As an architect you design for the present, with an awareness of the past, for a future which is essentially unknown.

Norman Foster
Architect

Architecture, and the role of the architect, is constantly evolving. It’s about so much more than just creating beautiful buildings. It’s about utilising space through smart design, applying imagination and innovation responsibly within a world of finite resources, and shaping environments to leave a positive legacy for future generations. It’s blending form and function with conscience and craft.

Design your future.
Design our world.

www.reading.ac.uk/architecture
Architects have the potential to change lives. Our students’ learning is deeply embedded within the context of the real world: rapid urbanisation, society’s needs, the digital age, climate change and the depletion of natural resources.

We are internationally recognised for our research and teaching, ranked 3rd in the UK for research impact in Architecture, Built Environment and Planning,¹ and we are the joint sixth-highest ranking UK university for Architecture/Built Environment.² This wealth of expertise offered by our team, including sustainable cities, retrofit and regeneration, and digital practices, contributes directly to our course.

You will benefit from our relevant curriculum and outstanding facilities, which are complemented by prestigious industry partnerships and the opportunity to work on real-life projects. As a creative and ambitious student, we will strive to prepare you for the architectural profession of tomorrow.³³

Professor Lorraine Farrelly
Head of the School of Architecture

¹Times Higher Education Institutions Ranked by Subject, 2014, based on its analysis of REF 2014. ²QS World University Rankings by Subject, 2019.
Flora believes that good architecture is integral to happiness and wellbeing. She is passionate that architects should communicate their value, through an increased focus on research and evidence, in order to continue improving lives.

As Professor of Architecture in the Built Environment at Reading, Flora’s groundbreaking work is benefitting students first-hand: she is a driving force behind the School’s ethos that excellent architectural education should balance practical knowledge with skills in academic research. Flora is pushing research higher up the architectural agenda as the first Vice President for Research of the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA).

An increased focus on research and the creation of an evidence base better equips architects to communicate their value to clients, policymakers and the public, thus enabling them to continue designing productive, healthy and inspiring spaces. Flora believes that tomorrow’s architects will be instrumental in conveying architecture as affordable, accessible and vital. Reading’s students have the opportunity to develop research skills and learn to overcome modern-world issues, such as sustainability, spatial constraints, and affordable living, as they work on real projects with industry partners, tackling relevant problems; and they learn to successfully communicate their value in a language accessible to everyone.

At Reading, Flora and her colleagues are developing a new generation of architects, active researchers with a formidable skill set, able to communicate their value and thus improve the overall quality of our world.
Architect Emily Pallot is recognizing the mutual benefits of close collaboration between architectural education and industry. She believes that a hands-on, immersive experience is the key to equipping new generation of architects with specialist insight to excel in this competitive field.

Emily is an Associate and Studio Leader with the rapidly expanding architectural firm Ayre Chamberlain Gaunt. Winners of the 2017 European ‘Young Architect of the Year Award’ and ‘2018 WAN Practice of the Year Award – Winner’, the practice is passionate about giving architecture students a vital head start in the industry, an initiative which Emily is helping to design and lead.

Emily is one of the practitioners contributing to the School of Architecture module, “Industry Practice – the Business Context of Architecture”, which focuses on bridging the gap between theory and practice to prepare students for their professional careers. From lectures, workshops, internships, and construction site visits, to tours of the practice and interviews with different members of the Ayre Chamberlain Gaunt studio, Reading’s students are given precious insights into the realities of working life as an architect.

From her own experience, Emily believes that Reading offers a much-needed and unique opportunity for its architecture students. Whilst upholding the importance of architectural theory, she deems real-world practice an important tool in putting students’ skills into action.

I’m impressed by the scale and depth of exposure to industry that Reading’s Architecture students are given – it’s truly unique. As an employer, I see first-hand how this will set them apart from other graduates.

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Penelope is using her experience and skills as an architect to improve people’s lives in Caracas, Venezuela. Her awareness of the fractures within the community, together with a desire to improve their overall quality of life, led her to create urban interventions to bring people together and reclaim her hometown from the extreme violence that dominates it.

As a lecturer at the University of Reading, she uses her international experience to demonstrate how architecture can be a catalyst for creating positive social change, through the way we design and inhabit our built environment.

