



ADS4 Field Trip to Iceland, 2016

SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE

# Architecture

MA

**240 credits, 2-year programme, full-time study**

**Pathways: Constructing and communicating spatial identities**

Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) part II and Architects Registration Board (ARB) validated since 1983.

RIBA validation: 2019

Previous ARB validation: 2016

## We inspire design innovation

Expand the possibilities of your practice by developing a speculative, independent and critical ethos.

The two-year programme conceives of architecture as a diverse and complex set of practices that move beyond traditional distinctions and limits in the field. A radical and innovative approach to pedagogy and research, as well as a commitment to an open-minded, experimental studio-culture, sets the RCA apart. Teaching on the MA programme revolves around the Architectural Design Studio. Each ADS is understood as a platform for design research organised around important global challenges and opportunities such as ecology, housing, urbanism, mobility and manufacturing.



Indigo dying, Livia Wang

# Programme Description\*

## First Year

As MA students, the programme encourages you to pursue a personal line of enquiry during your time here. As a first-year student, you'll work on a live project in the autumn term, and a studio project in the spring and summer terms that will also form the basis for the Technical Studies course. First-year projects respond to the Architectural Design Studios (ADS) through a brief developed out of your own research, but within a defined scope established by the ADS tutors. Throughout the term tutors will provide you with support and criticism as your projects develop.

In addition to the ADS teaching, students have complementary studies. As a first-year student, you'll take Media Studies, part of the School-wide offer, which will expose you to a diverse range of contemporary and historical design and representation methods spanning architecture, visual arts and science.

In your first year, you'll also take units that give you an understanding of the integral relationship between technical innovation and design experiment. You will develop a working knowledge of – and the technical skills required to engage with – the construction and engineering challenges associated with building design, structural systems, thermal comfort and issues of sustainability. You'll do this through the technical development and resolution of an independent studio project and a full technical study resulting in a comprehensive design project.

## Second Year

In the second year, you'll take a number of units in the autumn term that will prepare you for the Independent Research Project. Second-year students work within the thematic and contextual frame of the ADS briefs, developing a clear research question that informs your design brief and design response for your thesis project.

The Strategic Design unit includes a synopsis of student research, a clearly identifiable research question and methodology, and a project brief and thesis.

The History & Theory Studies (HTS) unit provides you with an understanding of the history of modern architecture, giving you a cultural framework and methodology to develop, contextualise and discuss your own design work. The lectures alternate between sessions held by the course tutor and sessions held by invited guests.

The other assessed component of your second-year studies is Professional Practice, which is delivered through a series of lectures along with supporting tutorials and preparation of a case study.

The final two terms of study in the MA programme are dedicated to your Independent Research Project. You'll be required to develop a sophisticated, innovative and creative design response to the thesis question as established in the Strategic Design unit.

\*Taken from the 2019/20 Programme Specifications. While we try to ensure that all programme information is correct, some things may be subject to change and/or outside of our control.

## Entrance Requirements

Candidates are selected entirely on merit and applications are welcomed from all over the world. The selection process considers creativity, imagination and innovation as demonstrated in your portfolio, as well as your potential to benefit from the programme and to achieve high MA standards overall.

You 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. If you wish to gain exemption from RIBA Part II, you must have completed your RIBA Part I satisfactorily.

For more information on portfolio requirements and interviews, visit: [rca.ac.uk/architecture](http://rca.ac.uk/architecture)



## Alumni Story

'The flexibility and expansive reach of the Architecture programme at the College was something that really attracted me. I wanted to explore the intersections of architecture; how it affects the world around us in interesting and unexamined ways. I didn't want to just design homes and offices.'

Dan Hawkins, MA Architecture, 2019

## Alumni

Our alumni form an international network of creative individuals who have shaped and continue to shape the world.

