

# ARCH 3301

B1 Professional Practice

Fall 2023

Instructor: Hadrian Laing

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**Format:** Lecture/Tutorial

**Credit-hours:** 1

**Duration:** October 18 – December 6

**Meeting Times and Rooms:** Wednesday 10:05 - 11:25 am, Sexton Building B, Rm. B311

*Dalhousie University is located in Mi'kma'ki,  
the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq.*

*We are all Treaty people.*

## Course Description

This course offers a comprehensive exploration of the architect's role within society, emphasizing the historical evolution of the architectural profession. It further delves into the various representation techniques employed by architects and examines how these methods impact the design process.

## Additional Description

The practice of architecture is a multifaceted endeavor that seamlessly integrates design, technology, and representational methods with ethical considerations, legal frameworks, and project delivery mechanisms. In order to produce outstanding built environments, architects collaborate with a diverse array of professionals, including engineers, builders, clients, government authorities, and the general public. Gaining a nuanced understanding of how these diverse perspectives contribute to architectural practice is crucial for creating effective and impactful built work.

## Learning Objectives

By the end of this course, students will be equipped to:

- Comprehend the historical trajectory that has shaped the architecture profession.
- Gain insights into the array of tools and technologies used in architectural design and construction.
- Recognize the symbiotic relationships between architects and other professionals involved in the design and construction process.
- Understand that various practice models exist, each with distinct strategies and methods, which in turn influence the architectural outcomes.
- Develop awareness about the importance of advocacy, particularly concerning environmental, social, and cultural issues within the architectural realm.
- Begin to cultivate a sound ethical foundation and the ability to form professional judgments.

## Course Structure

The course consists of four lectures, two group tutorials, and two written and graphic assignments.

## Schedule

*Wednesdays from 10:05 am to 11:25 am*

October 18: The Architect

October 25: Lecture I

November 01: Lecture II

November 08: Lecture III

*November 22: Tutorial I - Session on Manifesto*

*November 29: Tutorial II - Session on Manifesto + SLEQ*

December 6: **Presentation of Manifesto in Exhibition Room**

## Lectures

### Lecture 1: The Role of the Architect

This lecture reviews the course outline and provides an introductory discussion on the role of the architect in society, and evolution throughout history. This will be an opportunity to raise questions at the outset about the class and upcoming assignments.

### Lectures 2 & 3: Exploring Practice Through Case Studies

Building upon the insights gained in the design studio, these two lectures delve into contemporary case studies of architectural practices. Students will explore different models of practice at an introductory level, and scrutinize how each approach influences the resulting architectural work.

### Lecture 4: The Foundations of Architecture

This lecture aims to demystify the process of transforming architectural concepts into built reality. Most architecture is built from almost universally accepted documents and tools. Students will learn about such documents and tools, examining how they interact with adjacent professions, government regulations and community development. Questions like, "What documents and procedures are needed to create a building?", and "How does the work change, and how does the model of practice vary when the documents or procedures evolve?"

## Assignments

### 1. Manifesto Part A (70% of grade)

You are tasked with crafting your own architectural manifesto as a visual poster, supplemented by a textual narrative.

Your manifesto should address one or more of the following themes:

- The architect's role concerning environmental, social, or cultural issues.
- Ethical considerations and the cultivation of professional judgment.
- The significance of architecture in fostering equity, diversity, and inclusion.

Your manifesto should contain at least 500 words of text, which can be either integrated into the visual layout or submitted separately. Citations and references should be appropriately displayed, either on the poster itself or on an accompanying page. This assignment serves as an opportunity to articulate your architectural philosophy, laying the foundation for ongoing dialogue and professional development. Your manifesto could inform your future choices regarding work term placements and career objectives. The manifesto will be printed (recommended size approximately 24" x 33") and presented by each student in the Exhibition Room. Each student will have 1 minute for this potentially school wide presentation. It is encouraged to practice or rehearse beforehand.

*"Many of the [architects] of this century have held passionate convictions regarding the philosophic and social basis of their art. Nearly every important development in the modern architectural movement began with the proclamation of these convictions in the form of a program or manifesto". (Conrads)*

## **2. Manifesto Part B (20% of Grade)**

Now that you have developed your manifesto, and you are in the process of completing your final design project you will reflect on whether the design work is compatible with the manifesto. Within 500 words, outline how you have or have not achieved the ambition of the manifesto and why. Each student will submit a pdf version of their assignment for grading purposes on Brightspace.

## **3. Weekly attendance and participation in final presentation. (10% of grade)**

### **Submission**

- Manifestos to be presented in person in the Exhibition room, December 6, 2023
- Manifesto Part A and Part B submitted digitally in pdf format on Brightspace as separate files on December 6, 2023 by no later than 5:00 pm.
- Submit citations with Part A and Part B
- Title your file: surname\_firstname\_A[orB].pdf for easy identification
- Include these assignments in your process portfolio

### **Evaluation (see rubric for more details)**

Evaluation of the work will be by the instructor. It will be based on:

- The clarity of the writing in communicating your position
- The clarity and skill of graphic presentation supporting your position in the manifesto
- The depth of the research supporting the work

### **University standards for individual assignments:**

A– to A+ (80–100%: excellent): Considerable evidence of original thinking; outstanding capacity to analyze and synthesize; outstanding grasp of subject matter; evidence of extensive knowledge base.

B– to B+ (70–79%: good): Evidence of grasp of subject matter, some evidence of critical capacity and analytical ability; reasonable understanding of relevant issues; evidence of familiarity with the literature.

C– to C+ (55–69%: satisfactory): Evidence of some understanding of the subject matter; ability to develop solutions to simple problems.

D (50–54%: marginal pass): Evidence of minimally acceptable familiarity with subject matter, critical and analytical skills.

