

SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE, BUILDING & DESIGN
Centre for Modern Architecture Studies in Southeast Asia
Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Architecture

ARCHITECTURE DESIGN STUDIO III [ARC60106]
Prerequisite: Architecture Design Studio II

Project
GENIUS LOCI: VISITOR INTERPRETIVE CENTRE (VIC)
80% of final mark

No.	Assessment Components	Type	MLO	Weightage
2	Project: Visitor Interpretive Centre			80%
	Genius Loci, Site Response and Design Concept (Phase 1 and 2)	Formative	4	
	Visitor Interpretative Centre - Sketch Design (Interim) (Phase 3)	Formative	2, 3	
	Visitor Interpretative Centre (Final) (Phase 4)	Summative	3, 4, 5	

Introduction

The design brief calls for an architectural response to design AN INTERPRETIVE CENTRE sited in Sekinchan, emphasising a strong engagement and relationship to the site, spatial experiences and programmatic requirements.



Learning Outcomes

1. Produce site analysis which document, interpret and analyze the site context and the 'genius loci' of place and generate design based on the unique character and conditions of the site context.
2. Generate design through conscious consideration of section-plan relationship with considerations of human scale, natural light, materials/texture.
3. Design a small scale community building which response to the site (site topography, history and socio-cultural events), functional program and users' experiences

The Design Brief

The interpretive centre will serve two purposes:

- To provide a physical point of reference with visual significance that keeps alive the culture/history/memory/essence of the site
- To provide accommodation to house and display relevant material and interpretive material for public access and information.

Solutions relying heavily on landscape are encouraged. Visitors should be inspired and informed in ways that somehow express the spirit of the place (genius loci).

Total floor area: Approx 500sqm (covered internal spaces), and 2 storeys

REQUIREMENTS for the space are as follows:

No.	Space	Area (sqm)	Ratio to total floor area (%)
1	Lobby and Reception	50	10
2	Display/Exhibition/Gallery	240	48
3	Book/Souvenir Shop	50	10
4	Management Office (1 manager, 2 staff, 1 meeting room and pantry)	60	12
5	M/F Toilets (for public and staff)	25	5
6	M&E and Utilities	1	
7	Storage	24	5
8	1 Misc space to be defined by the designer	50	10
	TOTAL	500	

The above rooms are RECOMMENDED. The TOTAL floor area of your building should be approximately 500 sqm.

Your designed should be developed taking into account the climate, culture and context of the building. You are required to indicate MATERIALS and show an appreciation of BUILDABILITY in your final presentation.

Phase 1: Reading the Site – Group site documentation and interpretation

In groups, conduct data collection and analysis of the given context. Details will be prescribed below. Submission of Phase 1 will include Model(s) and a Collated A3 landscape booklet.

The following are Group(s) to be formed for data collection and analysis on-site:

1. History and morphology of town/context AND Documentation Team (led by Veronica & 12 students)

Objective: (1) To produce historical tracings of the context on A1 sheet(s) of paper. Mapping a site over a series of significant stages in the course of its history provides a description of the life and memory of a place. They can provide inspiration for a contemporary idea that connects directly with past archaeology/memory/history of the site. Conduct a historical research on the place. (2) Responsible for collation of the A3 document.

Method: (1) Data collection local authority, historical research in National Archive, library, Literature (published/unpublished), (2) Using selected software, to liaise with all teams to collate data collection and analysis of the given context.

Outcomes: Timeline of historical events, documentation of history, a series of plans/historical tracings of the town morphology

2. Natural and constructed landscapes (including large cross sections of the context) (led by Fadzlee and 12 students)

Objective: To record and analyse climate, existing landscapes, topography & contours, fauna & flora, views on landscapes

Method: Data collection from survey plans, Observe and record physical context through diagrams and photographs to produce site section to study existing relationships between built & natural landscapes.

Outcomes: Plan diagram showing contours, Sectional diagrams showing relationships between built and natural environments/landscapes. All diagrams to correlate to photos.

3. Circulation & movement through the town (led by Patma and 12 students)

Objective: To record the ingress and egress into the town, the different types of circulation and transportation, paths, nodes/public spaces.

Method: Observation and recording how people move through diagrams and photographs, Experience on selected interesting routes and its poetry through mental map/diagram and thumbnail sketches and photographs.

Outcomes: Plan diagram on circulation and nodes, views in and out, mental map of journeys and sketches. All diagrams to correlate to photos.

4. Built forms, typologies & patterns (led by Bryan and 12 students)

Objective: To record the different building typologies and their functions, the architectural styles, landmarks and the unique urban patterns/typologies that makes up the place.

Method: Observation and recording physical built environment through photographs and sketches, research on architectural styles

Outcomes: Diagrams to show the position of buildings and landmarks, their function, Typology studies, Façade/streets diagrams/photo to show architectural styles, scale and relationships between buildings.

