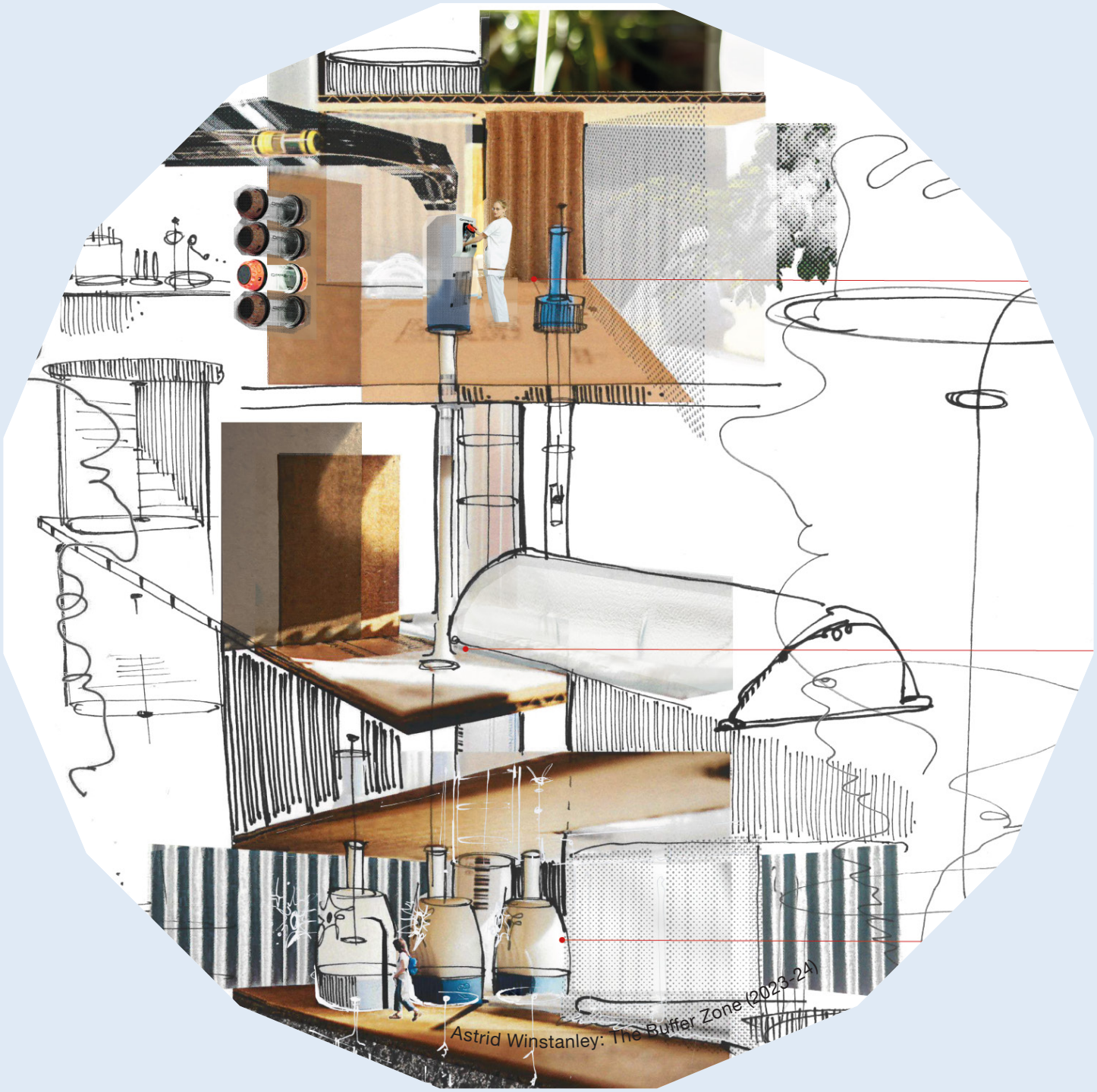
BAArch

Unit 11
Design Studio 3.1
Design Thesis



Unit 11: Design Studio 3.1 DESIGN THESIS

↳ Unit Description

Architecture is always an intervention into a context. This includes the local material, physical or conceptual contexts, and larger scale environmental, social, and political contexts. Key questions affecting contemporary critical spatial practices are related to how to address the impact of social justice and the climate and bio-diversity challenges in specific spatial and cultural contexts. How these contexts and challenges are defined, interpreted and addressed are increasingly a primary concern of architectural thinking and production.