Sir David Adjaye  
Maxwell Ayrton  
Tom Coward Aoc  
Tom Emerson And Stephanie Macdonald,  
6a Architects  
Paul Karakusevic, Karakusevic Carson  
Architects  
Ben Kelly  
Sir Edwin Lutyens  
Kirsten Mackay  
Sadie Morgan and Alex De Rijke, dRMM  
Eric Parry

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**Royal College of Art**  
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Unit Trip, Barcelona 2019. Image: Tarsha Finney

SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE

# City Design

MA

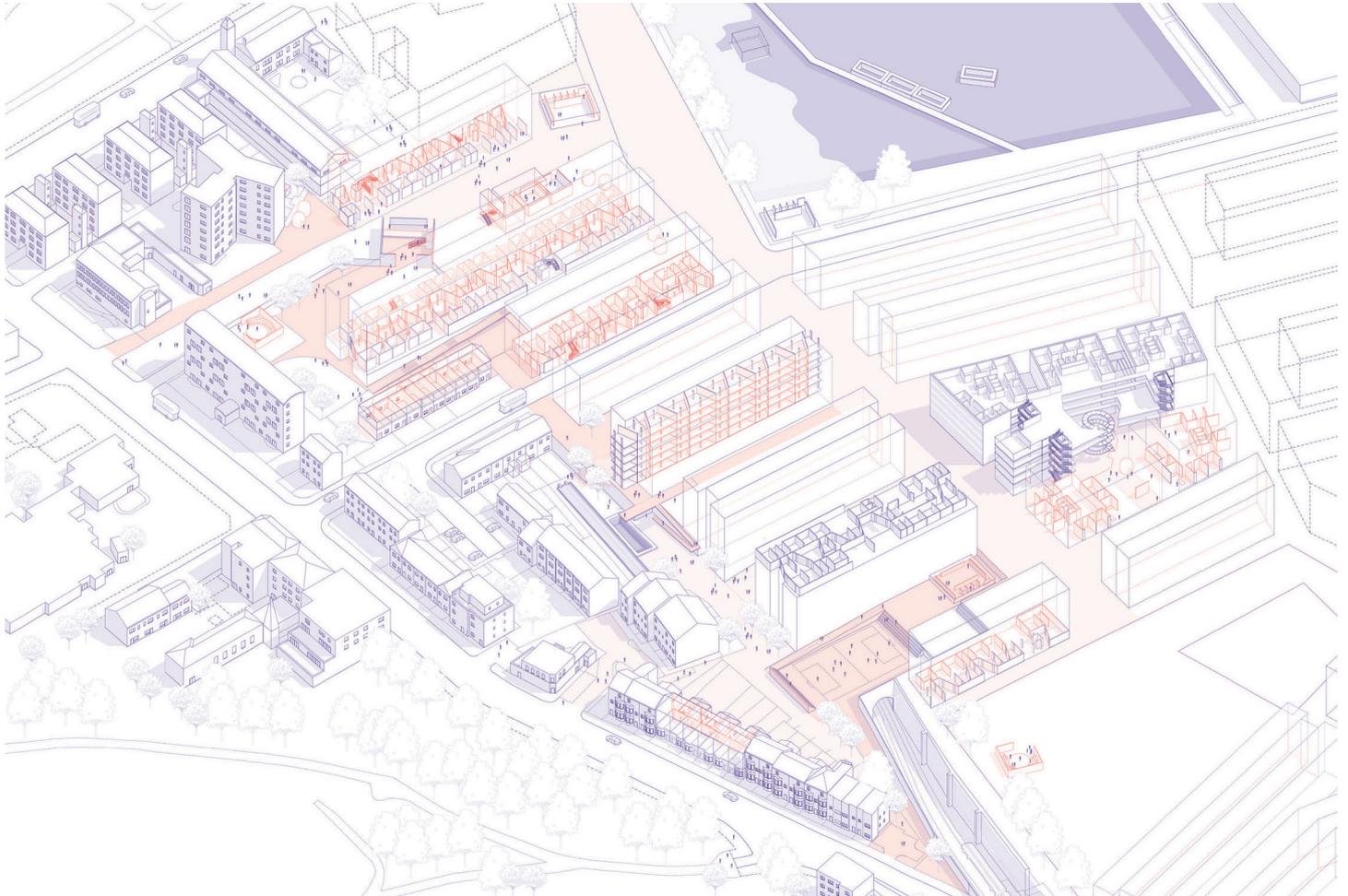
**240 credits, 15-month programme, Full-time study**

## Reshaping the city

Harness new social, technical and spatial innovations to generate alternative forms of urban life.

