

RIBA



Royal Institute
of British Architects

Criteria for Validation

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Foreword

Through its role in the validation process, the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) seeks to maintain and enhance the quality of architectural education and to encourage experiment, innovation, and contemporary relevance in course delivery and teaching methods. The RIBA's role in architectural education is enshrined in the Institute's Charter granted in 1837, namely '...the general advancement of Civil Architecture, and for promoting and facilitating the acquirement of the knowledge of the various arts and sciences connected therewith'. In 1863 the RIBA established the Examination in Architecture which became compulsory for admission as a member of the Institute in 1882.

At the beginning of the twentieth century the RIBA established an alternative route to membership when it embarked upon the recognition of courses and examinations considered to have the necessary minimum standard for exemption from the RIBA Examination. In 1924 the Visiting Board was established to visit schools of architecture and establish the effectiveness of courses and examinations in achieving the standards necessary in preparing students for the professional practice of architecture. As a cornerstone of this process the RIBA has for many years published an Outline Syllabus which forms the basis of the RIBA's own Examination in Architecture. The Syllabus has normally been reviewed and republished every five years.

In carrying out its duty to prescribe qualifications, the Architects Registration Board (ARB) has separately formulated criteria which set out the minimum levels of awareness, knowledge, understanding, and ability that students of architecture must acquire at all key stages in the process of qualifying as an architect.

For the benefit of all involved in architectural education during late 2001 and early 2002 a small working party of RIBA and ARB members worked together to formulate new criteria which would be held in common by both bodies. The working party was assisted in its deliberations by many other organisations and individuals. Particular thanks are due to the Standing Conference of Heads of School of Architecture (SCHOSA) for their input to the process. The criteria that resulted from the group are set out in this document. The detailed wording was approved by the RIBA Education Committee on 20 March 2002 following an agreement at RIBA Council on 13 Feb 2002. The ARB Board approved the criteria at its meeting on 21 March 2002.

The new criteria differ from those previously published by the RIBA in that:

- separate requirements for Parts 1,2 and 3 are clearly stated stipulating the progression required between these three key stages of an architect's education;
- greater emphasis is placed on knowledge and understanding of Technology and Environment and the ability to integrate this within design projects;
- Management, Practice and Law has a higher profile at Parts 1 and 2 than previously;
- the opportunity to pursue related, specialist and optional studies is stipulated as a requirement of the criteria.

The RIBA would welcome views on the new criteria from any interested parties. The RIBA and ARB are not proposing to make ad hoc changes to the criteria. However, the RIBA does hope to ensure that, through dialogue with the schools and the profession, the criteria are regularly reviewed to ensure their continued relevance and benefit to the validation process, the schools and their students, and the profession.

The criteria that follow are being held in common by the RIBA and the ARB. They will come into force from September 2003. They will be used in conjunction with the document "Procedures for Validation" published by the RIBA and ARB in August 2000.

Alan Jones
RIBA Vice President (Education), May 2002

Introduction

The criteria for validation, below, describe the requirements for the recognition of Part 1 Part 2 and Part 3 courses in architecture in the United Kingdom. The criteria incorporate the relevant requirements of the UK Quality Assurance Agency, (QAA) and EU Directive and are considered under five thematic headings: *Design, Technology and Environment, Cultural Context, Management Practice & Law and Communication*. No weightings are given to the separate themes with the exception of *Design*, which is to constitute at least half of assessed work at Part 1 and Part 2. Flexibility and individuality of courses over and above these requirements is encouraged, enabling schools of architecture to respond to opportunities in their own institutional, regional and professional contexts. A course that meets the requirements of the criteria must also provide an opportunity to pursue *related, specialised, or optional* studies. The form and content of *related, specialised and optional* studies are a matter for each institution.

Diversity in course provision is encouraged for programmes that, for example, link architecture with other subjects, emphasise research, develop specialisms and promote advanced degrees. However, such initiatives must not compromise the criteria. Visiting Boards will have to be satisfied that, when considered as a whole, each course provides a coherent educational experience and meets the full requirements of the criteria for validation. Variations in educational practice and innovations in academic programmes must not compromise the delivery of the essential content of these requirements.