The aim of this first design unit in Stage 3 is for you to develop a purposeful and strategic approach to design, informed by a continuous process of research and analysis. You will engage in systematic experimentation and critical review, to feedback on and inform your design and to further refine and pursue your position as a spatial practitioner.

This unit focusses on the formulation and development of design research arguments and a design thesis defining a design proposition. This will help you to engage with complex contemporary social, cultural, technological, ethical and environmental **contexts**, **concerns** and **challenges**, including design for carbon zero, at a range of scales. This work is preparation towards the development of design project in your final design unit (Unit 13: Design Studio 3.2).

This unit is based on an understanding of how the built environment is conditioned by a complex overlapping of multiple systems, networks and processes related to context and situations. Through your design research, you will experiment with the potential of architecture and urban design to transform its context through conceptual, programmatic, spatial and material means.

You will critically evaluate the inter-sectional relations between the social, cultural and environmental dimensions of the design project and more generally of spatial practices. This will enable you to develop an understanding of your agency and role as a spatial practitioner.

Extending the course's commitment to address social justice and climate emergency, you will produce integrated design proposals aligned to the UN Sustainable Development Goals and carbon zero design standards.

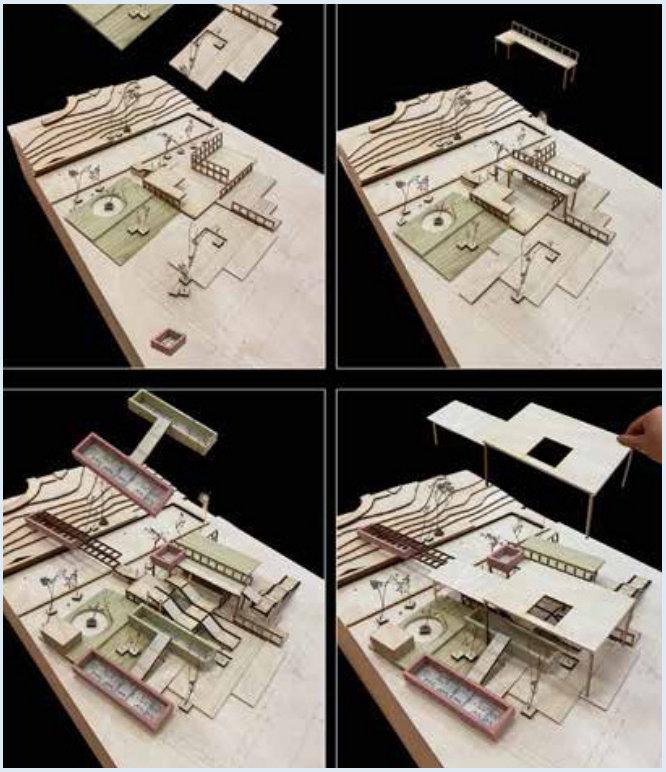
Through urban and architectural projects you will explore the integration of your individual design approach with:

- Technology;
- Environmental design and designing for carbon zero;
- Ethical practice and professional skills;
- Cultural context;
- Health and Life safety.