City Design MA provides a forum for an emerging generation of architects and those in allied design based disciplines, interested in the convergence of new social, technical and spatial innovations and in harnessing their potential to generate alternate forms of urban life.

We believe in the unique capacities of design and the value of propositional forms of spatial thinking. The programme is a field-focused, design-led, and project-based course. It proposes a unique, multi-scalar approach to city design education that unites architectural, technological and scientific research. We propose a pedagogical model centred around the idea of case studies and the power of design practice to intervene within multiple scales in the city and through multi-stakeholder and participant disputes.



Active Grounds: Networks of Interim Care and Water Infrastructure, Joanna Chebli, Myrto Kozaki, Aglaia Lampropoulou, Dongyang M, Ursulo Juarez Peniche

# Programme Description\*

## Studios

A live project provides the basis of learning in the MA City Design programme, and collaborations with external partners are central to our teaching model.

Each Studio develops collaborative, design-led research around a unique case study, working on the same case for a four-year period. As the programme grows, each new Studio will introduce a new case study.

## Studio 1: Singular Collectives

Studio 1 investigates the spatial performance of housing in the context of transformations in demographics and labour, and with reference to issues of urban change: density, urban renewal, urban intensification, new technologies and social and environmental resilience.

The themes considered by the studio include housing diversity, centralising cities and housing affordability and transforming demographics.

\*Taken from the 2019/20 Project Specifications. While we try to ensure that all programme information is correct, some things may be subject to change and/or outside of our control.



Graduation Exhibition 2018, MA City Design



MA City Design Design Studio Crit. Image: Tarsha Finney

# Entrance Requirements

Candidates are selected entirely on merit and applications are welcomed from all over the world. The selection process considers creativity, imagination and innovation as demonstrated in your portfolio, as well as your potential to benefit from the programme and to achieve high MA standards overall.

You are likely to be students of architecture with a three+two-year Bachelor and Master's degree, or Master's-equivalent five-year Diploma preferably in architecture, landscape architecture, urban design or other related design discipline looking to acquire expertise in large scale, urban/city design projects.

We'll consider other backgrounds, such as social sciences, geography, urban studies, planning or economics, if your prior work is of exceptional merit and you're able to demonstrate your ability to work alongside and contribute to multidisciplinary teams. Evidence of your intellectual and professional curiosity and a readiness to engage in a rigorous and demanding period of study is essential.

For more information on portfolio requirements and interviews, visit: [rca.ac.uk/city-design](http://rca.ac.uk/city-design)



## Student Story

'It opened up alternate ways of living my life and navigating my professional practice. I feel that I have found what I want to continue doing – using design as a tool to safeguard civic rights and collective interest.'

Sara Anand, MA City Design, 2019

## Alumni

City Design graduates are expected to go on to work in a range of fields, from architectural design practices focussed on questions of housing, to multidisciplinary design practices operating at a city scale, to further academic study, to roles in NGOs, urban planning agencies and design agencies.

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Collecting soil samples, Salar de Atacama, Chile

SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE

# Environmental Architecture

MA

240 credits, 15-month programme, Full-time study

## Alternative forms of co-existence

Explore the future of landscapes, environments and ecosystems.

Environmental Architecture focuses on the co-dependence of life forms and earth systems as well as the co-existence of alternative concepts of landscapes, environments and territories as they are expressed by different societies.