Terminology

The terms *awareness*, *knowledge*, *understanding* and *ability* are used in the criteria to indicate the level of achievement required in each theme and student progression through the course of study. The following guidance is given on the definition of these four terms:

- Awareness* acquaintance with general concepts, topics, rules, methods or procedures, without necessarily being able to paraphrase or summarise information. Students should be able to identify the limits of their awareness and be able to refer to source material for more in depth knowledge.
- Knowledge* familiarity with specific information, including facts, definitions, rules, methods, process or settings, without necessarily being able to see its fullest implication or application.
- Understanding* identification, assimilation and comprehension of information. Students can correctly paraphrase or summarise information and can relate it to other material, including its practical application.
- Ability* skill in relating specific information to the accomplishment of tasks. Students can correctly select information that is appropriate to a situation and apply it to the solution of specific problems.

The terms *academic portfolio* and *coherent architectural designs* are also used in the criteria.

The *academic portfolio* is a comprehensive chronological record of a student's design project work together with all course work, including reports, dissertations, sketch books and any other evidence of work, (with project briefs and examination papers), that have been assessed as part of the course leading to an award of Part 1, 2 or 3. The visiting board will examine the *academic portfolios* of a representative sample of students in order to gain a clear understanding of student achievement in each year of the course in all subjects, modules and units for each award.

Coherent architectural designs propose qualitative three-dimensional spatial configurations that are well-planned and meet user and local needs. There will be progression in complexity from Part 1 to Part 2.

Criteria for Validation: Part 1

PART 1: DESIGN

At Part 1 students will demonstrate coherent architectural designs that integrate a knowledge of:

- The ways that analysis, research, context, budget, preparation and development of a brief inform a design proposal
- The regulatory frameworks, and health & safety considerations that guide design and building construction
- Architectural histories and theories, of physical, artistic and cultural contexts, and their use in informing the design process

And ability to:

- Work as part of a team

PART 1: TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

At Part 1 students will demonstrate, within coherent architectural designs and academic portfolio, the ability to integrate knowledge of:

- The principles of building technologies, environmental design and construction methods, in relation to:
 - human well-being
 - the welfare of future generations
 - the natural world
 - consideration of a sustainable environment
 - use of materials
 - process of assembly
 - structural principles
- The impact on design of legislation, codes of practice and health and safety both during the construction and occupation of a project

PART 1: CULTURAL CONTEXT

At Part 1 students will demonstrate within coherent architectural designs and academic portfolio awareness of:

- The influences on the contemporary built environment of individual buildings, the design of cities, past and present societies and wider global issues

Knowledge of:

- The histories and theories of architecture and urban design, the history of ideas, and the related disciplines of art, cultural studies and landscape studies

And ability to:

- Form considered judgements about the spatial, aesthetic, technical and social qualities of a design within the scope and scale of a wider environment
- Reflect upon, and relate their ideas to, a design and to the work of others

PART 1: COMMUNICATION

At Part 1 students will demonstrate within coherent architectural designs and academic portfolio ability to:

- Use visual, verbal and written communication methods and appropriate media (including sketching, modelling, digital and electronic techniques) to clearly and effectively convey and critically appraise design ideas and proposals
- Use the conventions of architectural representation from two-dimensional and three-dimensional graphics to computer generated and physical models
- Listen, and critically respond to, the views of others

PART 1: MANAGEMENT PRACTICE & LAW

At Part 1 students will demonstrate within an academic portfolio an awareness of:

- The principles of business management and how a small business operates

A knowledge of:

- How buildings are designed and built in the context of architectural and professional practice and the framework of the construction industry within which it operates

And ability to:

- Manage and appraise their own working practices, whether working independently or collaboratively

Criteria for Validation: Part 2

PART 2: DESIGN

At Part 2 students will produce and demonstrate coherent and well resolved architectural designs that integrate knowledge of:

