

CA4540: ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN: FINAL YEAR DESIGN RESEARCH PROJECT PART 2

Effective Term

Semester A 2025/26

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Architectural Design: Final Year Design Research Project Part 2

Subject Code

CA - Civil and Architectural Engineering

Course Number

4540

Academic Unit

Architecture and Civil Engineering (CA)

College/School

College of Engineering (EG)

Course Duration

One Semester

Credit Units

6

Level

B1, B2, B3, B4 - Bachelor's Degree

Medium of Instruction

English

Medium of Assessment

English

Prerequisites

Nil

Precursors

CA4539 Architectural Design: Final Year Design Research Project Part 1

Equivalent Courses

CA4530 Architectural Design: Final Year Design Research Project Part 2

Exclusive Courses

Nil

Part II Course Details

Abstract

The Final Year Design Research Project (FYDRP) enables integrated application of theory, knowledge and skills gained so far. It is a year-long 'capstone' project, comprising Parts 1 and 2, completed in Semesters 4A and 4B respectively. This is to supplement the Final Year Project for Architectural Stream students. Students will develop the Final Year Design Research Project informed by the inquiry results of Final Year Project.

The project will incorporate substantial elements of both research and design, developed around a topic of personal interest and in consultation with their dedicated project supervisor. Students will also be supported by a team of supervisors. They will also be expected to work independently, and to demonstrate that they have initiative, project management skills, intellectual maturity as well as a deep understanding of their chosen topic and design.

This course builds on the outputs from its Prerequisite CA4539 to produce an architectural proposition which is supported by substantial research or reflective activity.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs		Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	to extend an architectural proposition based on the strategies and discourses already set out (in this case, in the precursor course's final output).		x	x	x
2	to develop the architectural proposition to a level of detail and resolution appropriate to the nature of that proposition.			x	x
3	to draw research conclusions and / or to reflect and comment on the architectural proposition in light of the research discourse and if appropriate, in relation to relevant literature and / or past architectural works.			x	
4	to communicate the design and research processes and outputs using graphic and verbal presentations.			x	x

A1: Attitude

Develop an attitude of discovery/innovation/creativity, as demonstrated by students possessing a strong sense of curiosity, asking questions actively, challenging assumptions or engaging in inquiry together with teachers.

A2: Ability

Develop the ability/skill needed to discover/innovate/create, as demonstrated by students possessing critical thinking skills to assess ideas, acquiring research skills, synthesizing knowledge across disciplines or applying academic knowledge to real-life problems.

A3: Accomplishments

Demonstrate accomplishment of discovery/innovation/creativity through producing /constructing creative works/new artefacts, effective solutions to real-life problems or new processes.

Learning and Teaching Activities (LTAs)

LTAs		Brief Description	CILO No.	Hours/week (if applicable)
1	Tutorials and Reviews, where appropriate	The Research Design Project engages students in the production of an integrated proposal for an architectural proposition supported by research. Teaching and learning are conducted through regular design and research supervision, and through Reviews, in a small studio environment in which students will develop their individual proposals under the facilitation of their supervisor.	1, 2, 3, 4	

Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

ATs		CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks ("- " for nil entry)	Allow Use of GenAI?
1	Interim Review Presentation(s)	1, 2, 3, 4	45	2 or more separate reviews may be necessary, with an appropriate split of the 45%.	Yes
2	Final Review and Submission	1, 2, 3, 4	55		Yes

Continuous Assessment (%)

100

Examination (%)

0

Minimum Continuous Assessment Passing Requirement (%)

40

Minimum Examination Passing Requirement (%)

0

Assessment Rubrics (AR)**Assessment Task**

Interim Review Presentation(s)

Criterion

Development progress of design proposition, quality of design proposition, relationship with research and / or reflective discourse, presentation and communication quality.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

High

Good (B+, B, B-)

Significant

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Moderate

Marginal (D)

Basic

Failure (F)

Not even reaching marginal level

Assessment Task

Final Review and Submission

Criterion

Quality of design proposition, appropriateness of depth and complexity of the design proposition, coherence of resolution of architecture's relationship with research and / or reflective discourse, quality of research conclusions and / or reflection on architectural proposition, communication quality, organisation and skill of presentation, ability to respond to questions.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

High

Good (B+, B, B-)

Significant

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Moderate

Marginal (D)

Basic

Failure (F)

Not even reaching marginal level

Part III Other Information**Keyword Syllabus**

Architectural research. Design research. Research for design. Research by design. Research about / into design. Research methodology and design. Data collection and analysis. Interpretation of findings. Implications and recommendations. Communication of results as design.

Reading List**Compulsory Readings**

Title	
1	Groat, L.N. and Wang, D., (2013). Architectural research methods. John Wiley & Sons.
2	Borden, I. and Ruedi, K. (2006). The Dissertation: An architecture student's handbook. Boston: Architectural Press.

Additional Readings

Title	
1	The Bartlett Design Research Folios http://bartlettdesignresearchfolios.com/
2	Friedman, K., 2008. Research into, by and for design. Journal of Visual Art Practice, 7(2), pp.153-160.