5. Society, ritual and communication (led by Raihana and 12 students)

Objective: To record the demography, activities, rituals, trades etc

Method: Observation and recording of the activities, social patterns and cultural values, Interview to find out about the communities, locals daily life.

Outcomes: Diagrams and cultural mapping, photos, transcribed interviews.

6. SITE 1 The Paddy Fields – Micro Analysis (led by Way Keat and 12 students)

Objective: To select the site for the Visitor Interpretive Centre. Record as much information as possible to be used in the design process. Analyse the data collected to inform the design work.

Method and outcomes: Use the following reference as a framework for your recording and analysis of your site: White, E. 2004. *Site Analysis: Diagramming Information for Architectural Design*. Tallahassee, Florida: Architectural Media Ltd.

Provide dimensions of its width and depth and indicate any adjacent buildings at the levels of plans, elevations and sections to create an accurate record of what currently exists. Analyse the following points critically but **NOT LIMITED** to these the following:

- Orientation (sun path)
- Climate (rainfall & temperature)
- Site contours
- Adjacent street and vehicular traffic patterns
- Pedestrian circulation
- Neighbouring contexts
- Vegetation
- Views from the site
- Views to the site
- Views through the site
- Noise
- Human-Cultural



7. SITE 1 – Physical and Digital Site model (Teik Choon with 24 students)

Produce a physical site model at a scale of 1:500. Your selected lot must be identified within your model and the context will fit one door panel. The model will be used as a base for brainstorming your design work. (Material: brown model board with a sturdy base).

8. SITE 2 The Bagan Fishing Village – Micro Analysis (Led by Nik Kadir with 12 students)

Objective: To select the site for the Visitor Interpretive Centre. Record as much information as possible to be used in the design process. Analyse the data collected to inform the design work.

Method and outcomes: Use the following reference as a framework for your recording and analysis of your site: White, E. 2004. *Site Analysis: Diagramming Information for Architectural Design*. Tallahassee, Florida: Architectural Media Ltd.

Provide dimensions of its width and depth and indicate any adjacent buildings at the levels of plans, elevations and sections to create an accurate record of what currently exists. Analyse the following points critically but **NOT LIMITED** to these the following:

- Orientation (sun path)
- Climate (rainfall & temperature)
- Site contours
- Adjacent street and vehicular traffic patterns
- Pedestrian circulation
- Neighbouring contexts
- Vegetation
- Views from the site
- Views to the site
- Views through the site
- Noise
- Human-Cultural

9. SITE 2 – Physical and Digital Site model (Yan Yee with 24 students)

Produce a physical site model at a scale of 1:500. Your selected lot must be identified within your model and the context will fit one door panel. The model will be used as a base for brainstorming your design work. (Material: brown model board with a sturdy base)

Phase 2: Reading the Site - Individual work Personal Interpretation & Concept Development as a response

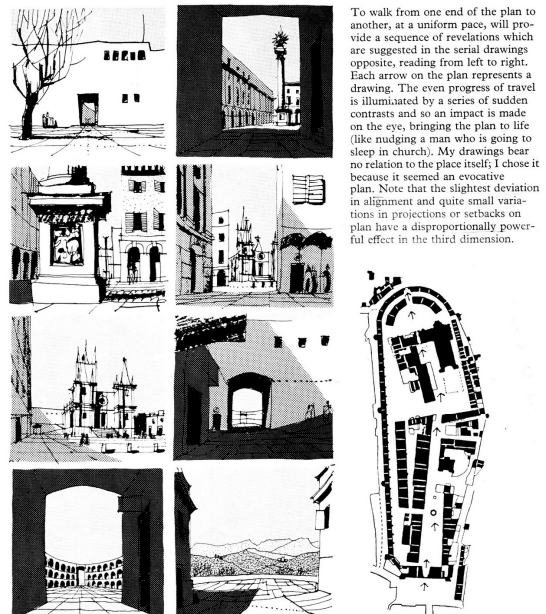
Individually, produce your personal interpretation of the context in the form of **sketches, diagrams & photographs**. The personal interpretations of the overall character of the site will inform subsequent design decisions, and it is important to record these honestly and immediately.

Use Gordon Cullen's serial vision and/or Steven Holl's phenomenological readings as the basis/tool for recording your interpretation of the character of place (sketches). You may pay attention to the following on site:

- Materials. Each site has an intrinsic materiality (photos)
- Landscape and topography
- Patterns and elements that makes up the context
- The memory of place. Significant characteristics, sounds, textures, events that make them memorable. There may be aspects of the history and memory of the site that needs to be reinforced in your design.

