

Course Guide: Sustainable Environments 2659QCA

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Course Description

This course provides students with an introduction to leading concepts of sustainability (ecological worldview, circular design, bio-inspired design, biophilia) and their application to Interior/Spatial Design. Students will be trained to become ecological design thinkers who can integrate sustainability into their conceptual and practical processes.

Course Introduction

In the last decade there has been a subtle but noticeable shift in global conversations of sustainability –one which has ultimately seen negative assumptions of sustainable practice (framed by ideas of scarcity, restraint and despair) reimagined through a lens of creativity, abundance, pleasure and hope. This new direction not only advocates for the environmentally sensitive management of waste and resources, but also makes space for novel possibilities and ways of working that forefront socio-ecological values. The design sector is finding itself at an exciting moment of transition, a time when wider sustainability approaches are engendering new values and aesthetics. This subject explores models of ecological practice across the build environments and related industries and their application to Interior/Spatial disciplines.

Objectives:

- To understand key concepts of sustainability and ecological design thinking
- To engage with sustainability concepts through written reflections, hands-on making and conceptual design processes
- To develop conceptual ideas that apply ecological design thinking to product/interior/spatial contexts
- To successfully bring an ecological design idea to a hypothetical and practical resolution
- To effectively communicate design ideas through computer-aided design tools

Learning Outcomes:

- Effectively locate and gather information associated with both practice and research through a variety of mediums and information sources
- Understand sustainable principles and their application to interior/spatial design practices
- Transform conceptual design ideas into a detailed solution that takes into account sustainability, materials, user experience and construction methods
- Be able to articulate a design outcome through computer aided design tools

Assessments:

Portfolio 1: Sustainability Concepts

Worth: 30%

Assessment Type: Individual

Task: This portfolio will cover a series of reflection exercises in response to the weekly lectures and tutorials.

Due: Friday 7th Aug (11:59pm) Week 4

Criteria: Worth 20% each

1. **Quality of overall portfolio:** well set out and presented, visually distinctive, unique and informative
2. **Response to Week 1 exercises (Sustainability):** demonstrated understanding of key concept/s, well expressed, original, creative and reflective
3. **Response to Week 2 exercises (ecological worldview):** demonstrated understanding of key concept/s, well expressed, original, creative and reflective
4. **Response to Week 3 exercises (circular design):** demonstrated understanding of key concept/s, well expressed, original, creative and reflective
5. **Response to Week 4 exercises (bio-inspired design):** demonstrated understanding of key concept/s, well expressed, original, creative and reflective

Portfolio 2: Biophilic Design Realisation

Worth: 30%

Assessment Type: Individual

Task: This portfolio will document the process, development and outcome of a small-scale biophilic artefact that is realised using sustainable construction methods.

Due: Friday 4th September (11:59pm) Week 7

Criteria: Worth 20% each

1. **Quality of overall portfolio:** well set out and presented, visually distinctive, unique and informative
2. **Design Concept:** strong idea relevant to topic, well researched and developed through text and visual mediums (e.g. annotations & sketches), evidence of sustainability considerations
3. **Design Development:** Clear progression from design concept; evidence of sustainability considerations in construction methods; originality of approach, comprehensive documentation of construction process through text and visual mediums (e.g. annotation & photography)
4. **Design Outcome:** Quality of final outcome, evidence of biophilic connection and sustainability considerations; clear documentation of final outcome through annotation & photography
5. **Reflective essay:** well expressed, clear, original, critical and reflective

Portfolio 3: Installation Design

Worth: 40%

Assessment Type: Groups (2 students)

Task: This portfolio will document the process, development and outcome of a small-scale installation design concept using computer-aided design tools.

Due: Friday 9th October (11:59pm) Week 12

Criteria:

1. **Quality of overall portfolio 10%:** well set out and presented, visually distinctive, unique and informative
2. **Design Concept 20%:** strong idea relevant to topic; well researched and developed through text and visual mediums (e.g. annotations & sketches, precedent studies); evidence of sustainability considerations; evidence of iterative thinking.
3. **Design Development 30%:** Clear progression from design concept; evidence of iterative thinking; evidence of sustainability considerations in materials and construction methods; originality of approach; comprehensive documentation of design concept through plans, sections, elevations, materials and finishes.
4. **Design Outcome 30%:** Quality of final outcome expressed through computer-aided design tools that provide a comprehensive understanding of the 'design experience' that 'sells' the idea
5. **Reflective essay (individual component) 10%:** well expressed, clear, original, critical and reflective

SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENTS: SCHEDULE T2 2020				
W	Date Wednesdays	Lecture	Tutorials	Homework
1	15 July	Introduction: What is sustainability?		
2	22 nd July	Ecological Worldview		
3	29 th July	Circular Design		
4	5 th August	Bio-inspired Design		
	7 th Aug	Portfolio #1: Sustainability Concepts Due (30%)		
BREAK				
5	19 th Aug	Biophilic Design		
6	26 th Aug	Biophilic Design Concept & Development		
7	2 nd Sept	Biophilic Design Resolution		
	4 th Sept	Portfolio #2: Biophilic Design Realisation Due (30%)		
8	9 th Sept	Installation Design & Immersive Environments (Brief for portfolio #3)		
9	16 th Sept	Installation Design: Concept		
10	23 rd Sept	Installation Design: Development		
11	30 th Sept	Installation Design: Refinement		
12	7 th Oct	Installation Design Resolution (Hand in Portfolio #3)		
	9 th Oct	Portfolio #3: Installation Design Due (40%)		