects, they encourage research into the production or consumption of art, mass media, technology and design – understood in broad terms – in any historical period including the present and/or critical analysis of episodes and currents in social, cultural or intellectual history. This is not an exclusive definition, and topics which fall outside it should be discussed with a CHS tutor.

Tutorials for the dissertation begin in the spring term, and are maintained as far as possible in term time until completion of the dissertation. Attendance at CHS tutorials, the CHS lecture series and related CHS seminars is compulsory. Students who do not complete an agreed synopsis with CHS before the summer vacation and whose attendance at the CHS

lecture series, research methodologies seminars and tutorials is unsatisfactory will not be permitted to pass to the second year.

ASSESSMENT

- Students are not formally assessed on their learning in the CHS lecture series and in CHS seminars, rather this is assessed indirectly and in an on-going way through CHS tutorials and in the final assessment of the dissertation
- Student learning for the dissertation is assessed through on-going CHS tutorials and participation in the CHS lecture series, the CHS seminars and for the dissertation
- The dissertation synopsis and draft and the dissertation itself are assessed both through on-going tutorials and written pieces of work (dissertation synopsis and draft) and through a final assessment of a written piece of work (the dissertation). All dissertations are double marked and a sample will be read by the external moderator to ensure that the marking process is fair and consistent

PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE STUDIES

SUMMARY

Professional Practice Studies requires a student to complete the key stages of:

- PPS seminar series
- PPS tutorials/feedback
- PPS case study

The professional practice element of the MA course has been structured to embrace the range of agile and creative thinkers attracted to the Royal College of Art. Professional Practice Studies (PPS) requires second-year students to complete a course of seminars tutorials and a case study.

The approach enables a case study (comprising 2,500-5,000 words) to be completed based on the three key elements of Description, Reflection & Progression, this is based on an introduction, eight lectures and a Q&A session. It constitutes a critical appraisal demonstrating the students' knowledge and understanding of how design, cost, resource, finance and construction, and evaluation of team dynamics influence design and their role. All in the context of the current UK regulatory and legislative requirements.

Seminars, workshops, individual research and personal tutorials provide students with knowledge and understanding of the RIBA stages of work, and the context of professional practice (including shifting trends within and definitions and standards of professional responsibility and competence as defined by the ARB/RIBA). Together with their previous experience of working in practice, this forms the basis of the student's research for the case study submission.

The course is continually updated to reflect the feedback and challenges identified, whilst ensuring the appropriate level of rigour and research will benefit the students. This is essential both for validation, and ongoing careers, often in new 'start ups' on departure from the RCA. Whilst the requirements of both the ARB and RIBA are integrated within the lectures series and are expected as part of a valid response from the students. This is not intended as a replacement for the Part III exam and covers wider issues of business, structure and communication.

Seminars are refreshed to take into account changes in both professional codes, legislation

and relevant requirements within which one operates as an architect

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Knowledge of:

The principles of business management of running a design practice, including the:

- K1- management of running a project and relative roles and responsibilities
- K2- the inter-relation of all parties involved in the winning, procurement and delivery of architectural projects
- K3- the professional duties and responsibilities of architects as defined legally (health and safety), and codes of our professional practice
- K4- different contract types and the appropriate forms of contract for different building types and client expectations
- K5- the Architect's Appointment, principles of fee calculations and resourcing

An understanding of:

- U1- the varying types of client, the different forms of client briefing and its importance to the process
- U2- the RIBA Stages of Work
- U3- the responsibilities of the architect, so as to enter the next stage of their career with commensurate professional responsibility

An ability to:

- A1- structure and communicate a coherent written submission, which responds to the criteria above and the requirements of the Case Study brief
- A2- access information necessary for the written submission, and to maintain professional standards during their future career
- A3- identify professional learning and development goals in the context of the RCA and career aspirations

TEACHING METHODS AND STRATEGIES

- seminars
- tutorials with the Professional Studies Advisor (PSA) and other course tutors or practice staff
- draft document feedback/tutorial with the Professional Studies Advisor (PSA)
- case study (written work) using a written brief and the PPS seminars and, one-to-one tutorials with the Professional Studies Advisor
- case study feedback/tutorials