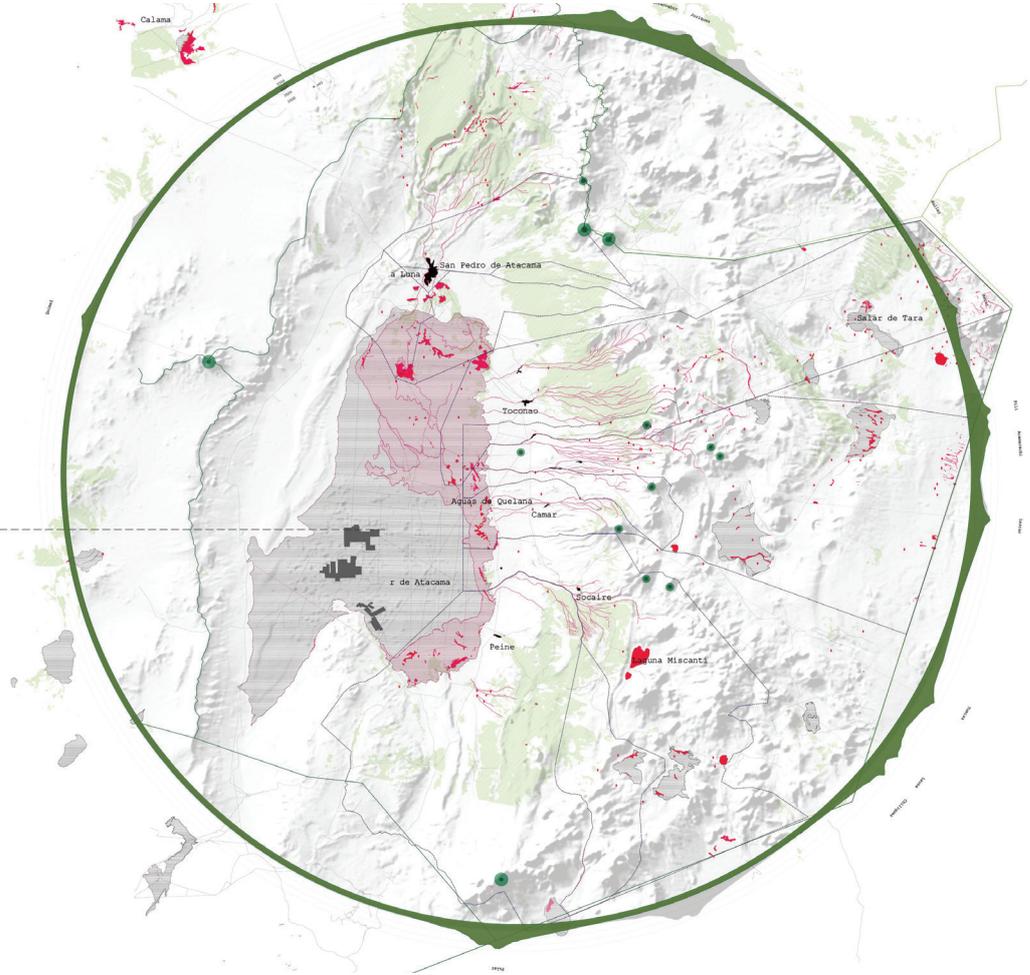
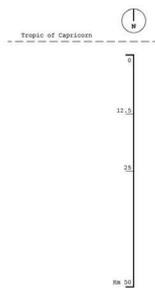
If the planet has a design problem, what do the terms 'design' or 'architecture' mean when they are applied to phenomena as varied as oceans and atmospheres, or to farmlands and deserts? The intensity of environmental change calls for new forms of knowledge production based in propositional thinking, especially design-based methods.

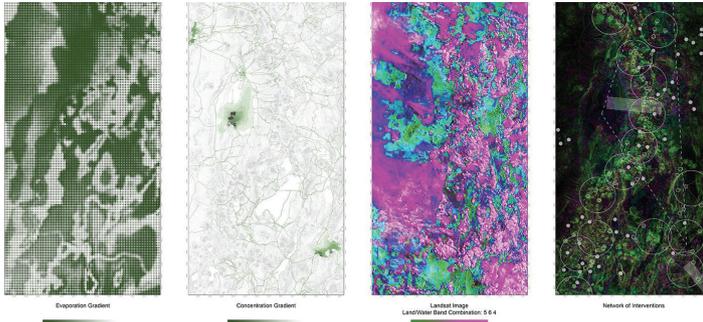
**Indigeneity**

- Wet area or lagoon
- Permanent stream
- ◆ Source of water
- ⊗ Salar
- Tutelar Mountain
- Pasture field and steppe
- Village
- Atacameños demarcation
- Atacama La grande
- National Boundary

**Reference**

- Lithium mine area
- Road





Site Analysis, Chen Hsiang



Peatland Canal with Guide

We offer an intensive series of seminars, lectures, workshops and symposia that cultivate new and experimental approaches to the discipline. You'll have access to a rich culture of radical and experimental interdisciplinary work at the RCA, and the chance to establish a network of colleagues and mentors in London.

