1. General Information

Unit Title: Design Practice 1A
Unit Number: DESA 1001
Semester: 1, 2009
Faculty: Architecture, Design & Planning
Discipline: Architecture and Allied Arts

Unit Convenor: Ross Anderson
Room No.: 323
Email: anderson@arch.usyd.edu.au

Design Tutors: Ross Anderson, Theo Bowering, Joseph Buch, Samantha Donnelley, Claudia Perren, Harpreet Mand, Penny Fuller, John Bohane, Will Fung, Simon Weir, Donna Wheatley

2. Academic Content

Aims:

The primary intention of this unit is to introduce students to the skills and knowledge required in order to produce creative, innovative and appropriate solutions to architectural problems. It seeks to develop the architectural imagination as a dialogue between poetic thought and pragmatic material circumstance, nurturing the capacity to move back and forth between conceptual, metaphoric levels of experience and the more precise levels of reference required for credible technical resolution. It expands students' vocabulary of architecture through study of relevant precedents and examination of techniques for spatial organization. Students will develop a preliminary understanding of contemporary architectural theory and will be introduced to a range of architectural representation techniques.

Outcomes:

Students successfully completing this subject will be able to identify and interpret factors acting on a design, including program, precedent, context, structure, material, surface and texture and will be able to reconcile conceptual thinking and pragmatic considerations into a coherent architectural proposal.
3. Delivery of Unit and Timetable

Delivery of Unit:

Design Practice 1A is a studio-based subject, supplemented by lectures and workshops. Students will work in small groups with individual tutors, and will have their own drawing table in their group area. They are free to consult with other tutors, as long as it does not interfere with that tutor's own group.

Attendance:

Attendance at all scheduled sessions of Design Practice 1B is mandatory, except in the case of illness or misadventure. Announcements made at studios and lectures are deemed to be made to the whole group. Attendance means arriving at the time required, usually 10 am, and staying until lectures or studio ends, usually 5 pm. A full day's work is expected. The Tutor for each group will record attendance and submission of work. Three or more absences are grounds for failure of the subject.

Consultation with Staff:

Contact with staff should generally be within the allocated lecture/tutorial/studio times. Consultation outside of these hours shall be by prior appointment, and in addition to, not in lieu of, the regular class time.

Year 1 Advisory Group:

In order to help Year 1 to be effectively run, and as enjoyable an experience as possible for both students and staff, students will establishing a Year 1 Advisory Group, to meet occasionally with teaching staff. There will be one representative from each Tutor group, elected in the fourth week of term by secret ballot to the tutor, who will collect the votes. The Advisory Group will act as advocates for the Year, advising the Unit Coordinator of problems and concerns. Representatives are asked to actively find out any problems, misunderstandings, assignment clashes, etc and bring them to the Advisory Group meeting for discussion, plan of action and resolution.
Timetable:

The timetable is subject to minor adjustment, and individual studio tutors may issue more detailed schedules for their particular groups. It is each student's responsibility to be aware of when particular activities take place. Check your University email regularly as it will be the way any changes to the timetable, assessment items, or clarifications of the program are issued.

A series of lectures supporting the primary themes of the studio will be delivered during the semester. They will be presented by tutors and guest lecturers, and attendance is mandatory. All lectures will be held in the Eastern Avenue Lecture Theatre.

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<tr>
<th>WEEK</th>
<th>TUESDAY</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>THEMES</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>3rd March</td>
<td>10 – 11 Design Lecture</td>
<td>- Introduction</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>10th March</td>
<td>10 – 11 Design Lecture 11 – 5 Studio</td>
<td>- Daydreaming</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>17th March</td>
<td>10 – 11 Design Lecture 11 – 5 Studio</td>
<td>- Frozen Performance</td>
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<td>10 – 11 Design Lecture 11 – 5 Studio</td>
<td>- Reflection</td>
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<td>- Assemblage</td>
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<td>10 – 11 Design Lecture 11 – 5 Studio</td>
<td>- Zoning</td>
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<td>BREAK</td>
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<td>10 – 11 Design Lecture 11 – 5 Studio</td>
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<td>10 – 11 Design Lecture 11 – 5 Studio</td>
<td>- Collective Palimpsest</td>
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<td>26th May</td>
<td>10 – 5 Studio</td>
<td>- Feedback Loop</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>2nd June</td>
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<td>Individual work on Portfolio</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>9th June</td>
<td>10 – 10:30 Studio 3 – 5 Studio</td>
<td>- Portfolio Delivery and Interview</td>
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4. Materials and Equipment