ASSESSMENT

- Student learning in the PPS seminar series is assessed in an on-going, informal manner by the Professional Studies Advisor. Student learning in the seminar series is also assessed indirectly through the PPS case study and in tutorials with the PSA.
- Student learning in PPS tutorials is assessed in an on-going process by the PSA advisor and in design work for other course components, with a final assessment of written work in the PPS case study.
- The Case Study responds to the 3 questions/scenarios raised which align with the K, U & A Learning Outcomes.
- The Case Study is to demonstrate understanding of the content of the Professional Practice Seminars, and that this knowledge is used to understand, describe and analyse. Demonstrating awareness of the responsibilities and liabilities undertaken by a design practice.

SECOND YEAR DESIGN STUDIO

SUMMARY

In the second year, students undertake an architectural design thesis project. It forms the basis of students' entry into the professional world as architectural designers and is therefore expected to demonstrate fully their ability as designers and to carry with it an understanding of all components experienced through the programme.

This module requires students to complete the key stages of:

- ADS-based research projects
- brief development
- advanced designs in a clearly articulated urban context
- exhibition in the WIP show
- assessment at final examination
- exhibition in the final year summer show

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Knowledge of:

- the history and theory of architecture and the related arts and how theories, practices and technologies within the arts influence architectural design

An understanding of:

- the role of the architect within society and the political, cultural and economic context of architectural design
- the need to work within the constraints of planning policy, economic likelihood, the norms of the construction industry and to health and safety codes and other relevant regulations
- the relationship between people buildings, user needs and the impact of buildings on the environment
- intellectual developments and design tendencies in the field of architecture

An ability to:

- produce architectural designs that develop a conceptual critical approach to architecture and that integrate and satisfy the aesthetic aspects of a building and the technical requirements of its construction
- combine various media such as sketching, model-making and digital modelling and to switch fluidly between them
- engage in critical design processes and develop designs iteratively through progressive stages of development, at progressive scales and demonstrations of complexity while maintaining consistency of intention
- coherently communicate and demonstrate the creative application of appropriate theoretical concepts to design studio projects
- develop the project to a level of completion that encapsulates its design philosophy with its physical manifestation
- communicate the final project by means of drawings, models and other devices that make it accessible to other members of the profession and to lay audiences

TEACHING METHODS

- ADS Tutorials, with access to other senior lecturers within the Faculty
- lectures

- seminars
- brief submission and feedback
- thesis design crits
- cross ADS crits
- WIP show exhibition and feedback
- portfolio review
- design and building of the summer show

ASSESSMENT

- ADS-based research projects are assessed through on-going tutorials, the submission of design work and its verbal presentation and discussion in the ADS and common crits, and as a component in the final examination
- brief development is assessed through on-going tutorials, and a final assessment as a component in the final examination
- thesis design project is assessed through on-going tutorials, crits and the submission of design work and its verbal presentation and discussion in the ADS and common crits, and at final assessment in the Final Examination
- exhibition in WIP show assessed through student contributions of design work and work for the studio and School as a whole
- portfolio review (as outlined in assessment in 'Overview' above)
- 2 external examiners examination of all thesis projects
- summer show of graduate student work (feedback and prize-giving)

RIBA/ARB REQUIREMENTS

The RCA MA Architecture programme, covers the RIBA/ARB criteria for Part II requirements across seven subjects.

FIRST YEAR DESIGN STUDIO
TECHNICAL STUDIES
HISTORY AND THEORY
MEDIA STUDIES
CRITICAL AND HISTORICAL STUDIES (CHS)
PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE
SECOND YEAR DESIGN STUDIO

These correspond approximately to the ARB/RIBA 2011 criteria for Part II groupings of:

GC1 Ability to create architectural designs that satisfy both aesthetic and technical requirements.

This is covered by the design projects and thesis work carried out under the tutelage of the ADS tutors in first and second year design studios and skills and knowledge acquired through the media studies course and the integration of the requirements of the technical studies course.

GC2 Adequate knowledge of the histories and theories of architecture and the related arts, technologies and human sciences.

This is covered through the design studio projects and thesis work carried out under the tutelage of the ADS tutors in first and second year design studios and through course work for the departmental history & theory studies and the written dissertation submission supervised by the college-wide Critical and Historical Studies course (CHS) as well as through the School's annual invited lecturer series.