## Programme Description\*

### Research studios

Live Project-based studio work forms the core of learning in the Environmental Architecture MA programme; collaboration with external partners and knowledge exchange are central to our pedagogical model.

Each Studio will develop collaborative design-led research

around a unique case study. Studios work on the same case for a four-year period. As the programme grows, each new Studio will introduce a new case study.

For 2019/20, the Lithium Triangle Research Studio will explore architecture's contribution to communities and popular organisations engaged in environmental disputes over resource extraction in the context of the 'global energy transition'.

Meanwhile, The Orang-orang and the Hutan Studio interrogates bio-resources – both extracted and extracted from – through the specific, elemental materials and processes that comprise the inhabited forest, and in doing so addresses intersectional knowledge and spatial structures entangled within the social and ecological tensions of a forest under fire.

\*Taken from the 2019/20 Programme Specifications. While we try to ensure that all programme information is correct, some things may be subject to change and/or outside of our control.

# Entrance Requirements

Candidates are selected entirely on merit and applications are welcomed from all over the world. The selection process considers creativity, imagination and innovation as demonstrated in your portfolio, as well as your potential to benefit from the programme and to achieve high MA standards overall.

You'll likely be students of architecture with a 3+2-year Bachelor and Master's degree, or master-equivalent 5-year diploma preferably in Architecture, Landscape Architecture, Landscape Urbanism, Urban Design or other related design discipline looking to acquire expertise in large scale, environmental and ecological design projects.

We'll consider other backgrounds, such as fine arts, social sciences, geography, urban studies, planning or economics, if your prior work is of exceptional merit and you're able to demonstrate their ability to work alongside and contribute to multidisciplinary teams. Evidence of your intellectual and professional curiosity and a readiness to engage in a rigorous and demanding period of study is essential.

For more information on portfolio requirements and interviews, visit: [rca.ac.uk/environmental-architecture](http://rca.ac.uk/environmental-architecture)



## Student Story

'The RCA is a super-dynamic environment. It's a multidisciplinary, multicultural environment that fosters all of this amazing creativity with teaching, rigour and experimental ways of thinking.'

Yussef Agbo-Ola,  
MA Environmental Architecture, 2019

## Alumni

Environmental Architecture graduates are expected to go on to work in a range of fields, from further academic study to roles in environmentalist NGOs, urban planning agencies and design agencies including architecture, landscape architecture and environmental design.

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Postgraduate Art & Design



*Library Folly and Salon Folly, Jiaqi Li*

SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE

# Interior Design

MA

**240 credits, 2-year programme, Full-time study**

**Pathways: Exhibition Design**

## Constructing and communicating spatial identities

We value and promote speculation, analysis, rigour and provocation through all aspects of interior design.

The programme will challenge you to formulate your own rigorous, critically independent responses to conceptualising and making interiors.

This is often undertaken via the reworking of existing structures, the creation of temporal installations and the formation of permanent interventions using space, objects and materials.

We offer you a unique context of interdisciplinary, studio- and workshop-oriented study, as well as opportunities for live projects in conjunction with specific industry-partners. We have a staff of leading academics, practising designers, architects and theorists, all of whom are internationally renowned and innovators in their fields. In your second year, you'll also be assigned a practice mentor – a professional interior designer – who you'll meet four times a year.



Daniel Nikolovski

# Programme Description\*

## First Year

Your first year will emphasise experimentation and innovation through a foundational approach to the study of the interior. You'll examine and develop ideas in response to some of the fundamental elements and principles of the interior. We've developed these into three key areas of work: Proximities, Inhabitation and Identities.

