

Module Specification

Module Summary Information

1	Module Title	Designed Ecologies
2	Module Credits	40
3	Module Level	6
4	Module Code	LAN6110

5	Module Overview
<p>This module introduces you to the scope, extent and diversity of the designed environment and introduces the construct that we live in a dynamic global ecology where human interventions on Earth's natural systems range in scale from the modification of Earth's atmosphere resulting in Climate Change, remodelling of the ice caps, destruction of the rainforest, to legislation and technologies that transforms urban air quality to facilitate the establishment of urban lichen communities. 'Our Common Future' sets the framework for Landscape Architects to use innovation and creativity to mitigate and protect our environment. These designed ecologies provide a fascinating laboratory for Landscape Architecture students to investigate, explore and experiment with natural systems and resources using elements of nature to enhance, mitigate and improve the world we live in.</p> <p>The module provides an opportunity for you to learn about designing at a range of scales using the hinterland of Birmingham and The Black Country and neighbouring geographies to learn about design principles and methodologies in shaping forests, meadows, wetlands and urban space using Landscape Architecture as a device to enhance the quality of urban and rural habitats.</p> <p>This module uses the design studio to develop design capabilities in which to explore the language of the living landscape. The focus of the module is from the perspective of design and how it can be used in the making of new places and new experiences for urban and rural ecosystems. This module will equip you with an insight into how nature can be used as valuable design language which will provide a foundation to support the Designed Geographies module.</p> <p>On successful completion of this module you will be able to identify, and use a variety of landscape typologies, and evaluate their role in enhancing urban and rural environments, which include;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Managed and Designed Systems that cross the scale from - Silvicultural systems, forests, coppiced woodlands to small urban plantations • Urban and rural enclosure, hedgerows and shelterbelts • Meadows and managed grasslands • Riparian wetlands, water meadows and floodplain ecologies. • Productive landscapes from agro-industry to urban allotment gardens. • Parkland, Parks, Gardens, roof gardens • Heathland, moorland raised mires and bog 	

6	Indicative Content
<p>Ian McHarg introduced the idea that we can be inspired by the beauty of nature and use it in the creation of new landscape experiences. This seminal book, Design With Nature, written in 1969 provides the foundation for a way of thinking where an understanding of natural systems provides a resource to design with. This module expands on these ideas and through a design project you will explore the value of this approach in landscape architecture.</p>	

7		Module Learning Outcomes
On successful completion of the module, students will be able to:		
	1	Apply the principles of designed ecologies as a design device to improve the quality of our living landscape.
	2	Identify relevant theory, concepts, principles and techniques to generate appropriate policies.
	3	Create tools for an effective understanding of the design process to professional and lay audiences.

8		Module Assessment		
Learning Outcome				
		Coursework	Exam	In-Person
1-3		X		

9		Breakdown Learning and Teaching Activities	
Learning Activities		Hours	
Scheduled Learning (SL) includes lectures, practical classes and workshops, peer group learning, Graduate+, as specified in timetable		120	
Directed Learning (DL) includes placements, work-based learning, external visits, on-line activity, Graduate+, peer learning, as directed on VLE		200	
Private Study (PS) includes preparation for exams		80	
Total Study Hours: Notional hours		400	