↳ Learning and Teaching Methods

The learning and teaching methods devised for this unit include:

- Unit and project and briefings
- Set and self-initiated project briefings
- Assessment briefings
- Inductions, workshops, lectures and seminars
- Collaborative working
- Group working and group projects
- Working with external partners
- Individual, group and personal tutorials
- Peer learning
- Self and peer assessment
- Staff presentations and guest speakers
- Group discussions, reviews and critiques
- Independent study



Peerada Liewchanpatana: The Nature Factory (2023-24)

↳ Learning Outcomes

LO1	Undertake substantial research and critical analysis to support the development of design investigations, briefs and proposals in relation to social, cultural, and environmental contexts. (AC Enquiry)
LO2	Devise spatial and architectural proposals informed by contemporary social, cultural, environmental, ethical and aesthetic concerns in response to an architectural design brief. (AC Knowledge)
LO3	Develop and support design proposals through design research and experimentation. (AC Process)
LO4	Effectively communicate conceptual ideas, intellectual positions, and ethical considerations, through the original use of a range of media and drawing conventions. (AC Communication)
LO5	Develop coherent design proposals that integrate material, spatial and technical strategies that address contemporary social, cultural, technological, ethical and environmental challenges. (AC Realisation)

↳ Assessment Criteria

At UAL, all our students' work is marked against five assessment criteria:

Enquiry
Engagement in practice informed by critical analysis and evaluation of diverse relevant practices and ideas.

Knowledge
Evaluation of different perspectives and approaches to a range of practical, theoretical and/or technical knowledge(s).

Process
Experiment and evaluate methods and results.

Communication
Demonstrating clarity and depth in relation to the communication of diverse intentions, contexts, sources, and arguments appropriate to your audiences.

Realisation
Selecting appropriate options and choices related to production of outcomes.

↳ Assessment Deadlines

Please see the Unit 11 section on Moodle for further details.

Submission Method: You will submit your work digitally via Moodle.



Astrid Winstanley: The Buffer Zone (2023-24)

↳ Assessment Description

Formative assessment takes place during the unit. It may take the form of a group review, peer feedback or formative presentation or a formative submission.

Summative assessment takes place at the end of the unit. It takes the form of an online submission. The unit is assessed holistically.

↳ Assessment Evidence

To evidence your achievement of the learning outcomes of this unit, you are expected to submit:

1 Design Portfolio

A well designed and edited graphic document that effectively and coherently communicates your design thesis to diverse audiences, **demonstrating your achievement of the expected learning outcomes**. The Design Portfolio is a cohesive document that articulates the research, analysis and experimentation supporting the definition, development, and resolution of your design projects, informed by your critical position in relation to specific contextual, architectural, and environmental concerns.

The portfolio should be approached as the illustration of a design argument, including:

Project Statement: Project title and a 300-word introductory text of your design argument, and how it responds to your studio brief and to specific conceptual, contextual, and environmental concerns.

Contextual strategy: illustrating how your proposal engages with an expanded context, responding to existing spatial, environmental, and socio-cultural conditions.

Programmatic strategy: graphic argument on how you have defined your own brief and the way you approach, develop, and implement it.

Precedent studies: graphic analysis of a range of architectural projects illustrating the key principles, approaches, and embedded knowledge that have been relevant to the development your own proposal.

Experimentation / Process: Embedded in the different parts of your portfolio, showing the analytical development of the design proposal as a clear outcome of a design process including reflective testing and experimentation.

Environmental response: Illustrate how your proposal respond to the climate and biodiversity emergencies, minimizing its environmental impact (e.g. designing for carbon zero).

Well-being and Health and Safety response: Illustrating how your proposal respond to concerns about the well-being of its occupants and health and safety, including a holistic fire safety strategy.

Expected Agencies / Spatial Experience: Illustrating the specific material and architectural qualities; experiences, narratives, actions and interactions that your project aims to generate, around and within your proposal.

Project Development: A set of drawings and models describing your design proposal in context across a series of scales, including:

- Plans, sections, diagrams, axonometries and images of models effectively showing the contextual engagement and strategies of your proposal at different scales.
- General drawing set: plans, sections and elevations, all including a detailed insertion in the site at appropriate scales.
- Three-dimensional representation of your project in context through axonometric drawings, perspectives, photographs of models, etc.
- Key views/sketches/collages illustrating the material qualities of your proposal, and the qualities and narratives of its inhabitation.
- Material, structural, and environmental strategies illustrated on diagrams, supported by precedent analysis.

format: PDF document, A3 landscape format,
Pages: minimum 30 / maximum 40;
file size maximum 150mb.