Conclude by synthesizing your personal interpretation and the SWOT analysis (Phase 1) of place that would form inspiration in the design, and then present a Design Concept for a Visitor's Interpretive Centre derived from the issues discovered. This Design Concept should be presented in the form of visceral images/drawings & models (plug-in model and conceptual/abstract models).

CASEBOOK: SERIAL VISION



Phase 3: Sketch Design (Space Planning and Experiential Spaces) (Formative assessment)

SKETCH DESIGN

Objective: Propose a design scheme which response to the site (site topography, history and socio-cultural events), functional program and users' experiences

1. Select and/or consolidate initial design concept / ideas and develop it by producing a schematic plan and section, and a study model 1:250. The schematic should respond to the physical site context and functional requirements.
2. Consider and develop the primary circulation of the visitor through your architecture (the route). Produce spatial model(s) at the scale of 1:250 to illustrate your ideas.

(At this point, you should be able to develop your design work by integrating thermal comfort considerations for Building Science I)

KEY SECTION AND EXPERIENTIAL SPACES

Objective: Generate design through conscious consideration of human scale, natural light, materials/texture (User experience).

1. Consider the flow of experience: flow of space, intermediate/transition spaces, the variation and hierarchy of spaces, inside/outside relationship, manipulation of light, texture & materiality and scale & proportion. Produce thumbnail sketches/models to illustrate your ideas.
2. Develop your design through the sectional drawing of your architecture. Produce 1 key section 1:50.
3. Produce one key interior perspective to illustrate the experiential spaces of your architecture. Visitors should be inspired and informed in ways that somehow express the spirit of place.

Assessments

Presentation and Pin-up (Phases 1, 2 and 3)

Data collection, analysis and responses as well as interim pin-ups are formative assessments that guide and assess the process of design. Process must be legible and all evidence supporting the design scheme must be included. The pin-ups are progressive to provide feedback students' conceptual ideas / design strategy and its development into a design scheme works and how it is responsive to the context. Students must also show how the design has been developed into an "Experiential space" taking into account the considerations of users, context, function and experience.

Final Presentation

Each student is to submit **4 A1 sheets** (portrait OR landscape) conveying ideas underlying the design, its overall form & space, and its spatial qualities. **STUDENTS SHOULD STRICTLY ADHERE TO THE A1 PAPER SIZE.** The submission should include the following:

- A brief written explanation explaining the thinking behind the scheme
- Site Plan 1:500
- Plan(s), Section(s), Elevation(s) which includes relevant site context at a MINIMUM of 1:150 scale. EMPHASIS should be given to an EXTENDED site section showing the building in its extended context.
- One photomontage of the architecture within the site context
- One key 3D image of the interior space of the building to illustrate the poetry of your space
- A set of set response diagrams that illustrate your design strategy informed by the context
- A set of diagrams which clearly demonstrate the spatial typology exploration, the circulation, the relationship between inside/outside, views and other points which are appropriate to your design project.
- Precedent studies that informed the design project
- Integration (graphical information) with Building Science 1 illustrating your design response to the climatic aspects of the site

Each student should also submit the following:

- A final **SECTIONAL MODEL** at a minimum 1:100 scale (1:75 preferred, depending on size) which includes relevant site context and an indication of MATERIALS. (Note that this may be digital upon the agreement of your tutor). This requirement can be superseded by a FULL PHYSICAL MODEL if so desired.
- An **AREA SCHEDULE** indicating the size of the 10 rooms / spaces requested is required
- Evidence of design process and thoughts through a series of models vignettes (images of study models)
- An updated Blog Portfolio link

Assessment criteria

The end-product must meet the criteria of a tectonically and poetically expressive space.

You will be graded based on the clarity and development of the following:

- *Site/Contextual response*: Pragmatic and metaphysical response to the positioning of architecture within its context
- *Programmatic response*: Development of functional requirements and the relationships between spaces to facilitate the given programme and the accuracy of the provided area schedule.
- *Richness & Articulation of design work*: Exploration and Development of Formal and Spatial Qualities through models and drawings.
- *Completeness of emphasised SECTION drawings and MODEL with some indication of materiality and construction*.
- *Verbal and visual presentation*: Well crafted visual presentation (models & presentation boards; clear communication of design ideas and development; precise and concise verbal presentation; professionalism)

References

1. Cullen, Gordon. 1961. *The Concise Townscape*. Van Nostrand Reinhold.
2. Holl, Steven. *Questions of Perception: Phenomenology of Architecture*, eds Steven Holl, Juhani Pallasmaa, Alberto Perez-Gomez, A+U
3. Norberg-Schulz, Christian. 1980. *Genius Loci: Towards a Phenomenology of Architecture*. Rizzoli, London.
4. White, E. 2004. *Site Analysis: Diagramming Information for Architectural Design*. Tallahassee, Florida: Architectural Media Ltd.