The School of Architecture in Oxford Brookes University combines practice and sustainability to achieve excellence. Our unique portfolio of programmes link research, practice and teaching, and offer students and staff alike a self-determined trajectory. We are distinctive in our combination of trans disciplinary approaches to the design studio, engaging a culture of professional innovation and experimentation.

Aware of the changing role of the architect the School embodies both digital literacy and a low carbon agenda in both its undergraduate and postgraduate programmes. The School remains informed of future directions, actively participating in the local, the national and the global agenda of architecture. With a clear focus on our academic, research and personal literacy we deliver a global graduate to lead in an internationalised market.

The studios in the School offer a plethora of design approaches to appeal to all students of the built environment, and we structure these in a manner to allow for individual choice and the production of highly distinctive final portfolios. Students in the School make valuable contributions to the learning experience, such as the introduction of sustainable construction workshops and live projects. This design work illustrates the high quality expected from all in the School of Architecture. The work in the School repeatedly wins awards at national and international level. This recognition is testament to the quality of the people, the place, the environment and the culture engendered. We value our students and staff highly and the result is a School collectively pushing the academic agenda in architecture. The facilities in the School, Faculty and University enable the production of the highest quality work. The School workshop offers woodwork and laser cutting, the print room numerous high quality and affordable production methods, including 3D printing. These facilities are supplemented by the alternative workshops in the Faculty and the brand new buildings initiated by the University.

The School actively encourages students to participate in live projects and at present has five projects in and around the city of Oxford: a raft, a redesign of an interior, a pavilion, a self-build, and a substantial new build. This enables students to work with staff and external stakeholders, and learn through building. The School exhibits work externally throughout the year and draws on local and London practice to deliver the technology and practice in its portfolio.

The School is a major international centre for research, which as part of the Faculty of Technology Design and Environment offers a dynamic and welcoming research environment for staff, students and visiting scholars. Enjoying an excellent reputation for research by design, and through the organisation of conferences and the dissemination of its research through publications, exhibitions and knowledge transfer partnerships. Widening participation and access to professional qualifications is also a key part of the School primarily through its management of the RIBA Examination in Architecture for Office-based Candidates. The Examination provides a unique route to professional qualifications at Part 1 and Part 2 levels, for candidates who are committed to study whilst remaining in full-time architectural employment. An individual learning contract defines the work that candidates submit each year, supported by their own tutor and a mentor in practice. The Examination offers candidates the opportunity to develop their own critical and creative skills whilst continuing to work full-time.

In June 2012 the School of Architecture, Oxford will celebrate its eighty fifth anniversary. From the one room base of 1927 through to its current location overlooking Oxford, the School has always embraced change and innovation to its portfolio of programmes. The location of Oxford offers some of the most historically significant architecture in the world and access to some of the most modern architecture, produced by world-renowned contemporary architects. This highly desirable and rare resource sits right on the doorstep of the School of Architecture at Oxford Brookes University.