

AREAS OF SPECIALISATION

Architecture and Nation Building

If architecture does inspire happiness, could it also be a catalyst in nation building?

In a multi-ethnic nation like Malaysia, the fabric of a functional society is made up of mutual respect, empathy and the spirit of co-existence. Architecture then must embody these qualities, accentuating the influences that unite us over those that may be exclusive to a particular culture, religion or creed.

Achieving this requires the architect to develop a critical take on historical and cultural undercurrents. It also requires a rigorous study that examines the relationship between architecture and nation building in the age of globalisation and progress.

This focus area involves :

- Historical studies of the first and second generation of architects who defined the local architectural landscape and buildings that shape local identity.
- Cultural studies to understand the relationship and meaning between spaces, forms, ornaments and patterns adopted by a country's various races. This is crucial in designing urban housing and educational facilities that reflect a modern and united society.
- Environment-behaviour studies that gauge public and child safety in regards to housing, schools, public buildings and urban settings.
- A philosophical construct of national architecture using multi-cultural discourse, a framework of democracy and concepts of nation building.
- Educational studies on pedagogy and the teaching of architecture as a philosophical or a developmental construct of curriculum design.

Islamic Architecture and the Mosque

There is growing debate about the compatibility and sustainability of Islam being part of a modern democracy. In this light, more thought has been given to the design of mosques and urban spaces.

By taking on this area of specialisation, architects must come up with new frameworks that embody the peace and tolerance Islam enshrines. This must be done in the context of a modern nation like Malaysia and its multi-faith and multi-ethnic nature.



This focus area involves :

- A philosophical construct of Islamic architecture from the Hadith Corpus to identify Islamic values that can be applied in modern housing, urban spaces, buildings and, ornaments.
- Community development studies of mosque designs in relation to the concept of urban living to create a harmonious balance amongst Muslims and non-Muslims.
- Historical studies of traditional, colonial and modern buildings that contribute to the understanding of Islamic values and their contribution to society.



Sustainable Cities, Housing, and Buildings

Ever-increasing urbanisation has resulted in cities growing outwards. This global phenomenon shows no signs of abating, complicating matters of urban planning and the preservation of bio-diversity hotspots. From the favelas of Brazil to the slums of India, millions cry out for a solution to the problems that come with unchecked urban growth.

With sustainability in mind, green initiatives in architecture can make a telling difference. A sustainable city is not only focused on the financial and ecological environment, but also on the social and communal development of its people. Improved living conditions and societal enablers go hand-in-hand with economic expansion.

Take on the sustainability challenge and design the eco-friendly and energy efficient smart homes that change lives for the better.

This focus area involves :

- Developing a conceptual framework of how buildings, townships and CBDs can reduce their carbon foot print, conserve energy and improve waste and waste management.
- Evaluating present buildings, complexes, government facilities and districts from the critical lenses of sustainability. Once this is done, architects must provide suggestion to mitigate any of the issues raised.
- Evaluating timber use and management to promote its versatility and cost-effectiveness in the construction industry. Studies to incorporate timber as a primary material in architecture design will also be conducted.

Urban and Architecture Heritage

Colonial and heritage buildings are a strong draw for tourists in cities like Rome, Mumbai and Penang. While they chronicle the past, can they complement the increasing urbanisation and development across the nation?

This focus area zeroes in on the architecture of colonial and heritage buildings, expounding on the science and inspiration behind them. Upon achieving this, the architect would then incorporate them or their elements to create new design ideas that complement the growth of the city. This process where the old and new meets, requires a strong grasp of economic judgment and a commitment to sustainability.

This focus area involves :

- Historical studies of colonial, vernacular and immigrant buildings in relation to their respective functions and classification of style.
- Biographical research on key personalities and institutions that focus on the conservation of heritage buildings, as well as the approaches and techniques involved in conservation.
- Development studies on how heritage spaces can be sustained from economic and social perspectives.
- Evaluation studies on conserved buildings and urban areas with respect to the goals of economic and social sustainability.

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN ARCHITECTURE

(N/581/8/0109)

*You want to do things that matter.
Pioneer a new movement in green design.
Build smart homes and impact
lives. Design cities of the future.*

Let's work on it together.