In the autumn term, you'll undertake a series of short introductory projects, often alongside second-year students. Following this introductory period, you'll then embark on a field study visit. The Proximities phase of the project then proceeds until the Work-in-progress Show, a School-wide exhibition used to show the rest of the College the work we're undertaking.

In the spring term, Inhabitations will introduce projects based around different forms of the use of the interior.

The summer term will consolidate your previous learning into Identities, where students are required to construct design projects that examine the manifestations of particular atmospheres, surfaces, rooms and conditions that convey aspects of a particular site, communities, clients and stakeholders. The project will foreground and develop all aspects of your learning to date and will be realised at the end of the year in a portfolio submitted for the interim examination.

All of your first year is underpinned by a school-wide elective lecture and seminar series. This uses key ideas, texts, theories and discussions to give a foundation to your studio work with. You'll also undertake a year-long dissertation in the CHS module.

## Second Year

At the start of the second year, you'll integrate with first-year students through a series of collaborative short projects in mixed groups. After the study trip, you'll join a particular platform to pursue your personal thesis project, an innovative project that explores an aspect of interior design at a level appropriate for a Master's project.

Your work may be a single interior design project, involve an extended piece of research, a series of smaller exploratory projects or a combination of these approaches. Your work will be formed and developed in the platform and assessed in the Work-in-progress Show. The project culminates in the material you will have developed for the Independent Research Project, which we will assess in the final examination and which you will exhibit at the degree show.

\*Taken from the 2019/20 Programme Specifications. While we try to ensure that all programme information is correct, some things may be subject to change and/or outside of our control.

## Entrance Requirements

Candidates are selected entirely on merit and applications are welcomed from all over the world. The selection process considers creativity, imagination and innovation as demonstrated in your portfolio, as well as your potential to benefit from the programme and to achieve high MA standards overall.

You will usually have a good undergraduate degree or other appropriate experience. Professional experience, either before during or after a first degree, may be a benefit. We welcome applications from candidates from other related backgrounds, such as architecture, furniture design, product design and graphic design.

For more information on portfolio requirements and interviews, visit: [rca.ac.uk/interior-design](http://rca.ac.uk/interior-design)



## Student Story

'The RCA is a super-dynamic environment. It's a multidisciplinary, multicultural environment that fosters all of this amazing creativity with teaching, rigour and experimental ways of thinking.'

Jaenam Lim, MA Interior Design, 2017

## Alumni

Our alumni form an international network of creative individuals who have shaped and continue to shape the world.

Ed Barber & Jay Osgerby  
David Connor  
Dinah Casson  
Sir James Dyson  
Ben Kelly  
Sadie Morgan

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*Aleppo City Memory, Anas Shrefahe*

COLLEGE-WIDE PROGRAMME

# Architecture Pathway

MRes RCA

**180 credits, 1-year programme, full-time study**

## Vibrant research

Critical studies of spatial design.

The MRes RCA Architecture Pathway offers training in practice-led and practice-based research methods, complementing the shared arts and humanities research methods taught across the College as part of the MRes RCA.

We encourage interdisciplinary research projects in collaboration with other Schools within the RCA and external partners. We have a strong emphasis on practice-led and experimental research, preparing graduates for diverse careers in academia, architectural and urban design practices, human rights organisations, and social and environmental coalitions.

We offer a range of specialisms that focus on the interface of research and practice, training in practice-led and practice-based research by working on 'live' case studies and projects within the field with respected external partners. You'll become part of a vibrant research community at the RCA and within London.



*We Cannot Work Like This* inaugural meeting, Swamp Pavillion, Venice Biennale

# Programme Description\*

Our programmes are delivered through a combination of structured learning, comprised of lectures and master-classes; workshop classes based around a set task; tutor-led seminar classes where students will be asked to reflect on material that they have read or studied in advance and project assignments that support the structured teaching programme.