Penelope applies the architectural approaches she teaches to tackle Caracas’ social problems with small-scale intervention for a significant social impact. She works to lessen the fear of becoming a victim of violence by encouraging people to reinhabit their streets and reclaim ownership of public spaces.

Through her not-for-profit organisation, CollectiVoX, Penelope devotes her free time to collaborating with communities, cultural organisations and local government to co-create projects that foster an inclusive, participative and playful reoccupation and use of urban space.

One of CollectiVoX’s projects that Reading students learn about is “CCSen365” which invites the public to reconcile with Caracas by rediscovering shared memories and their love for the city through urban walks. Penelope sees this as an act of urban resilience, focusing their efforts on reframing places in Caracas with new and positive memories.

By learning first-hand about socially transformative projects, students at Reading gain a perceptive, empathetic lens through which to view architecture, and develop a broader appreciation for the wider impact architectural design has on society.

I realised that as an architect I not only had the creativity and skills to design and make buildings, but also to positively transform how a city is perceived and inhabited.
Bob believes that architects need to imagine how cities will evolve, and then design to accommodate that change. Architects should think beyond a building, to the way it interacts with its surroundings and how it sits within wider urban systems, as well as its relation to cultural, commercial and environmental contexts. By combining creativity with this responsible view of the architect’s role, Bob designs places that work for society.

This ethos is shared at Reading where students study architecture in context. As a Visiting Professor and Founding Partner of Allies and Morrison, Bob delivers lectures and workshops, and participates in critiques, offering students a unique perspective of an architectural practice working at all scales.

This work includes the redevelopment of King’s Cross in London. There, Bob and his team created a new piece of city, one that is cohesive yet fits into the context of the existing area. They designed and built an urban structure for a diverse mix of uses – offices, homes, shops, galleries and even a university – embedded in one of the UK’s most significant industrial heritage sites. Key to this was a network of public open spaces – streets, lanes, squares and parks – which make connections beyond the site and knit into the fabric of the city.

Bob’s approach insists that buildings are not designed as standalone; he considers their impact on their neighbours, the spaces in-between and around the buildings, and on the people who will use it. He hopes that Allies and Morrison can invite Reading students into their practice to learn more about this innovative way they work in the UK and overseas.

Bob grew up in Reading and his practice is currently involved in the future evolution of its town centre. He’s intrigued to work with and mentor Reading’s developing architects, to pass along his knowledge to the next generation.
Work alongside leading academics and industry experts to experience the architectural profession for yourself through live projects and field trips. To enhance your studies, we offer visits to construction sites, architectural projects and professional offices. These visits offer insight into architectural working environments, and enable you to see new and cutting edge practices implemented in relevant settings. This first-hand experience will aid you in developing the hands-on technical and professional skills needed to succeed in the global building design industry.

Turning ideas into reality
You can explore and extend your ideas further through a range of live projects with our industry partners and experienced architects as part of your course. In 2017, our first-year students, in collaboration with award-winning architect, broadcaster and University of Reading PhD student, Piers Taylor, designed and built a gridshell wooden structure, which formed a visual focus to their End of Year Show. Building this structure allows the students another perspective on architecture – but also allows them to escape their drawing boards and computer screens and build something significant and beautiful for real. This live project enabled students to incorporate making into design, allowing them to discover a world of shape and form, and the relationship between components, only accessible through the physicality of materials. The students received hands-on experience of collaborating on a real construction project, replicating a professional working environment by working to a schedule, learning about changes through making and working as a team to overcome the challenges of a 3D full-size project.

Explore through a different lens
We also offer optional field trips to cities such as London, Amsterdam, Venice and Berlin. Guided by academic staff, you will view architectural structures across a range of scales, and experience architecture from different cultures and perspectives. Architecture needs to be seen and experienced live, and in full-scale, to understand the implications of space, form and physical context. This live project enabled students to incorporate making into design, allowing them to discover a world of shape and form, and the relationship between components, only accessible through the physicality of materials. The students received hands-on experience of collaborating on a real construction project, replicating a professional working environment by working to a schedule, learning about changes through making and working as a team to overcome the challenges of a 3D full-size project.

BRINGING DESIGN TO LIFE

Piers Taylor
We have developed a course that is closely aligned with industry, designed to meet the needs of today’s students and tomorrow’s society.

