

# HA2F7-15 Modern Architecture and the Historic City

**23/24**

**Department**

SCAPVC - History of Art

**Level**

Undergraduate Level 2

**Module leader**

Sarah Walford

**Credit value**

15

**Module duration**

10 weeks

**Assessment**

100% coursework

**Study location**

Warwick in Venice

---

## Description

### Introductory description

This module looks at the relationship of modern architecture to tradition and historic cities.

### Module aims

The aim of this module is to examine the way that modernist architects and planners engaged with historical legacies of cities. The module is taught through lectures, seminars and site visits, in Venice and its surrounding area. It explores its urban area as a case study in conjunction with pertinent texts about the contested legacies of architectural modernism, in issues ranging from conservation to town planning. The module begins with the emergence of urban planning and the conservationist movement in the 19th century, continues through the rise of international modernism in the 20th century, and concludes with postmodernism and new technologies associated with contemporary architectural practice.

### Outline syllabus

This is an indicative module outline only to give an indication of the sort of topics that may be

covered. Actual sessions held may differ.

- Introduction
- The International Style versus national modernisms
- Ruskin and the development of the conservation movement world-wide
- Urban Planning
- Urban Photography
- Modern Venice: Eugenio Miozzi
- Carlo Scarpa: restoration and renewal
- Le Corbusier's global reach
- Venice 1960s & 1970s
- Contemporary Bridges

## Learning outcomes

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of the contested place of history and tradition within modern architectural practice
- Demonstrate an understanding of the varieties of international architectural modernism(s)
- Relate the urban history of Venice in the twentieth century to wider trends and ideas in international architecture
- Demonstrate a working knowledge of the architectural history of the periods
- Read and interpret maps and architectural plans.
- Demonstrate knowledge of relationships between architectural form and function.
- Situate buildings and urban developments within their historical, social and political contexts.
- initiate and sustain group discussion through intelligent questioning and debate at an appropriate level
- ability to undertake research and to write up the results in the form of a well-structured argument at an appropriate level
- familiarity with essential ICT skills
- ability to collaborate effectively with others
- show understanding of diverse viewpoints
- ability to find, select, organize and synthesize evidence
- ability to formulate a sustained argument
- think conceptually and independently at an appropriate level
- Demonstrate bibliographical skills at an appropriate level
- Analyse cultural artefacts in their context

## Indicative reading list

Filippo Bricolo, 'Carlo Scarpa and the story of Castelvechio. Narratological analysis of the Sculpture Gallery', *Festival dell'Architettura Magazine*, Vol 0, Iss 45/46 (2019), pp 38-47

Eugene Le Corbusier, 'The Venice Hospital' in *Œuvre complète Volume 8: 1965-1969*, ed. Willy Boesiger, Basel, 2015

Adrian Forty, *Concrete and Culture: A Material History*, London, 2012

Miles Glendinning, *The Conservation Movement: a History of Architectural Preservation*, New

York, 2013

Sarah Goldhagen, 'Something to Talk About: Modernism, Discourse, Style', *The Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians*, 64.2 (2005), pp. 144-167

Peter Hall, *Cities of Tomorrow – an Intellectual History of Urban Planning and Design since 1880*, Wiley-Blackwell, 2014

Eugenio Miozzi. *Modern Venice between Innovation and Tradition 1931–1969*, Clemens F. Kusch (ed), Berlin, 2021

Andrés Ros Campos, 'Carlo Scarpa: architecture, abstraction and museology', *VLC Arquitectura*, Vol 6, Iss 2 (2019), pp 147-174

Mahnaz Shah, *Le Corbusier's Venice Hospital Project. An Investigation into its Structural Formulation*, London, 2017

Shabnam Yazdani Mehr, 'Analysis of 19th and 20th Century Conservation Key Theories in Relation to Contemporary Adaptive Reuse of Heritage Buildings', *Heritage 2* (2019).

[View reading list on Talis Aspire](#)

## International

This module is taught in Venice through class-based learning, on-site seminars and external study visits. It enables students to live and study in another country and culture.

## Subject specific skills

By the end of the module students should be able to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of the contested place of history and tradition within modern architectural practice
- Demonstrate an understanding of the varieties of international architectural modernism(s)
- Relate the urban history of Venice in the twentieth century to wider trends and ideas in international architecture
- Demonstrate a working knowledge of the architectural history of the periods
- Read and interpret maps and architectural plans
- Demonstrate knowledge of relationships between architectural form and function
- Situate buildings and urban developments within their historical, social and political contexts

## Transferable skills

By the end of the module students should be able to

- initiate and sustain group discussion through intelligent questioning and debate at an appropriate level
- ability to undertake research and to write up the results in the form of a well-structured argument at an appropriate level
- familiarity with essential ICT skills
- ability to collaborate effectively with others
- show understanding of diverse viewpoints
- ability to find, select, organize and synthesize evidence

- ability to formulate a sustained argument
  - think conceptually and independently at an appropriate level
  - employ conceptual and visual analysis
  - demonstrate bibliographical skills at an appropriate level
  - analyse cultural artefacts in their context
- 

## Study

### Study time

Type	Required
Lectures	8 sessions of 2 hours (11%)
Seminars	4 sessions of 2 hours (5%)
External visits	2 sessions of 8 hours (11%)
Other activity	2 hours (1%)
Private study	108 hours (72%)
Total	150 hours

### Private study description

Required and recommended reading for lectures, on site seminars and presentations, external visits and research/writing of portfolio; independent viewing and studying of sites, buildings, monuments.

### Other activity description

orientation; discussion of assessment

### Costs

Category	Description	Funded by	Cost to student
Field trips, placements and study abroad	Site visits	Department	£0.00

---

## Assessment

You do not need to pass all assessment components to pass the module.

### Assessment group A

	<b>Weighting</b>	<b>Study time</b>	<b>Eligible for self-certification</b>
Portfolio	50%		No
Portfolio covering development and providing evidence of independent study of sites, buildings and monuments demonstrating skills of visual and contextual analysis.			
Spoken engagement	10%		No
Spoken Engagement			
Slide test	40%		No
Image analysis exam			

### **Feedback on assessment**

Written feedback and dedicated feedback tutorials

---

## **Availability**

### **Courses**

This module is Core option list A for:

- Year 2 of UHAA-V3R3 Undergraduate History of Art with Italian