ABOUT THE PROGRAMME

At UCSI, Architecture is more than scholarly pursuit. It's a culture of experimentation. It's where the past, present and future meet. More importantly, it's about social change and the role you can play.



The Doctor of Philosophy in Architecture is designed with one thing in mind: The impact it will have on your career. By pursuing this credential, you'll critically evaluate existing designs, theories, building practices and policies on architecture and built environment. You will challenge convention.

And as you address the complexities of the profession and the challenges in the industry, you'll come up with sustainable solutions that push the frontiers of advanced architecture and its convergence with science and technology.

Gain the UCSI advantage:

- Strategic supervision for early or timely graduation.
- Professional guidance in writing a thesis, journal articles and presentations.
- Potential co-supervision and study visits by academics from RMIT University, the University of Melbourne and Rosenheim University in Germany.
- Benefit from UCSI's multi-disciplinary take on research and the cross-fertilisation of ideas on campus.
- Network enhancing opportunities via public talks, forums, conferences and invaluable opportunities to participate in civil society events across Asia.
- Impact society through strategic media writing opportunities in well-known architectural publications and national magazines.
- Enjoy book publication opportunities with Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka, public universities and international publishers.

SUPERVISION

At UCSI's School of Architecture and Built Environment, you can look forward to learn from – and work alongside – leading thinkers and practitioners who have years of experience in the industry. Opportunities to work with academics from other faculties also exist and you can look forward to a dynamic environment that promotes the cross-fertilisation of ideas.

01



Professor Dr Mohd Tajuddin Mohd Rasdi

School of Architecture and Built Environment

BSc Architectural Studies, (Wisconsin, USA)
MSc Architecture, (Wisconsin, USA)
PhD Architecture Philosophy, (Edinburgh, UK)

Dr Mohd Tajuddin has written and published 45 books on architecture history, philosophy, and heritage. He is a winner of 4 National Book Awards. This architectural enthusiast specialises in design theories with the emphasis on multi-culturalism and its influence on administrative, institutional and religious buildings. Apart from his main academic, he is determined to bring change to public policies and the perception of cultural designs.

02



Professor Dato' Dr Ahmad Ibrahim

School of Architecture and Built Environment

B Chemical Engineering (Monash)
PhD Wastewater Engineering (Newcastle)

Dato' Dr Ahmad Ibrahim is a member of the Academy of Science in Malaysia, an institution that acts as a forum for maintaining awareness on the significance of science, engineering, and technology in the development of the nation. He is a strong advocate of green design and is actively involved in public talks and writing columns for the media. Dato' Dr Ahmad is currently heading UCSI University's effort to ensuring the implementation of United Nation's 17 Sustainable Development Goals in the country.

03



Assistant Professor Dr Ammar Abdulaziz Majeed Al-Talib

BSc Mechanical Engineering (UOF, Iraq)
MSc Mechanical Engineering/Thermo-fluids (UOF, Iraq)
PhD Solar and Renewal Energy (UPM)

Dr Ammar is a veteran academic involved in the subject of solar architecture and the planning of housing and townships. His vision is towards a self-sustaining living environment, free from a centralised energy grid system.

04



Assistant Professor Dr Lim Wei Hong

BSc Mechatronic Engineering, (USM)
PhD Electrical and Electronics Engineering (USM)

Dr. Lim is an academican who is committed to the concept of smart housing with the emphasis on energy supply. He conducted a post-doctoral study of homes in Hong within the perspectives of energy supply, storage and usage for a sustainable and cleaner living environment.

05



Assistant Professor Dr Lin Yola

BEng Architecture Engineering (Sriwijaya, Indonesia)
MSc Urban and Regional Planning (UTM)
PhD Urban and Regional Planning (UTM)

Dr Lin Yola is an architect highly experienced in urban planning and best known for her model, 'Climatically Responsive Urban Configuration'. Her publications urge designers and planners to challenge climate change by creating urban spaces that are practical for current cities. She also believes that academicians and multi-stakeholders should collaborate in projects and publications which will help to identify and solve design flaws in the society and environment