Course guide
290804 - IADR1 - Introduction to Architectural Design-Based Research I

Last modified: 08/07/2025

Unit in charge:	Vallès School of Architecture
Teaching unit:	735 - PA - Department of Architectural Design.

Degree:	MASTER'S DEGREE IN ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN ECOLOGY IN THE DIGITAL AGE (Syllabus 2025). (Compulsory subject).

Academic year: 2025   **ECTS Credits:** 3.0   **Languages:** English

LECTURER

Coordinating lecturer:	Academic Coordination: Lluís Ortega
Others:	Teaching faculty: Course 1: Archives and Libraries: Moisés Puente Course 2: Barcelona Lab TBA Course 3: Seminar Pro Lluís Ortega Course 4: Thesis intro Tutors

PRIOR SKILLS

No previous skills required

REQUIREMENTS

No previous skills required

TEACHING METHODOLOGY

Course 1: Archives and Libraries
The in-person classes will take place at the facilities of the College of Architects of Catalonia (COAC), in the city center, and will include lectures and a theoretical exercise
on editorial topics.Course 2: Barcelona Lab
Classes will consist on field trips and critical discussions with professionals
Course 3: Seminar Pro
Classes will consist on seminar format with individual presentations and critical collective debates
Course 4: Thesis intro
Classes will consist on seminar format with individual presentations and critical collective debates

LEARNING OBJECTIVES OF THE SUBJECT

K1.2 Relate historical and contemporary architectural project references.

K3.1 Illustrate the possible relationships between different disciplines relevant to the architectural proposal.

K4.1 Identify the necessary methodology for research framed within the architectural project.

K4.2 Identify basic references and necessary procedures for research framed within the architectural project.

S1.1 Relate critical arguments and architectural proposals during the design process.

S4.3 Synthesize the project's arguments and description orally, graphically, and in writing.

C1.1 Develop a design methodology specific to the research topic and the existing systems of the project site.

C6.2 Manage the structuring and analysis of data and information necessary for the development of the architectural project in systemic terms.

*k (knowledge); S(Skills); C (Competences)

CONTENTS

title english

Description:
INTRODUCTION TO ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN-BASED RESEARCH I

Related activities:
Course 1: Archive and Libraries
This seminar provides students with tools to navigate both libraries and specialized archives in order to undertake research related to the history of architecture. This is complemented by a small practical workshop introducing the editorial world of architecture, so that students are able to envision the transfer of their research into a publication.

Course 2: Barcelona Lab
This seminar introduces students to contemporary architecture works built in the Barcelona Area. In discussion with the authors of the buildings, students will critically analyze and discuss the main design strategies set for each project and the potential they open towards future speculations.

Course 3: Seminar Pro
Students will present and discuss their personal research background, interest and future projections. The seminar will introduce them to presentation strategies, relational thinking and research synthesis.

Course 4: Thesis intro
Students will present and discuss their personal research for MADE. Critical discussions will follow.

Full-or-part-time: 75h
Practical classes: 32h
Self study : 43h

GRADING SYSTEM

The subject is organized based on four courses. Each as an independent grade. The final grade will be calculated based on the following percentages.
Course 1: Archive and Libraries (25%)
Course 2: Barcelona Lab (25%)
Course 3: Seminar Pro (25%)
Course 4: Thesis intro (25%)

EXAMINATION RULES.

Course 1: Archive and Libraries
Grading system: attendance to the lessons is mandatory. The students will have to complete one individual written exercise on criticism.

Course 2: Barcelona Lab
Grading system:
Attendance to the visits is mandatory, participation on the discussions 30% and completion of a short essay about one of the visits.70%

Course 3: Seminar Pro
Grading system.
Individual oral presentations with graphic support. 70%
Participation on the critical discussions. 30%

Course 4: Thesis intro
Grading system.
Individual oral presentations with graphic support. 70%
Participation on the critical discussions. 30%

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Basic:
- Bresciani, Elisabetta (ed.), . Modern. Viena: Architectural Books from the Marzona Collection, Schlebrügge, 2023.
- Radic, Smiljan. Cloud'68 paper voice : Smiljan Radic's collection of radical architecture. Zúrich: Gta Verlag, 2020. ISBN 9783856763916.
- Lewis, Philippa. Stories from architecture : behind the lines at Drawing Matter. Cambridge: The MIT Press, 2021. ISBN 9780262543026.
- Rawson, K. J.; Schwarts, Joan M.; Cook, Terry, Ketelaar, Eric. Arxivar. Barcelona: Ajuntament de Barcelona, 2017.
- Tavares, André. The Anatomy of architectural book. Zúrich: Lars Müller, 2016. ISBN 9783037784730.

RESOURCES

Other resources:
https://bibliotecnica.upc.edu/en/investigadors/formacio-externa />https://dadesrecerca.upc.edu/ca/tutorials />https://guies-bibliotecnica-upc-edu.translate.goog/com-citar/inici?_x_tr_sl=ca&_x_tr_tl=en&_x_tr_hl=ca&_x_tr_pto=wapp />