RIBA Studio: READING LIST: revised January 2017

The following books have been selected as relevant reading for those preparing for the RIBA Studio courses. The aim has been to produce a short and focused list as an aid to reading and studying for the course. The current economics of publishing means that not all of these books are necessarily currently in print, which make the use of libraries essential. Students are expected to find both the time and the enthusiasm to extend their reading about architecture as they progress through the course, and to explore in more depth areas of particular interest in order to develop design projects, or to write essays, studies or dissertations.

In terms of further reading, the RIBA publishes an annual List of recommended books which is compiled by the Professional Literature Advisory Group and this provides an important reference for all candidates. For information on using the on-line catalogue and the RIBA Library Information Services, visit the RIBA library section of the RIBA website: www.architecture.com

The RIBA have full membership of the Society of College, National and University Libraries (SCONUL). SCONUL Access is a reciprocal scheme which allows many university library users to borrow, or use books and journals at other libraries belonging to the scheme. The scheme covers most of the university libraries in the UK and Ireland.

At local level, students’ personal tutors, employing practices, and RIBA branch societies will usually be able to give advice about further sources and on the resources of local libraries.

Finally, students are expected to keep in touch with architectural journals and newspapers, as well as radio and television programmes, on architectural and design subjects. Make time for experiential learning, too, by visiting good buildings – old and new – whenever the opportunity arises. Take notes and photographs and make sketches, to establish personal files of Examination study and reference material.

COMMUNICATION AND STUDY SKILLS

The development of effective communication skills is central to the role of the architect. Whilst not an examinable subject in itself, the use of appropriate communication – aural, literary or visual – is a skill which is central to the RIBA Studio students. Accordingly, the following reading list identifies some key works, which may help candidates to develop these essential communication skills.

Literary

Oral

Graphic

STUDY SKILLS

The particular nature of study experienced by office-based students, combining independent study and project work, experiential learning in practice and distance learning, presents its own problems and challenges. Central to this is the development of effective study and study programming skills – and this is particularly the case for those returning
to study after a long break or moving into architecture from another related discipline. The following book, written for work-based students, provides helpful advice to successfully navigate academia.

*Note: you are provided with a copy of this as part of your Starter Pack.*

**DISSERTATION**

**Highly recommended:**  

**Also recommended:**  

**Online research:**  
The RIBA has an online catalogue:  
https://www.architecture.com/image-library/library-catalogue.html  
There are numerous other resources but be careful to use only reliable sites e.g. RIBA.

**Referencing:**  
The following is a good online source:  
http://libweb.anglia.ac.uk/referencing/harvard.htm

**DESIGN**

In addition to the short list of titles below, students should keep up to date with architectural magazines and journals, British, European and American, which deal in a theoretical, technical and illustrative manner with contemporary buildings. Many offices will have useful libraries and will take some of the relevant journals. There is also an increasing number of biographies and monographs of living architects and accounts of their recent work, or that of their practices, which provide useful background material for study. Books included in the Technology, and Cultural Context subject areas of this reading list will also be relevant.

Weston, R (2011) *100 Ideas that changed Architecture*. Laurence King Publishing

TECHNOLOGY

Information in this subject area changes rapidly and books quickly go out of date if not out of print. The books recommended in the following list deal with the principles involved in the subject, but students will need to build up their knowledge base by keeping in touch with technical and environmental matters which are normally dealt with in current journals. New and revised environmental design references of a mandatory or advisory nature are produced from time to time by the Building Research Establishment, published by and obtainable from Her Majesty's Stationery Office (HMSO). The Building Regulations and relevant current Codes of Practice should also be consulted.

References for Construction Design

Highly recommended:

Also recommended:


2. *Utopia or Oblivion, The Prospects for Humanity.*
3. *Birkhäuser And It Came to Pass - Not to Stay.*


JOURNALS:

*Architecture Today*,

*Architect's Journal*,
ONLINE RESOURCES: There are many, but be selective. Below is a sample of useful or inspirational web sites:

- Concrete Centre: http://www.concretecentre.com/
- Materi0: http://www.materio.com/
- Renzo Piano Building Workshop: http://www.rpbw.com/
- Steel Construction Institute: http://www.steel-sci.org/
- Sustainable Construction: http://www.sustainablebuild.co.uk/
- Timber Research and Development Association: http://www.trada.co.uk/
- Wood for Good: http://www.woodforgood.com/

References for Structural Design
Highly recommended:

Also recommended:

References for Environmental Design
Highly recommended:

Also recommended:
References for Building Economics

Highly recommended:

Also recommended:
CULTURAL CONTEXT

Students are presented with a bewildering range of knowledge and approaches to the cultural context of architecture. The histories and theories of architecture extend well over two millennia in time, reach beyond Europe to encompass the globe, and integrates the full breadth of architectural questions – on technology and techniques, expression and meaning, economy and social organisation, politics, ethics and agency, cultural formation and dissemination. The literature reflects this great horizon in size and complexity.

To aid students the following select bibliography has been divided into five main categories: Histories, Theories, Aesthetics, Cities/Urbanism, and Methodologies/Sources. Excluding the last (Methodologies/Sources) these categories are further divided between ‘surveys’ (which attempt an over-all narrative on the topic), ‘modern’ and ‘pre-modern’ (the turn of the eighteenth to the nineteenth century treated as the point of demarcation). The last category – Methodologies/Sources – provides a list of readers and introductory guides to fundamental approaches to studying and writing the histories and theories of architecture, as well as selected sources for research.

Inevitably, there are overlaps and gaps between these broad categories in which individual works could be repeated or fall out of view. Those works that examiners would expect candidates to have engaged with are marked out in **bold**. Students are encouraged to investigate and explore beyond these as much as possible.

**Histories of Architecture**

**Surveys of Architecture’s History**


**Modern Architecture**


**Pre-Modern Architecture**


**Theories of Architecture**

Singular works by specific authors – monographs – have been avoided. Students are encouraged to explore the various readers/collections suggested below and follow up specific authors of interest from them.

**Surveys of Architectural Theory**


**Theories of Contemporary and Modern Architecture**


**Pre-modern Architectural Theory**


**Aesthetics and Architecture**

**Surveys of Aesthetics**


**Modern and Contemporary Aesthetics**