Module Overview

This course is for students who are looking to explore the architecture and urban planning of London through learning about its history and designing an architectural proposal and urban strategy for the city. The course assists you in understanding the key phases of London's architectural, economic and social development as well as its current design culture through a series of informal seminars as well as guided site, design office and exhibition visits. This research will provide a stimulating background for individual and collaborative design work. You will observe and record buildings, places and situations in London through photography, model making and drawing both on site and in the classroom. Your individual observations of key themes and areas of interest in London’s current and past development will form the basis for a case study leading to a proposal in the form of a map. The course is open to students with varying levels of experience and will help those looking to study architecture, history of architecture and art and design. Students will build a deeper understanding and working knowledge of contemporary architectural practice as well as a sound introduction to appreciating architecture in context to history.

Class hours: 60 hours  
Non-class hours: 15 hours  
Course level: Open  
Entry requirements: The course is open to students with varying levels of experience and will help those looking to study architecture, history of architecture and art and design.
Project Description

During the summer study abroad you will investigate the urban development of London in the 21st century, how it is impacting local communities and how different groups are trying to propose alternatives.

Restoration, Modification, Intervention, Transformation. The reusing and re-purposing of buildings should be architecture's priority in the 21st century. Nearly a third of all of the UK's carbon emissions come from construction and the operational use of buildings (13% and 18% according to the UK government). Many experts are calling for no new buildings if we are to have any meaningful impact on the climate disaster. However, London is constantly demolishing neighborhoods to build anew. How do we re-purpose the city to make it fit the myriad of ways we want to live while averting ecological disaster?

Aims

- Develop your ideas through observation, sketching and research
- Develop technical drawing/model making/photography skills appropriate for your project
- Plan and execute a large-scale drawing
- Document and exhibit your design development and outcome

Learning Outcomes

- An ability to research concepts that can be developed into design (Research)
- An ability to develop research concepts into creative design solutions in response to a brief and develop an architecture specific skills base (Analysis, Subject Knowledge)
- An ability to communicate ideas and concepts through visual representation in the form of models, drawings and a built proposition presented in exhibition format (Communication, Presentation)
- An in-depth knowledge of architectural model making, drawing and fabrication (Technical Competence)

Your learning outcomes will be assessed on your completion and presentation of the following:

- Sketch book
- Drawings
- Models
- Documentation and representation of project

Materials Required

- Digital Camera (or camera phone)
- Drawing tools (pencils, pencil sharpener, ruler, scale, set square)
- Scissors
- Scalpel
- Sketch book
- Oyster card, for getting around London (please also be aware that there will be plenty of walking so wear comfortable shoes and bring a suitable bag for carrying your equipment)
Tutors

Jamie Hignett: For the last three years Jamie has been working with Carmody Groarke delivering projects of varying scales from temporary exhibitions in London to winning competitions for an extension to Design Museum Gent. After graduating from the London School of Architecture in 2018 Jamie was awarded the Adam Architecture Travel Scholarship. With this funding he spent two months travelling across France and Algeria to research and document the large urban housing projects of Fernand Pouillon, building on his research of architecture as urbanism. Jamie has also been a visiting critic at the Bartlett School of Architecture where he studied for his Part I and taught with David at the Bartlett's DPU.

Ben Beach: Ben is a founding director of Unit 38, a design and research practice based in London. He has worked on a wide range of projects with a heavy social focus, presently developing proposals for a large urban design and community wealth building scheme on behalf of a local authority. Ben frequently organises and participates in conferences, events and exhibitions; with his work recently featuring in the Royal Institute of British Architects President’s Awards for Research and the Royal Geographical Society annual conference. Ben has extensively taught students at all levels, including at the Developmental Planning Unit, UCL, the University of Cambridge and Central Saint Martins. Ben studied architecture at The Bartlett, UCL and Architecture & Urban Design at the University of Cambridge.

David McEwen: David is a founder of Unit 38, a design and research practice. He is currently working on the Community Plan for Wards Corner, a bottom-up, community-led alternative to regeneration in Seven Sisters, Tottenham. In addition to work in architectural practice, both in London and abroad, David has organised and participated in events, workshops and exhibitions for the Royal Institute of British Architects, the Royal Society of Arts and the Tate Modern. Since completing his MPhil in Architecture and Urban Design at the University of Cambridge in 2018, David has also been a guest critic at Central Saint Martins, the University of Cambridge and the University of Cardiff and he lead the Bartlett's DPU London Summerlab in 2019.