GC3 Knowledge of the fine arts as an influence on the quality of architectural design.

This is covered through the college wide CHS course and the acquired knowledge is applied through design projects and thesis work carried out under the tutelage of the ADS tutors in first and second year design studio, as well as through the general ethos of the Royal College of Art's inter-programme collaborations and tutelage, and the ongoing programme of exhibitions.

GC4 Adequate knowledge of urban design, planning and the skills involved in the planning process.

This is covered through the design studio projects and thesis work carried out under the tutelage of the ADS tutors, and in particular, second year thesis work which is intended to operate at an urban scale. The theoretical context of urban design will be covered by the departmental history & theory studies.

GC5 Understanding of the relationship between people and buildings, and between buildings and their environment, and the need to relate buildings and spaces between them to human needs and scale.

This is covered through the design projects and thesis work carried out under the tutelage of the ADS in first and second year design studios and informed by the environmental concerns covered in the technical studies course.

GC6 Understanding of the profession of architecture and the role of the architect in society, in particular in preparing briefs that take account of social factors.

This is covered through the design projects and thesis work carried out under the tutelage of the ADS tutors in first and second year design studios, and is informed by professional practice studies (concerning professionalism) and technical studies (concerning methods and trends in construction).

GC7 Understanding of the methods of investigation and preparation of a design brief for a design project.

This is covered through the design projects and thesis work carried out under the tutelage of the ADS tutors in first and second year design studios, and in particular during the first term of the thesis year in which the students are required to establish a clear critical position and prepare a written design brief for their chosen thesis project.

GC8 Understanding of the structural design, constructional and engineering problems associated with building designs.

This is covered through the technical studies course of the first year that focuses on structures and constructive systems, consisting of lectures and lab work. This knowledge is applied through design projects and thesis work in first and second year design studios under the tutelage of the ADS tutors with additional support from professional consultant engineers.

GC9 Adequate knowledge of the physical problems and technologies and function of buildings so as to provide them with internal conditions of comfort and protection against the climate.

This is covered through the technical studies course of the first year that focuses on energy and environmental systems, consisting of lectures and lab work. This knowledge is applied through design projects and thesis work in first and second year design studios under the tutelage of the ADS tutors with additional support from professional consultant engineers.

GC10 The necessary design skills to meet building users' requirements within the constraints imposed by cost factors and building regulations.

This is covered through the design studio projects carried out under the tutelage of the ADS tutors and development of the project through the technical studies course and the technical studies journal submission.

GC11 Adequate knowledge of the industries, organisations, regulations and procedures involved in translating design concepts into buildings and integrating plans into overall planning.

This is covered through the professional practice course covering management, practice and Law in the second year of study. The understanding of relevant regulatory bodies and application of regulations and planning procedures is covered through the design projects and thesis in first and second year design studios.

The seven RCA courses are presented overleaf in the order in which they are taught and completed by the students over the two years of the MA programme.

Mapping of RIBA General Criteria at Part 2 against
RCA MA Course

		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
		First Year Design Studio	Technical studies	History & Theory Studies	Media Studies	Cultural Context / Critical and Historical Studies	Professional Practice Studies	Second Year Design Studio	RCA ethos and Inter-programme collaboration
GC1	Ability to create architectural designs that satisfy both aesthetic and technical requirements. The graduate will have the ability to:								
1.1	prepare and present building design projects of diverse scale, complexity, and type in a variety of contexts, using a range of media, and in response to a brief;	*			*			*	
1.2	understand the constructional and structural systems, the environmental strategies and the regulatory requirements that apply to the design and construction of a comprehensive design project;		*				*		
1.3	develop a conceptual and critical approach to an architectural design that integrates and satisfies the aesthetic aspects of a building and the technical requirements of its construction and the needs of the user.	*			*			*	
GC2	Adequate knowledge of the histories and theories of architecture and the related arts, technologies and human sciences. The graduate will have the knowledge of:								
2.1	the cultural, social and intellectual histories, theories and technologies that influence the design of buildings;			*		*			
2.2	the influence of history and theory on the spatial, social, and technological aspects of architecture;			*					
2.3	the application of appropriate theoretical concepts to studio design projects, demonstrating a reflective and critical approach.	*		*				*	
GC3	Knowledge of the fine arts as an influence on the quality of architectural design. The graduate will have knowledge of:								
3.1	how the theories, practices and technologies of the arts influence architectural design;					*			*
3.2	the creative application of the fine arts and their relevance and impact on architecture;					*			*
3.3	the creative application of such work to studio design projects, in terms of their conceptualisation and representation.	*			*	*		*	
GC4	Adequate knowledge of urban design, planning and the skills involved in the planning process. The graduate will have knowledge of:								