## **Unit 1: Research Methods and Individual Research Proposal**

This unit will enable discussion and exploration of key concepts in art and design research. The workshops will introduce you to key methods and methodologies in art and design, based around the areas of specialisms of each of the contributing schools. You'll also develop an individual research proposal.

## **Unit 2: Research Cultures**

This College-wide unit focus on knowledge exchange and communicating your research effectively to an interdisciplinary audience. This will involve developing an understanding of the contexts in which research is practised, and engaging different research cultures and communities.

## **Unit 3: Research in Practice (Pathway specific)**

This unit focuses on the process of research. It will connect you with practicing researchers and research teams and encourage you to reflect on how research projects are developed, managed, evaluated and communicated.

## **Unit 4: Group Research Project (Pathway specific)**

This unit builds upon learning undertaken in unit 1 by exploring the nexus between research methods and the ways in which they might be applied to independent and collaborative research projects.

## **Unit 5: Research Identities**

This college-wide unit will focus on further development of your personal research project and professional development. It will enable you to develop your research projects and define your professional identity as a researcher.

## **Unit 6: Personal Research Project**

The Personal Research Project will enable your to apply the skills, knowledge and understanding developed through units 1 and 2 within a complex personal research project.

\*Taken from the 2019/20 Programme Specifications. While we try to ensure that all programme information is correct, some things may be subject to change and/or outside of our control.

## Entrance Requirements

Candidates are selected entirely on merit and applications. The course welcomes candidates from all over the world and ages both prior academic and professional experience.

The selection process considers creativity, imagination, curiosity and the capability to reflect, criticise and innovate as demonstrated in the research statement and portfolio; it also assessed the potential to benefit from the programme and to achieve high standards overall.

While it is not necessary to hold a relevant design degree, we welcome applicants interested in design research.

For more information on portfolio requirements and interviews, visit: [rca.ac.uk/mres-architecture](http://rca.ac.uk/mres-architecture)



## Student Story

'I've learned to structure and be more rigorous about my process and methodologies. The most interesting thing for me is how rigour intertwines with creativity and freedom. It's not old fashioned; you can also innovate... everyone is thinking about how we might shape emerging possibilities, so I find it inspiring and motivating to be in this environment.'

Nuria Benitez Gomez, MRes RCA  
Architecture Pathway, 2017

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**Royal College of Art**  
Postgraduate Art & Design



*Vitas Tenements with Tenant Additions/Augmentations, Smokey Mountain, Manila, Georgia White*

SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE

# Architecture

MPhil/PhD

**PhD: 3–4 years (full time), 6–7 years (part time)**

**MPhil: 2–3 years (full time), 4–6 years (part time)**

## Working at the intersection of research and practice

The Architecture research programme focuses on practice-led and interdisciplinary research with tangible public and social impact.

The Architecture MPhil/PhD programme fosters research into spatial, environmental, and social challenges with tangible outcomes and impact. We support traditional academic research, but are especially interested in practice-led and experimental research relevant to diverse research careers in academia, industry-based research groups, leading design practices, policymaking, human rights organisations, NGOs, cultural institutions, as well as social and environmental coalitions.



Inside Out, Arquitectos de Cabecera, Raúl Avilla Royo

We particularly welcome research proposals aligned with the strategic areas of research in the School of Architecture: Architecture & Social Movements, Intergenerational Cities, Institutional Forms & Practices and Climate Justice, as well as the work of the Laboratory for Design & Machine Learning. All research themes encourage interdisciplinary research with new models of collaboration between academic and non-academic institutions or partners.

## Our Postgraduate Community

We have more than 250 PhD students pursuing cutting-edge research and undertaking advanced training across all four RCA Schools and Research Centres.