- The social, political, economic and professional context that guides building construction

An understanding of:

- Briefs and how to critically appraise them to ensure that the design response is appropriate to site and context, and for reasons such as sustainability and budget
- The regulatory requirements, including the needs of the disabled, health and safety legislation and building regulations and development control, that guide building construction
- An appropriate philosophical approach which reveals an understanding of theory in a cultural context

And ability to:

- Generate and systematically test, analyse and appraise design options, and draw conclusions which display methodological and theoretical rigour
- Work as part of a team

PART 2: TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

At Part 2 students will demonstrate, within coherent architectural designs and academic portfolio, the ability to integrate knowledge of:

- The principles and theories associated with visual, thermal and acoustic environments
- Climatic design and the relationship between climate, built form, construction, life style, energy consumption and human well-being

Understanding of:

- Building technologies, environmental design and construction methods in relation to:
 - human well-being
 - the welfare of future generations
 - the natural world
 - the consideration of a sustainable environment
- The impact on design of legislation, codes of practice and health and safety both during the construction and occupation of a project

And ability to:

- Devise structural and constructional strategies for a complex building or group of buildings, employing integrative knowledge of;
 - structural theories
 - construction techniques and processes
 - the physical properties and characteristics of building materials and components and the environmental impact of specification choices
 - the provision of building services

PART 2: CULTURAL CONTEXT

At Part 2 students will demonstrate within coherent architectural designs and academic portfolio understanding of:

- The influences on the contemporary built environment of individual buildings, the design of cities, past and present societies and wider global issues
- The histories and theories of architecture and urban design, the history of ideas, and the related disciplines of art, cultural studies and landscape studies and its application in critical debate
- The inter relationship between people, buildings and the environment and an understanding of the need to relate buildings and the spaces between them to human needs and scale

And ability to:

- Critically appraise and form considered judgements about the spatial, aesthetic, technical and social qualities of a design within the scope and scale of a wider environment
- Independently define, and critically appraise, their ideas in relation to a design and to the work of others

PART 2: COMMUNICATION

At Part 2 students will demonstrate within coherent architectural designs and academic portfolio understanding of:

- The contribution of other professionals in the design process showing an appropriate use of team working skills, recognising the importance of current methods in the construction industry

And ability to:

- Use visual, verbal and written communication methods and appropriate media (including sketching, modelling, digital and electronic techniques) to represent the testing, analysis and critical appraisal of complex design proposals and their resolution to a range of professionals and lay audiences
- Use architectural representations having critically appraised the most appropriate techniques available
- Produce documentation and reports which are clear, analytical and logical covering a range of architectural issues of culture, theory and design

PART 2: MANAGEMENT PRACTICE & LAW

At Part 2 students will demonstrate within an academic portfolio knowledge of:

- How cost control mechanisms operate within the development of an architectural project

Understanding of:

- The basic principles of business management and factors related to running a design practice and how architects organise, administer and manage an architectural project, recognising current and emerging trends in the construction industry such as partnering, integrated project process, value engineering and risk management
- The inter-relationships of individuals and organisations involved in the procurement and delivery of architectural projects, and how these are defined and effected through a variety of contractual and organisational structures

- The fundamental legal, professional and statutory requirements as they are relevant to building design and practice, with particular reference to matters relating to health & safety and universal design for access.
- The professional duties and responsibilities of architects, as defined and described in the Codes and Standards relating to their professional practice

And ability to:

- Identify and manage individual learning needs so as to prepare for and maintain professional standards commensurate with qualification

Criteria for Validation: Part 3

At Part 3 students will demonstrate within an academic portfolio:

THE CONTEXT FOR PRACTICE

Knowledge of:

- The size and relative importance of the construction industry to other sectors of the national and international economy and the role of the profession relative to the industry
- The overlapping interests of organisations representing the built environment and their relation to the role of the architect
- The range of ongoing specialist panels of advisory, consultative or government bodies which have the responsibility for developing policies which guide or control construction industry practices