Through our renowned team of staff we have established connections with leading local, national and international architects, and with the broader construction and property sectors globally. By collaborating with industry partners to create our course, we offer exciting opportunities for you to work across disciplines to develop the skills needed for architecture in the twenty-first century.

**Building your network**

We regularly welcome internationally acclaimed architects and construction specialists to the School who share their personal projects and experiences with you. Practitioners help you explore alternative career pathways within the industry, and offer insight into architectural practices and ways of working.

Learning alongside and networking with current professionals also opens doors for you across industry, which may lead to work experience or summer placement opportunities to enhance your employability.

**Replicating an architectural environment**

At Reading we aim to prepare you to work across disciplines, reflecting real ways of working within industry, with Architecture sitting alongside Construction Management and Engineering within the School of the Built Environment.

Our interdisciplinary approach enables you to work on joint projects with your peers. For example, you can take the opportunity to learn from experts in Real Estate and Planning within Henley Business School to gain a broader understanding of urban planning and how it will affect future design.

"I developed both my architectural and professional skills on a ten-week internship with Ayre Chamberlain Gaunt. Working on some really exciting and varied projects, in a rapidly developing company, was a brilliant introduction to the industry."

Daniel Wightman
Year 2 student

**Immersion in our dedicated studio space, we will support you to become the architect you aspire to be.**

We have redesigned and refitted an interesting, characterful building on campus, re-purposing an old library, to provide a stunning home for the School of Architecture. It reflects our ethos and replicates the working environment of professional architects.

**Space for your creativity**

You will have access to a designated desk and space within our creative design studio, as well as seven day-a-week access to our facilities. This unique space enables you to work uninterrupted on your projects – you don’t have to tidy away at the end of each day, and can continue working on your design project when you’re ready. Daily access allows you to work flexibly, at a time that suits you.

"The latest toolkit"  

We have invested in a range of cutting edge digital technologies, including 3D printing, laser-cutting and immersive virtual reality environments. You will be able to draw on our team’s expertise in digital practices, such as digital visualisation and 3D modelling, as well as in more traditional practices, including freehand drawing and model-making. These technologies, combined with our expertise, offer you the opportunity to learn creatively and develop your skills in utilising important architectural tools and techniques.

"The University of Reading’s facilities expose Architecture students to a broad range of analogue and digital media, both conceptually and through active exploration relating to the studio project, enabling students to develop essential skills for future professional practice."

Dr Laura Maftei  
Lecturer in Digital Technologies,  
School of the Built Environment
**OUR BSc (Hons) ARCHITECTURE**

This balanced degree offers you a focus on social advancement, design and industry, taught by experienced practising architects and leading academics. Together we explore the social, cultural and environmental challenges facing tomorrow’s architects.

The course includes taught modules in design and supporting studies. These aim to develop your understanding of core academic subjects, related practical skills, and enable you to prepare a digital and physical portfolio.

In your first two years all the modules are compulsory. In your third year, you can choose two modules from a range of options, including a career development module which incorporates work experience. This module is designed to help you put theory into practice, enhancing your employability, and developing your professional network.

**Fund your future**

If you join the BSc Architecture course in 2020, you will have the opportunity to apply for an annual £1,000 scholarship for each of the three years of the undergraduate degree (subject to conditions).

Further information can be found at [www.reading.ac.uk/architecture/scholarships-2020](http://www.reading.ac.uk/architecture/scholarships-2020)

**A professional qualification**

Our BSc (Hons) Architecture course has been prescribed by the Architects Registration Board (ARB) under the Architects Act 1997. To gain a professional architecture qualification you must study on a prescribed course.

The Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) has validated our degree formally recognising that our degree achieves the standards needed to prepare students for the professional practice of architecture.