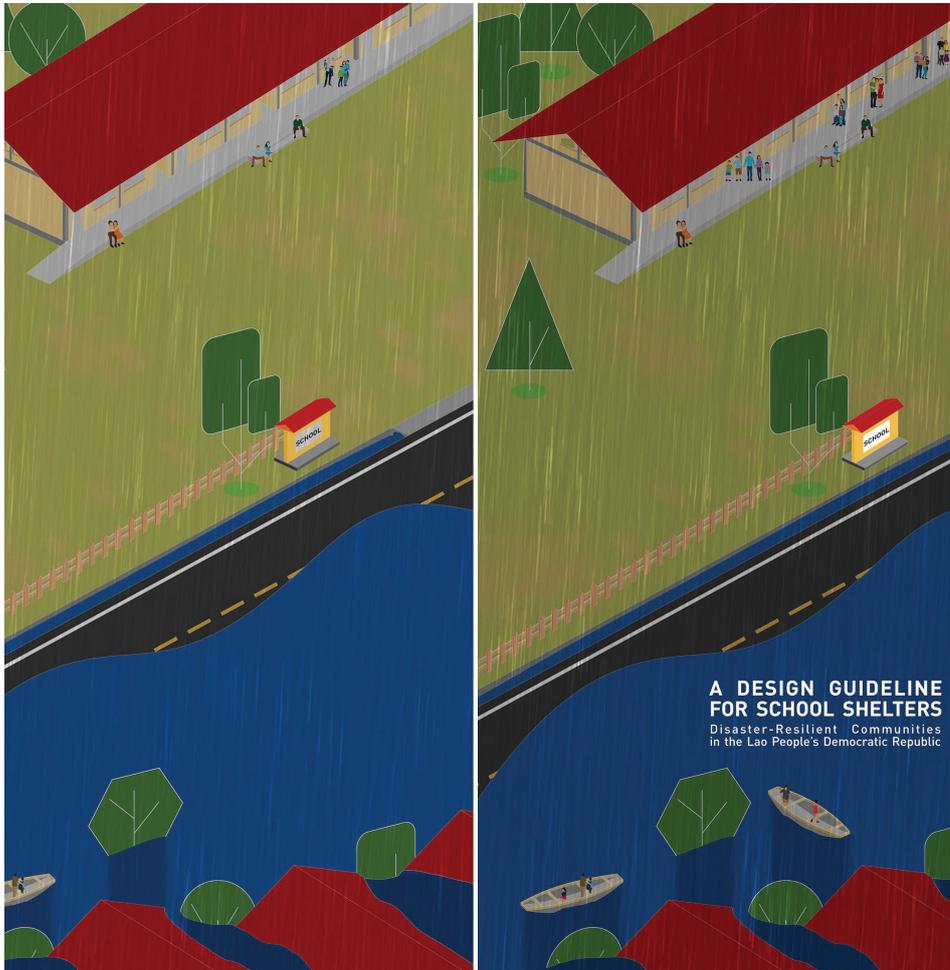
The RCA is a world-leading postgraduate university and is ranked the most research-intensive university of art and design in the UK since 2014. Both our students and staff are drawn from countries across the globe. Overseas students play a vital role in ensuring that our College community benefits from a diversity of experience and skills.

## Doctoral Training Programme

At the RCA, research students undertake training both at a cross-College level and within their Schools, offering rich and robust preparation and learning opportunities for their research degree progression. Many of these also offer opportunities to build a portfolio of experience for future careers.

First year doctoral students attend compulsory training courses in a range of research methods and methodologies in the first term of study. You'll attend mandatory Doctoral Training Weeks in September, February and July. These are opportunities to participate in the broader research community at the RCA, but also to undertake timely training to support research progression. These intensive weeks include a range of professional development seminars, training and advice in writing, getting published, achieving impact, entering the academic job market and more, and opportunities for you to develop and present your research to your peers and staff.

We are committed to ensuring that you are well equipped, not only to complete your studies but also to develop your future careers.



A Design Guideline for School Shelters, Soon Min Hong, Soon Ming Hong

## Entrance Requirements

You'll normally have obtained a good relevant undergraduate degree or an equivalent qualification. We recognise as an equivalent qualification any degree, diploma, certificate or other evidence of formal qualification awarded by a university or other higher education establishment, where the award is made following the successful completion of a course of at least three years' study.

For more information on portfolio requirements and interviews, visit: [rca.ac.uk/architecture-pgr](http://rca.ac.uk/architecture-pgr)

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