F (0–49%: inadequate): Insufficient evidence of understanding of the subject matter; weakness in critical and analytical skills; limited or irrelevant use of the literature.

## Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

The Faculty of Architecture and Planning is committed to recognizing and addressing racism, sexism, xenophobia, and other forms of oppression within academia and the professions of architecture and planning. We, the faculty, are working to address issues of historic normalization of oppressive politics, segregation, and community disempowerment, which continues within our disciplines today.

## Due Dates and Late Submissions

Deductions for late submissions encourage time management and maintain fairness among students.

	Due date	Is a late assignment accepted?	If so, what is the deduction per weekday?*	Is there a final deadline for a late submission?	What happens after that?
Manifesto Part A	Dec 6 <sup>th</sup>	yes	3%	Dec 8 <sup>th</sup> , 2023	receives 0% and no comments
Manifesto Part B	Dec 6 <sup>th</sup>	yes	3%	Dec 8 <sup>th</sup> , 2023	receives 0% and no comments

\* For example, if an assignment is evaluated at 75% before applying a 3%-per-weekday deduction, it would receive 72% for being 1–24 hours late; 69% for 25–48 hours late; etc.

### Note:

The following University or School policies take precedence over course-specific policies:

- No late assignments are accepted after the last day of weekly classes (the Friday before review week).
- With a Student Declaration of Absence (maximum two per course), an assignment may be submitted up to three weekdays late without penalty. An SDA cannot be used for the final assignment.
- With a medical note submitted to the School office, a course assignment (including a final assignment) may be submitted more than three weekdays late without penalty. The number of weekdays depends on how long you were unable to work, as indicated in the medical note. If more than one course is affected, you should consult with the Undergraduate/Graduate Coordinator to set a new schedule of due dates.
- A student with an accessibility plan that allows for deadline extensions does not need to submit an SDA.

For citing sources, see [tinyurl.com/chicago-author-date](https://tinyurl.com/chicago-author-date) (Chicago Manual of Style)

Plagiarism detection software will not be used

PDFs of lectures will be provided and students may record lectures

Students will receive feedback on Brightspace.

## University Policies and Resources

This course is governed by the academic rules and regulations set forth in the University Calendar and the Senate. See the School of Architecture's "Academic Regulations" page (<http://tinyurl.com/dal-arch-regulations>) for a summary of university policies affecting academic courses:

- Academic integrity
- Accessibility
- Code of student conduct
- Culture of respect
- Equity, diversity, and inclusion
- Student declaration of absence
- Recognition of Mi'kmaq territory
- Work safety
- Services available to students, including writing support
- Fair dealing guidelines (copyright)
- Dalhousie University Library

## Academic Support

Please speak to me or go to <https://www.dal.ca/campuslife/academic-support.html>

## References

No specific textbook is required for the course. References for those interested in additional information on lectures:

Lecture 1: Kostof, S. 1977. *The Architect. Chapters in the History of the Profession*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Lecture 4: Ardiel, Donald, ed. 2021. *Royal Architectural Institute of Canada, and National Practice Program. Canadian Handbook of Practice for Architects*. Ottawa: Royal Architecture Institute of Canada. <https://chop.raic.ca/>

Manifesto: Conrads, U, ed. 1997. *Programs and Manifestoes on 20th-Century Architecture*. Cambridge: MIT Press.

### Some suggestions for helping you develop your manifesto:

Fisher, Thomas. 2010. *Ethics for Architects: 50 Dilemmas of Professional Practice*. New York: Princeton Architectural Press.

Fitz, Angelika, Elke Krasny, Brian Dorsey, Timothy Savage, and Wien Architektur Zentrum. 2019. *Critical Care: Architecture and Urbanism for a Broken Planet*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: MIT Press.

Klinenberg, Eric. 2018. *Palaces for the People: How Social Infrastructure can help Fight Inequality, Polarization, and the Decline of Civic Life*. New York: Crown.

Till, Jeremy. 2009. *Architecture Depends*. Cambridge: MIT Press.

### Rubric for Manifesto: Part A

Criteria	Excellent	Good	Satisfactory	Marginal Pass	Inadequate
Clarity of writing in communicating your position	Considerable evidence of original thinking. Outstanding capacity to communicate your position	Good evidence of original thinking. Good capacity to communicate your position	Evidence of some original thinking. Some capacity to communicate your position	Marginal evidence of original thinking. Marginal capacity to communicate your position	Inadequate evidence of original thinking. Insufficient capacity to communicate your position
Clarity and skill of the graphic presentation supporting the Manifesto	Considerable evidence of skill and craft of graphic presentation	Good evidence of skill and craft of graphic presentation	Satisfactory evidence of skill and craft of graphic presentation	Marginal evidence of skill and craft of graphic presentation	Inadequate evidence of skill and craft of graphic presentation
Depth of Research	Considerable evidence of research	Good evidence of research	Satisfactory evidence of research	Marginal evidence of research	Inadequate evidence of research

### Rubric for Manifesto: Part B

Criteria	Excellent	Good	Satisfactory	Marginal Pass	Inadequate
Clarity of writing in communicating your position	Considerable evidence of original thinking. Outstanding capacity to communicate your position	Good evidence of original thinking. Good capacity to communicate your position	Evidence of some original thinking. Some capacity to communicate your position	Marginal evidence of original thinking. Marginal capacity to communicate your position	Inadequate evidence of original thinking. Insufficient capacity to communicate your position

### Rubric for Attendance

Criteria	Excellent	Good	Satisfactory	Marginal Pass	Inadequate
Class participation and attendance	100% Lecture attendance	80% Lecture attendance	60% Lecture attendance	40% Lecture attendance	0% Lecture attendance

October 16, 2023