4.1	theories of urban design and the planning of communities;	*		*				*	
4.2	the influence of the design and development of cities, past and present on the contemporary built environment;	*		*				*	
4.3	current planning policy and development control legislation, including social, environmental and economic aspects, and the relevance of these to design development.	*						*	
GC5 Understanding of the relationship between people and buildings, and between buildings and their environment, and the need to relate buildings and the spaces between them to human needs and scale. The graduate will have an understanding of:									
5.1	the needs and aspirations of building users;	*						*	
5.2	the impact of buildings on the environment, and the precepts of sustainable design;	*	*					*	
5.3	the way in which buildings fit into their local context.	*						*	
GC6 Understanding of the profession of architecture and the role of the architect in society, in particular in preparing briefs that take account of social factors. The graduate will have an understanding of:									
6.1	the nature of professionalism and the duties and responsibilities of architects to clients, building users, constructors, co-professionals and the wider society;						*		
6.2	the role of the architect within the design team and construction industry, recognising the importance of current methods and trends in the construction of the built environment;		*				*		
6.3	the potential impact of building projects on existing and proposed communities.	*						*	
GC7 Understanding of the methods of investigation and preparation of the brief for a design project The graduate will have an understanding of:									
7.1	the need to critically review precedents relevant to the function, organisation and technological strategy of design proposals;	*						*	
7.2	the need to appraise and prepare building briefs of diverse scales and types, to define client and user requirements and their appropriateness to site and context;	*						*	
7.3	the contributions of architects and co-professionals to the formulation of the brief, and the methods of investigation used in its preparation.							*	
GC8 Understanding of the structural design, constructional and engineering problems associated with building design. The graduate will have an understanding of:									

8.1	the investigation, critical appraisal and selection of alternative structural, constructional and material systems relevant to architectural design;		*						
8.2	strategies for building construction, and ability to integrate knowledge of structural principles and construction techniques;	*	*					*	
8.3	the physical properties and characteristics of building materials, components and systems, and the environmental impact of specification choices.		*						
GC9 Adequate knowledge of physical problems and technologies and the function of buildings so as to provide them with internal conditions of comfort and protection against the climate. The graduate will have knowledge of:									
9.1	principles associated with designing optimum visual, thermal and acoustic environments;		*						
9.2	systems for environmental comfort realised within relevant precepts of sustainable design;		*						
9.3	strategies for building services, and ability to integrate these in a design project.	*	*					*	
GC10 The necessary design skills to meet building users' requirements within the constraints imposed by cost factors and building regulations. The graduate will have the skills to:									
10.1	critically examine the financial factors implied in varying building types, constructional systems, and specification choices, and the impact of these on architectural design;	*	*					*	
10.2	understand the cost control mechanisms which operate during the development of a project;	*						*	
10.3	prepare designs that will meet building users' requirements and comply with UK legislation, appropriate performance standards and health and safety requirements.	*	*					*	
GC11 Adequate knowledge of the industries, organisations, regulations and procedures involved in translating design concepts into buildings and integrating plans into overall planning. The graduate will have knowledge of:									
11.1	the fundamental legal, professional and statutory responsibilities of the architect, and the organisations, regulations and procedures involved in the negotiation and approval of architectural designs, including land law, development control, building regulations and health and safety legislation;	*					*	*	
11.2	the professional inter-relationships of individuals and organisations involved in procuring and delivering architectural projects, and how these are defined through contractual and organisational structures;						*		

11.3 the basic management theories and business principles related to running both an architects' practice and architectural projects, recognising current and emerging trends in the construction industry.

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Postgraduate Art and Design