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**RIBA commends the School of Architecture’s distinctiveness and relevance in its ambition to create a new generation of architects. Their students investigate topical issues and work on quality design projects, in a strong student-centred and student-led culture.**

Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA)

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 1</th>
<th>Year 2</th>
<th>Year 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Compulsory modules</strong></td>
<td><strong>Compulsory modules</strong></td>
<td><strong>Compulsory modules</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Architecture design: an introduction to studio</td>
<td>Architecture design: skills in architectural design 1</td>
<td>Architecture design: complexity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Architecture design: an introduction to site</td>
<td>Architecture design: skills in architectural design 2</td>
<td>Architecture design: integration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History and theory of architecture: an introduction</td>
<td>History and theory of architecture: buildings and places</td>
<td>History and theory of architecture: architecture and the city</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction technology in architecture: an introduction</td>
<td>Construction technology in architecture: core studies</td>
<td>Construction technology in architecture: integration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visualisation and communication in architectural design: an introduction</td>
<td>Visualisation and communication in architectural design: digital media</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 3</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Optional modules</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Industry and practice: the business context of architecture</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Industry and practice: the business of projects</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industry and practice: the business and practice of architecture</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Construction technology in architecture: core studies</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Construction technology in architecture: integration</td>
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**Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA)**

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**Validated course in architecture**

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THE APPLICATION PROCESS

The application process normally includes submitting a portfolio and a personal statement, followed by an interview. Subject to a successful assessment of your application you may be invited for interview. At the interview we will discuss your motivation to study architecture and will talk through your portfolio, discussing your approaches to drawing and design.

If you are based overseas you will have the option to submit a digital portfolio and will be invited for a Skype discussion in lieu of a face-to-face interview. Should your portfolio meet the required standard, you may be invited for interview.

At the interview we will discuss your motivation to study architecture and will talk through your portfolio, discussing your approaches to drawing and design.

The portfolio should contain a mixture of 2-dimensional and 3-dimensional pieces. This may include any of the following:

- hand-drawn sketches of places, spaces or buildings
- photographic studies
- collage, mixed media
- analytical drawings
- computer-aided design (CAD)
- images made by using Photoshop or other software
- graphic design, website design
- photographs of 3D work, such as: sculpture, art installation, scale models
- photographs of work in progress forming part of Art/Design studies.

Please visit www.reading.ac.uk/architecture-portfolios to find out more about the application process and what to include in your portfolio.

Personal statement
In your personal statement it will be important to explain your ambitions and any experience or skills you have which relate to the study of architecture, as well as your motivation to undertake the course. In addition, you should describe any experiences or extracurricular activities which have influenced your decision to study architecture.
Disclaimer
This brochure was issued in 2019 and is aimed at prospective undergraduate students wishing to apply for a place at the University of Reading (the University) and start a course in autumn 2020. The brochure describes, in outline, the courses and services offered by the School of Architecture at the University. The University makes every effort to ensure that the information provided in the brochure is accurate and up-to-date at the time of going to press (December 2019). However, it may be necessary for the University to make some changes to the information presented in the brochure following publication – for example, where it is necessary to reflect changes in practice or theory in an academic subject as a result of emerging research; or if an accrediting body requires certain course content to be added or removed. To make an informed and up-to-date decision, we recommend that you check www.reading.ac.uk/ready-to-study for up-to-date information.

The University undertakes to take all reasonable steps to provide the services (including the courses) described in this brochure. It does not, however, guarantee the provision of such services. Should industrial action or circumstances beyond the control of the University interfere with its ability to provide the services, the University undertakes to use all reasonable steps to minimise any disruption to the services.

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Modules disclaimer
Sample modules are provided as a taster of some of the modules that may be available on this course. The sample modules listed may be compulsory (core) or optional modules. Information is correct at the time of going to press (December 2019) but the University cannot guarantee that a module appearing in this list will definitely run. Teaching staff on specific courses or modules, or relationships with specific architectural firms mentioned in this brochure may be subject to change.

For optional modules, the University cannot guarantee that all optional modules will be available to students who may wish to take them, although the University will try to ensure that students are able to take optional modules in which they have expressed interest at the appropriate time during their course. Optional modules vary from year to year and entry to them will be at the discretion of the Course Director.

Some modules are available on more than one course; if you see a sample module under one course and want to know if it is available on another course, contact the relevant department.

Image Acknowledgements
‘Building Relationships’ gatefold image (Alpine Place, Ayre Chamberlain Gaunt) © Hufton + Crow Photography

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‘Urban Space Man’ image (Granary Square, King’s Cross) © John Sturrock / King’s Cross Central Limited Partnership

‘The Application Process’ sketch (The Quay) © Ayre Chamberlain Gaunt

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Ask us a question
www.reading.ac.uk/question