
Royal Institute of British Architects

**Report of the RIBA Full Visiting Board
to the Azerbaijan University of
Architecture & Construction**

- 1 Details of institution hosting course/s** **(report part A)**
Azerbaijan University of Architecture & Construction
A.Sultanova str., 11. Az-1073
Baku
Azerbaijan
- 2 Head of University**
Gulchohra Mammadova University Rector
- Accreditation process manager**
Ulkar Sattarova Strategic Development Vice-rector
- Head of School**
Zahida Mammadova Dean of the Architecture Faculty
- 3 Course/s offered for validation**
Bachelor's programme Part 1
- 4 Course leader/s**
Sabina Hajiyeva
Shahla Kahramanova
Narmin Yusifova
Yegana Karimli
Tarana Bakirova
- 5 Awarding body**
Azerbaijan University of Architecture & Construction
- 6 The visiting board**
Sally Stewart chair / academic
Jenny Russell vice chair / academic
Daniel Goodricke academic
Andy Usher practitioner
Alex Garber regional representative
Sophie Bailey validation manager
- 7 Procedures and criteria for the visit**
The visiting board was carried out under the *RIBA procedures for validation and validation criteria for UK and international courses and examinations in architecture* (published July 2011, and effective from September 2011); this document is available at www.architecture.com.
- 8 Recommendation of the Visiting Board**
On the 22 January 2020 the RIBA Education Committee confirmed that the following courses and qualifications are awarded full validation
- Bachelor's programme Part 1**
- The next RIBA visiting board will take place in 2024.

9 Standard requirements for continued recognition

Continued RIBA recognition of all courses and qualifications is dependent upon:

- i external examiners being appointed for the course
- ii any significant changes to the courses and qualifications being submitted to the RIBA
- iii any change of award title, and the effective date of the change, being notified to the RIBA so that its recognition may formally be transferred to the new title
- iv submission to the RIBA of the names of students passing the courses and qualifications listed
- v In the UK, standard requirements of validation include the completion by the institution of the annual statistical return issued by the RIBA Education Department

10 Academic position statement

(Statement written by the school)

The university was established in 1975. Azerbaijan University of Architecture and Construction started its activity with engineering and construction faculty under Baku State University in 1920.

Currently, AzUAC is the leading architectural school of Azerbaijan and has been preparing specialists of the highest qualification for the architectural schools of the country, as well as Iran, Turkey, CIS countries for 100 year, also has connections with many architectural and art universities abroad.

The university has 7 faculties. The study is taught in bachelor, master, and doctoral level in Azeri, Russian and English languages. The main research areas are: Architecture, Physical and Mathematical, Technical Sciences, Chemical Sciences, Earth Science. The main aim is to explore modern problems of architecture, construction engineering, construction and road machinery, information technologies, as well as other scientific fields; to study and recommend application of their results in production and training.

The following research laboratories are functioning construction materials, "Restoration and protection of monuments", physics of metals and alloys, "Improvement of technological machines and equipment", "Water management and ecology of water".

International cooperation is successfully carried out in the regional and global levels with foreign universities and educational centers. At present, AzUAC is actively working on more than 100 international cooperation agreements with foreign countries: Russia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Georgia, Ukraine, South Korea, Iran, Turkey, Egypt, Italy, United Kingdom, Austria, France, Estonia, Czech Republic, Poland, Belgium, Portugal, Sweden, Lithuania, Greece and Latvia. Among them are contracts on ERASMUS + programs, Mevlana exchange program, TEMPUS, etc.

AzUAC is a member of the following international organizations: The Interregional Public Organization for the Promotion of Architectural Education, The Association of Building Universities of the CIS, the Association of Russian-Azerbaijani Universities, Federation of the universities of the Islamic World (FUIW), International Association of Universities (IAU), the Association of Architectural Schools of France, Eastern and Central Europe, the Romualdo Del Bianco Foundation, Black Sea Universities Network (BSUN), The Union of Chambers

of Turkish Engineers and Architects, Turkish universities union, community of architectural schools of Eastern Europe.

Information about the faculty.

The faculty prepares specialists - architects, city planners and designers - at the level of bachelor's, master's and doctoral studies. Most of the teaching staff of the faculty are well-known specialists in the field of architectural design, urban planning, design, restoration of monuments. 12 Doctors of Architecture, 17 professors, 33 Doctors of Philosophy in architecture, associate professor.

The faculty has 6 departments under the leadership of famous scientists: "Architectural design and city planning", "Fundamentals of architecture", "Architectural constructions and restoration of monuments", "Landscape architecture", "Design", "Fine Arts".

Applicants pass test form examination conducted by the State Admissions Committee. Additionally, they pass painting and drawing exams organized by university. The bachelor gets the opportunity to design any type of buildings in practice, in all spheres of professional activity from sketch search to making master plans, volumetric and planning decisions.