Understanding of:

- The social and economic context for investment in the built environment

Ability to:

- Apply principles underlying the law relevant to architectural practice and building procurement
- Act in accordance with the requirements of professional conduct and the concept of 'professionalism'
- Follow codes and standards regulating the profession of architecture
- Demonstrate that health and safety matters are integral to every stage of the design process and execution for those aspects of design for which the architect is responsible

THE MANAGEMENT OF ARCHITECTURE

Awareness of:

- Technical standards and sources of specialist information

Knowledge of:

- Legislation on health and safety and its application to design and construction

Understanding of:

- Appropriate fees, negotiation and fee bidding techniques, bearing in mind the funding and procurement basis for the project, and with reference to other factors listed below
- Integrated project process and project team partnering
- Relevant statutory bodies, construction and development legislation and consultative bodies, and their potential effect on programme, cost and quality of design
- Methods and standards intended to ensure and manage quality standards

Ability to:

- Prepare, in consultation with the client, an acceptable brief and budget, including consultation with others as appropriate. Thereafter, to effectively communicate with the client at every stage of the project
- Assess the variety and appropriateness of project procurement methods and their implications in relation to client requirements and the architectural and professional input required

- Assess the architectural services required to deliver a project effectively and the establishment of appropriate scope of works for all members of the project team; to co-ordinate and integrate the work of other consultants and an awareness of the terms of their appointments
- Programme and manage the flow of information among the members of the design team
- Communicate effectively with each part of the client body and construction team
- Operate quality assurance procedures which ensure the maintenance of design standards and intentions in relation to budgetary and programme control
- Analyse the appropriateness and completeness for its purpose of forms of documentation including written and graphic communication

THE MANAGEMENT OF CONSTRUCTION

Knowledge of:

- Site organisation, mobilisation and the establishment of appropriate lines of communication in relation to the specific responsibilities of the building team
- Methods of dispute resolution, conciliation, adjudication, arbitration, and litigation

Understanding of:

- Project planning, documentation and execution
- The range of methods of building procurement, tender types and codes of practice for procedure, and an ability to identify an appropriate contract strategy and to create pre-contract information
- Value engineering, integrated supply chain management and the principles of lean construction
- The implications of, and ability to apply, collateral agreements such as the nomination of sub contractors and the position of domestic sub contractors, suppliers, manufacturers and statutory undertakings in relation to standard forms of contract
- Risk management in relation to construction and consultants contracts, liabilities, indemnities and insurance and awareness of mechanisms such as insurance to deal with liabilities
- The value of post completion assessment and appraisal and methods of de-briefing
- The maintenance of adequate financial control for cost planning of projects

Ability to:

- Analyse contract types in terms of their implications for time, cost, quality, information flow and the procedures related to each
- Assess and organise a quality control and programming system in relation to the architect's role in administering the building process
- Prepare architect's instructions and certificates appropriately for standard forms of contract, and to implement the procedures for the assessment and valuation of claims
- Create maintenance manuals and post completion information for clients and building users

PRACTICE MANAGEMENT AND BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Awareness of:

- The need and techniques for the protection of intellectual property and copyright
- The various techniques for the marketing of professional services and how architects commissions are obtained
- National and international trends for the distribution and commissioning of architectural projects

Knowledge of:

- The requirements for taxation, health and safety, employment contracts, civil liability, and equal opportunities legislation, etc. on different business structures, including working from home

Understanding of:

- The resources (technical, IT, financial, personnel, etc.) necessary in order to offer professional services for a particular project
- Different forms of architectural practice, for example, sole trader, partnership, company, consortium or joint venture, and their respective legal implications
- The internal structures and organisations appropriate to different forms of architectural and multi-disciplinary practice
- The skills required for the management of people within an organisation and a basic appreciation of motivation, group dynamics, staff appraisal and reward structures
- The techniques and context required to create an effective and efficient ongoing environment for practice
- The financial management of an architectural practice