Supply of drawing, model making and other materials and equipment is the responsibility of the student. You are expected to come to each class prepared with all materials and equipment needed for that day as specified for the individual weekly exercises. Model making requirements will be discussed with tutors, and will vary depending on the media you choose. You will each have an individual locker in the studio in which you can store materials and equipment. You are required to put your name on your board. Please respect the table-tops. Always use a cutting board or a sheet of cardboard under materials you are cutting. Use sharp blades in a measured and controlled way to avoid personal injury.

The following art supply shops are nearby in Newtown and offer 10% discount for students:

**Newtown Art Supplies**
15 Wilson St  
Newtown 2042  
T: (02) 9516 2339  
E: newtownartsupplies@hotmail.com  
www.newtownartsupplies.com.au

**Art on King**
199a King St  
Newtown 2042  
T: (02) 9516 2342

The following is an online store run by a third year architecture student in the Faculty, offering savings on most materials:

Christian Foster  
www.fostersart.com.au  
Mob: 0409033078  
christian.foster@gmail.com

**Must Have:**

- T-Square  
- Adjustable Set Square  
- 2mm Clutch Pencil  
- Sharpener Leads (2B and HB)  
- Eraser  
- Fineline Pens 0.2-0.8 (Artline or similar)

- Sketchpaper Roll  
- Scale Ruler 1:1, 1:20, 1:50  
- Flexicurve  
- Metal Ruler

- Water-based PVA Glue  
- UHU Liquid Glue And Gluestick  
- Cutting Mat  
- Masking Tape (12mm)

- Cutting Blade  
- A4 Hardcover Bound Unlined Sketchbook  
- Clipboard  
- A3 Trace Pad  
- A3 Bond Pad  

**Optional:**  
A3 Drafting Board
5. Assessment

The design projects of the semester demands sometimes unconventional approaches to the finding of solutions to problems, of strategies for design, of the bringing together of diverse materials into an organised whole. The subject has been structured to contain a diversity of experiences leading to an understanding of some major themes encountered in the practice of architecture. Assessment will be based on the qualities of: creativity and innovation, academic rigour, technical resolution and presentation.

Your tutor will provide you with verbal and written indications throughout the semester of how you are performing in various aspects of your architectural design work, and at the conclusion of the semester you will be given an ‘indicative grade’ for the subject based on the University grading system:

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<th>Grade</th>
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<tr>
<td>High</td>
<td>Work of outstanding quality on the learning outcomes of the subject, which may be demonstrated in areas such as criticism, logical argument, interpretation of materials or use of methodology. This grade may also be given to recognise particular originality or creativity.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Distinction</td>
<td>Work of superior quality on the learning outcomes of the subject, demonstrating a sound grasp of content, together with efficient organisation and selectivity.</td>
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<td>Credit</td>
<td>Work of good quality showing more than satisfactory achievement on the learning outcomes of the subject, or work of superior quality on a majority of the learning outcomes of the subject</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>Work showing a satisfactory achievement of the learning outcomes of the subject.</td>
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<tr>
<td>INC</td>
<td>Work showing a satisfactory achievement and/or quality on the more important learning outcomes of the subject, with an unsatisfactory (but close to satisfactory) achievement on one learning outcome of the subject, but insufficient to continue in higher subjects for which the subject is a prerequisite.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fail</td>
<td>Work showing an unsatisfactory achievement of one or more learning outcomes of the subject, and not qualifying for the grade of conceded pass.</td>
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This will allow you to gauge your performance relative to your peers. It is important to note, however, that this grade will not be recorded on your academic transcript as Design Practice 1A is a Pass/Fail subject.

