

1

WE SEE THE  
PRODUCTION OF  
SPACE AS FUNDA-  
MENTALLY SOCIAL  
AND POLITICAL

3

WE USE OUR  
NAME TO RETHINK  
OUR PROFESSION,  
IMAGINING ROLES BEYOND  
DISCIPLINARY LIMITS,  
AND ACTIVELY ENGAGING  
IN OUR ART SCHOOL  
SETTING

5

WE PROVIDE  
FLEXIBLE,  
ALTERNATIVE  
PATHWAYS  
FOR STUDY  
ENCOURAGING  
DIVERSE CAREERS  
AND INNOVATIVE  
FUTURE PRACTICES

2

WE SUPPORT  
NOT ONLY THE  
DEVELOPMENT  
OF RADICAL  
IDEAS, BUT ALSO  
THE RADICAL  
POTENTIAL OF  
MAKING AND  
BUILDING

ual: central  
saint martins

4

WE ENGAGE  
CREATIVELY WITH  
THE REALITY  
OF THE CITY  
AROUND US, AND  
ITS LEGISLATIVE  
AND ECONOMIC  
CONSTRAINTS  
BY UNDERTAKING  
LIVE PROJECTS  
THAT HAVE  
AGENCY

# A manifesto for Spatial Practices at Central Saint Martins

## Spatial Practices

The contemporary city is subject to ever-increasing fixity and control. Its physical spaces and places are constrained by regulation and the powerful forces of commodification, and this rigidity renders the city incapable of responding to the social, the temporal, and the political aspects of everyday life. Spatial Practice offers an alternative for spatial education, addressing these dilemmas. Our critical approach focuses on the production of space, where space is a social construction. This shifts the emphasis from space alone, to the processes of its creation. We value indeterminacy and fluidity, and open up our practice to experimentation, uncertainty, risk and surprise. To complement this approach, we embrace the radical potential of engaging in the world outside the university. Through live projects with external communities, agencies and organisations, we nurture a constant negotiation between complicity and resistance; a negotiation between the physical necessities of production, versus the temporal acts of social and political agency.

In our art school environment, richly endowed with workshops, and specialist technicians, our emphasis is on both the critical and the cultural but also the practical and organizational arts of making, which have powerful potential. The project work of students and researchers, whether in the form of physical structures, user experiences, design methodologies or critical actions, is always underpinned by working within collaborative, multidisciplinary teams. Running through all of these agendas is the key premise that the human environment is alive with agency, and as we shape our environment, our environment shapes us. Spatial Practices develops critical and creative practitioners who can design for, and reflect upon, the human environment as an ever-changing crucible of ideas, places, needs and desires.

Our courses: BA Architecture (Part I), MA Narrative Environments, MA Architecture: Cities and Innovation, and M ARCH Architecture (Part II) provide a route from foundation, through undergraduate and postgraduate study to doctoral research and professional practice. Each course has its own character, exploring, in its unique way, the human environment as a living network of people, buildings, spaces, objects and stories.

**Mel Dodd**  
Programme Director, Spatial Practices

For more information, please visit our website:  
[www.arts.ac.uk/csm/courses/our-programmes/spatial-practices-programme](http://www.arts.ac.uk/csm/courses/our-programmes/spatial-practices-programme)

## BA (Hons) Architecture Part I

This course explores design for the human environment through the buildings and spaces we inhabit, engaging in the technical, material, cultural, social and political concerns of the contemporary world. It offers the first step towards becoming a registered architect yet drawing from its critical context in an art and design school, remains open to a range of practices. Live projects, mentorships and industry collaborations embedded in the fabric of London enrich the student experience through the course of study.

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## MA Narrative Environments

Narrative Environments is concerned with the design of not only spaces, but experiences and events for museums, brand, urban and community environments. Students work in small multidisciplinary teams to tell stories through combining text, image, sound and physical space to create original engaging and immersive experiences. The course pioneers collaborative practice among communication designers, curators and architects enabling students, who benefit from strong industry links that provide live, funded projects, mentors and placements.

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## MA Architecture, Cities & Innovation

This course, in parallel to the professional routes of Parts I & II, explores the edges of the disciplinary boundaries of architecture and urbanism. Students test design approaches which respond to the burgeoning need for contemporary city design to focus not only on the traditional 'hard' infrastructures of buildings, transport and engineering, but also the softer infrastructures of social networks, organization and human interactions.

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## MArch Architecture Part II

This course is uniquely positioned at Central Saint Martins to draw on the dynamic design thinking and making skills from a range of critical art and design practices, while directing students along the second degree in the professional pathway toward registration as an architect—commonly referred to as Part II.

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