2 Reflective Journal

A well edited document in which you record your design process: the research, analysis and reflective experimentation that informs your design proposals. The design journal should include reflective commentary on your design process and outcome.

format: PDF document, A3 landscape format,
maximum file size 150mb.

↳ Further Information

↳ Where to ask for academic help?

Your main point of support for Unit 11 are your tutors from your Design Studio; they should be your primary guidance in terms of developing your work for this unit. Beyond this, you may feel free to contact your Subject or Stage Leaders.

Further support will be provided by the Academic and Language support teams, as well as our Subject Librarian for Spatial Practices.

↳ Where to ask for administrative help?

The Spatial Practices Admin Team
spatialpractices.admin@csm.arts.ac.uk
are the key point of contact for anything related to administration and regulations.

- Enrolment
- Assessment & Submissions
- Extenuating Circumstances (ECs)
- Individual Student Agreements (ISAs)
- Attendance tracking
- Time-Out
- Student Services signposting

↳ Costs associated with this unit:

Work presented for assessment will be evaluated against unit learning outcomes using UAL's Assessment criteria. Any increased spend on materials to realise your assignment will not equate to increased grades in your assessment.

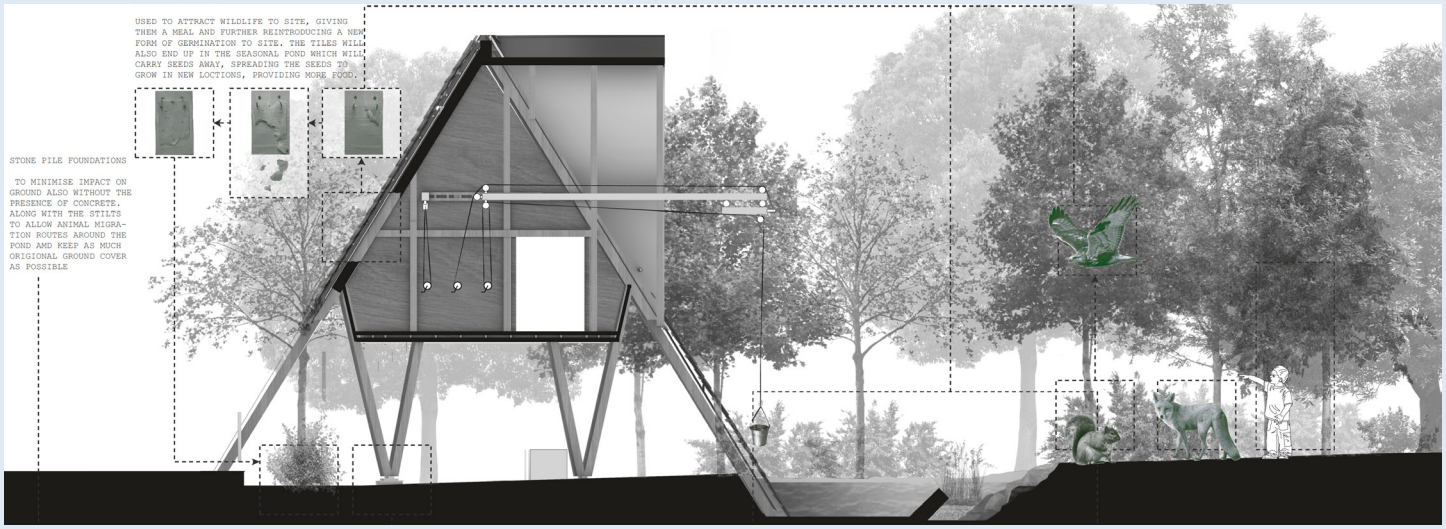
The college provides a broad range of resources to support your studies and to produce work for assessment. You can discuss your choices and likely costs with your design tutors and/or unit leader prior to starting your work.

The additional costs you might incur whilst studying this unit, depending on personal choice, could include:

• Software: Between £50-£150

• Printing: Occasional printing £20 - £150 (Optional)

• Modelmaking: £100 - £150 (Optional)



Freya Board: The Forest Tithe Barn (2023-24)