Three grades will be recorded at the end of the semester:

R: indicates that you have completed all tasks required and achieved a 'competent' performance indicator in all these tasks
INC: indicates that your assessment is incomplete (either due to illness or to the requirement to submit more work)
F: indicates that you have failed to satisfy the requirements of the unit.
It is important that work is submitted on time even if it is incomplete. No late submissions will be accepted except in the case of documented illness or misadventure. Where work is submitted on time but is not of satisfactory standard, you may be allowed to resubmit, or to submit additional work. No eligibility applies to work submitted late or not submitted at all.

**Late Work and Special Consideration**

Late Work:

Late work will be subject to the following regulations, except due to illness or misadventure: [http://www.arch.usyd.edu.au/CS/undergrad/late_submit.shtml](http://www.arch.usyd.edu.au/CS/undergrad/late_submit.shtml)

Special Consideration:

If circumstances beyond your control prevent your submitting an assignment, notify the unit Coordinator at the time they occur. You can apply for an extension due to illness or other unavoidable and verifiable personal circumstances. Supporting documentation must be provided. Doctor's or counselor's certificates, dated at the time of the difficulty, will be accepted as grounds for Special Consideration. The decision on whether to grant an extension and the length of any extension that is given is made by the unit Coordinator. The Faculty of Architecture Design & Planning Special Consideration, Late Submission and Attendance policy is available on the Architecture website ([www.arch.usyd.edu.au](http://www.arch.usyd.edu.au)) under ‘Current Students’

**Responsibility for assessment**

Your work will be assessed by your Tutor and compared in a joint parity session across groups at the end of the semester. See your tutor first if you are concerned by the outcome of an assessment. If your concerns have not been resolved, see the Design Practice 1A Coordinator. The responsibility for all marks in this unit of study rests with the Coordinator, whose word will be final in the event of any disagreement.

**Keeping a Copy of Your Work**

Work on paper done in the studio is easily transported, however models are difficult and you must ensure these are recorded through photographs for your portfolio. This is your responsibility. Take care of all work. If work is lost or stolen it cannot be replaced.
Plagiarism

Your enrolment in the University of Sydney indicates that you have accepted the conditions of that enrolment. You are expected to be familiar with all relevant University Policies. These include University of Sydney the policy on Academic Dishonesty, Plagiarism and ‘Responsibilities of students’. The plagiarism policy is available at:


Complaints

The University has a structured system of dealing with complaints – see MyUni or inquire at our SAC. The process involves first discussing the issue with your unit of study lecturer/s, Year Coordinators, Program Coordinator, the Associate Dean (Undergraduate). Write, send an email or make an appointment. Act sooner rather than later to resolve issues.

Retention of students’ work

The University reserves the right to retain work executed and/or submitted by a student as part of the course including, but not limited to, drawings, models, specifications, essays and reports. Such retention does not affect any intellectual property rights that exist in such student work.
Project Outline:

Transformations

The two major architectural themes for the semester are transformation and assemblage. These themes will be explored through a series of related conceptual exercises with an emphasis on practical experimentation. Rigorous attention is paid to process, not merely as the means to a pre-established end, but rather as a continual opening up of possibilities that inform and transform initial goals and assumptions. The sequence of exercises follow notions of spatiality, program and technology, and can be seen to revolve around three dualities: Desire/Discipline, Figure/Void, Precedent/Invention.

Though the weekly exercises are to an extent independent, they build upon one another and should be seen as a series of transformations, based on an understanding that all architecture (including one’s own) is constituted by other architecture. Rather than narrowing interpretive potential, this condition proliferates the creative act of design, since there can never be certain and stable origins or endpoints that locate final meaning.

Each student will be working on an individual patterned ‘site’ which is nevertheless part of a ‘collective field’ of 15 adjoining sites. These will be distributed in the first studio session. The weekly exercises will be discussed and examined both individually and collectively at the conclusion of each studio day.

The exercises are derived from the first year architecture syllabus at the Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule (ETH) in Zürich. See Marc Angelil, Inchoate. An Experiment in Architectural Education, (Zurich: Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, Zurich (ETHZ), 2003)

Details of Assessment Items

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment</th>
<th>Due Date of Assignments</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Weekly Exercises</td>
<td>Weekly</td>
<td>70%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Portfolio</td>
<td>Week 14</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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Week 1
Exercise: Introduction

NOTE: THERE IS NO STUDIO CLASS THIS WEEK

Week 2
Exercise: Daydreaming

Materials: cutting blade, cutting mat, metal ruler, pencil, glue stick

Input: two A3 pattern ‘sites’

Steps:
1. Working in pairs, imagine a ‘daydream space’, and make it out of a segment of one of your patterns by folding, cutting and gluing.

2. Use 5 adjectives to describe the space: intertwined, sharp, blurred, smooth, disguised…

3. Mount your object onto your A3 site.

4. Repeat the exercises with your second site

5. Assemble the ‘daydream spaces’ onto your tutorial group’s collective field on a wall in the studio
**Week 3**

**Exercise: Frozen Performance**

**Materials:**
A4 unlined sketchbook, pencil, A3 paper, T-Square (or portable A3 drafting board), adjustable set-square, plaster (will be provided), grey boxboard (1.5-3mm), paper, cutting blade, cutting mat, metal ruler, gaffer tape, 3 litre plastic milk bottle

**Input:**
Sequence of photographs of boxers or dancers

**Steps:**
1. Observe and sketch the space between the boxers or the dancers (your choice) in the sequence of photographs.
2. Make plans of the formwork.
4. Build the formwork in boxboard using gaffer tape to securely join the edges. Make sure it is watertight except for one hole that the plaster will be poured into.
5. Place the formwork into the plastic container so that it will not fall over. Pour the plaster into the formwork and the plastic container.
6. Allow plaster to dry overnight before removing formwork.
**Week 4**

**Exercise: Reflection**

**Materials:** paper, ruler, fine permanent markers (black, red, blue, green), minimum of 5 sheets of clear A4 acetate (overhead projector film)

**Input:** 1:200 architectural plan and section (will be provided)

**Steps:**
1. Identify and map in ink on separate sheets of acetate the following elements in the plan and section: circulation (red), served spaces (green), servant spaces (blue) and primary structure (black). Use only parallel lines to define areas.

2. Overlay the sheets and recompose them into a tapestry by performing the following operations: mirror, rotate, displace

3. Mount the tapestry on a white A3 sheet of paper and assemble into a collective field

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**Week 5**

**Exercise: Assemblage**

**Materials:** digital camera, paper, pencil, grey cardboard, PVA glue

**Input:** photographs of all previous exercises

**Steps:**
1. Cut and collage photos and make a photomontage onto the A3 sewing pattern. You are required to produce 2 collages (PLEASE NOTE: This is to be done prior to class)

2. Analyse the montage in relation to the field and translate into a 3D model. The scale of your assemblage is 1:200

3. Assemble your model onto the timber frame that your group has made using pins or small nails, NOT GLUE
**Week 6**

**Exercise:** Zoning

**Materials:** coloured cardboard, cutting mat, metal ruler, cutting blade, PVA glue, pencil, A3 paper

**Input:** Assemblage exercise

**Steps**

1. Identify and draw a plan of the spatial zones based on the model from the preceding exercise

2. Montage a 2D zoning plan using the coloured cardboard, based on the terms below. Scale 1:200

   Opposing terms and colour-coding:
   - PRIVATE (green) / PUBLIC (blue)
   - STATIC (orange) / DYNAMIC (red)
   - SERVED (purple) / SERVANT (yellow)

3. Interpret the montage into a 3d model. Scale 1:200

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**Week 7**

**Exercise:** Circulation

**Materials:** pencil, parallel rule, adjustable set-square, drafting pen, A3 paper, grey cardboard, metal ruler, cutting blade, cutting mat, PVA glue

**Input:** Zoning exercise

**Steps**

1. Draw an axonometric (45/45) of the circulation system
Week 8

Exercise: Structure

Materials: parallel rule, adjustable set-square, fineline pen, A3 paper, PVA glue, wood: sticks, sheets and blocks

Input: Models and drawings from Zoning and Circulation Exercises

Steps 1. Use the wood to construct a ‘structural model’ using a mixture of two structural systems: column and beam, load-bearing walls and slabs. The models must be robust and must be detached from the site.

Week 9

Exercise: Envelope

Materials: Three different cladding materials of your choice, e.g. various textiles, white cardboard, black cardboard, expanded metal mesh, fine sheet metal, transparent perspex, tracing paper, white fabric (e.g. stocking). Fixing materials, e.g. white cotton, silver pins, fishing wire, glue

Input: Model from Structure exercise

Steps: 1. Use textiles to ‘dress’ the model

2. Draw a section of the wrapped space. Scale 1:200
Week 10
Exercise: Terrain

Materials: pencil, grey cardboard, glue, cutting blade, cutting mat, metal ruler

Input: Model from Structure and Envelope exercises

Steps
1. Revise the model from the Assemblage exercise to become a site model for your Structure and Envelope model

2. Draw a section through your individual ‘site’

3. Mount your model on the collective field using pins or small nails

Week 11
Exercise: Collective Palimpsest

Materials: drafting pens, lead pencils, A3 paper, parallel rule, adjustable set-square

Input: collective field

Steps
1. Draw a plan and elevation across three sites of the collective field (including yours), indicating shadows and textures. Scale 1:500 (i.e. 2.5cm on the model = 1cm on the drawing)
Week 12
Exercise: Feedback Loop

Materials: camera

Input: All previous exercises

Steps
1. Document all previous exercises
2. Produce one A4 page of writing that is a reflective summary of your work over the semester, identifying and articulating what has worked well, what has failed, what you have learned...
3. Discuss the production of a portfolio together with your tutor. The portfolio is both a summary document of the work conducted throughout the semester in Design Practice 1A, and a piece of design in its own right. It is to be a carefully ordered and well-presented bound A3 document which showcases your work. It is not just an ad-hoc compilation of every single thing you produced.

Week 13
Exercise: Individual Work on Portfolio

NOTE: THERE IS NO CLASS. SELF-DIRECTED WORK ON PORTFOLIO

Week 14
Exercise: Portfolio Delivery and Interview

Steps
1. Submit your portfolio to your tutor by 10am and leave the studio by 10:30
2. Return to studio for your interview with your tutor at the arranged time in the afternoon.
READING LIST:

It is very important that you read broadly to develop your own ideas about architectural design and practice and that you become conversant in the theories and principles that are being explored in the studio. The following is a general reading list. Some of the titles may not be of direct relevance to your first year of study, but they will become increasingly relevant as you progress. They cover subject matter that we think it is generally important for you to engage with. It is NOT recommended that you immediately purchase these texts, rather you should first browse them in libraries and bookshops in order to see if you think they may be of ongoing use. You are encouraged to use the USYD libraries (www.library.usyd.edu.au/Home.html) and other public libraries in Sydney.

Books


Journals and Magazines

- Architecture Australia
- Architecture: The AIA Journal
- Architecture and Urbanism / A + U
- Architectural Design / A.D.
- Architectural Review (UK)
- Architectural Review (Australia)
- Blueprint (UK)
- Casabella
- Daidalos: Berlin Architectural Journal
- Detail
- El Croquis
- Japan Architect
- Grey Room
- L’Architecture d’Aujourd’hui
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<th>WEEK</th>
<th>THURSDAY</th>
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**Legend:**
- **PD:** Placement Day
- **Reading Architecture:** Reading Architecture D, E, F
- **Environment Labs:** Environment Labs
- **Bridge Project:** Bridge Project
- **Environment Labs:** Environment Labs
- **Structures Tutorial:** Structures Tutorial
- **Structures Quiz:** Structures Quiz
- **Environment Intro:** Environment Introduction
- **Reading Architecture:** Reading Architecture A, B, C
- **Environment Labs:** Environment Labs
- **Individual Work:** Individual Work on Portfolio
- **External Exam:** External Exam
- **Student Delivery and Interview:** Student Delivery and Interview
- **Public Holiday:** Public Holiday
- **NO CLASSES:** No Classes

**Notes:**
- Students are required to check the timetables for the entire semester for accurate scheduling.