At bachelor level the great importance attached to hand working, performed by students during 3 semesters. At the faculty they also study drawing (2 semesters), painting (1 semester) and sculpture (1 semester). To make some adjustments to the composition and requirements of projects, meetings with leading enterprises in the field of architecture and city planning are regularly held, experts from these organizations are invited. Also, external experts are invited to control the quality of course and graduation works at least once a year.

Contacts in the sphere of production are expanding. At the bachelor level, a 14-week production practice is provided in leading design organizations of the country. The faculty has extensive links with leading design institutes and state institutions - the Republican Committee for Urban Planning and Architecture; with the Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Republic; with the Ministry of Culture and Tourism; with the State Department of the Historical and Architectural Reserve of "Icherisheher"; with the Institute of Archeology, Architecture and Art at the National Academy of Sciences; Scientific and Research Design Institute "Azərbayca"; close cooperation in the field of science and practice with non-state architectural and design companies is being continued.

Field of scientific research. The faculty staff design the following research topics: Features of architecture of residential buildings in Baku, Compositional patterns of Azerbaijani architecture in the 11th-17th centuries, Formation of cultural and living conditions of resort and recreational areas and landscape development in the cities of Azerbaijan; Organization of space in architectural complexes, situated in complicated reliefs in Baku; Aesthetic methods of architectural design of urban environment; Development of architectural layout plan of industrial enterprises in Sumgait; Development of architectural layout plan of housing construction in large cities of Azerbaijan (1920-1990), History of Azerbaijani Architecture (from ancient times to present days).

International relations of the faculty.

The faculty has extensive international academic contacts: architectural schools in Turkey, Kazakhstan, Georgia, Italy, Portugal, Spain etc.

Architectural faculty is also member of the REA (Association of French Architectural Schools) and this gives the opportunity to participate in international competitions organized within that association.

Faculty is working on creation the possibility to give to the students at their graduation from our University not only diploma by AzUAC but also second diploma of architecture by foreign country as well. The agreement on the 2nd Diploma Degree in Architecture, Urbanism and Design was signed and approved by the Ministry of Education Together with the University of Lisbon.

Also, we understand that participation of the students in different competitions, international simposiums and workshops is an important part of the education. Several times architectural faculty had conducted the Festival of Diploma works "Degree and Profession" organized by Italian Foundation Del Bianco in Baku.

Faculty participate every year with the diploma projects at different competitions. Diploma works of the students both in bachelor and master level of education from the Faculty of Architecture participate every year in the student works' competition by MOOCAO-architectural universities of the CIS countries Association, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, in the International Conferences and Competitions in Italy, REA (Association of French Architectural Schools). It is necessary to note that our faculty is member of MOOCAO since 1971 and during all that period has always been successful in achievement good results in competition of Diploma projects. The XXIII international review-competition of graduation works was held in Baku, October 2014, at the initiative of the Azerbaijan University of Architecture and Construction and the Union of Architects of Azerbaijan. The competition was attended by 57 high schools of architecture.

The 25 diploma projects by students graduated from architectural faculty in the 2018-19 academic years have been participated in the 28th Contest for Architecture and Design by MOOCAO held in Nizhny Novgorod State University of Architecture and Construction, Russian Federation. The competition was attended by 6 countries, more than 200 participants and more than 700 works. All the projects submitted for the competition were awarded (14 – get diploma of the 1-st place and 11- get the 2-nd place). One project was awarded by special diploma by Nizhny Novgorod State University of Architecture and Construction and the Russian Union of Architects. 4 methodic materials presented to the competition by the department of "Design" had awarded with the first- and second-degree diplomas (one 1st degree diploma and three 2nd degree diploma).

5 works submitted to the competition in Poltava, Ukraine were awarded by the 1st degree diplomas in the 2018-19 academic year.

November 2018, French architects, who visited our country as part of the Fantasy Cultural Heritage Festival, held a master class for students studying at the Faculty of Architecture of the Azerbaijan University of Architecture and Construction. Lectures by **Florence Babics, Dominique Larpi'son** "Classification, description and evaluation for the restoration and preservation of architectural heritage", and by ICOMOS expert **Narine Tuytcheva's** on "Cultural heritage is the foundation for the future" were organized in the frame of the Festival.

January 2019, at the initiative of the Romanian Embassy in Azerbaijan, professor of Bucharest University, **Catalin D. Constantin** gave a master class for students of the Faculty of Architecture of the Azerbaijan University of Architecture and Construction and opened an exhibition. The exhibition

was presented by the Ambassador of the country Mr. **Danlanku** and his spouse, Embassy Counselor Ms. **Michaellanku**, Rector of the University, professors, teachers and students of the faculty.

May 2019, **Fabien Bellat**, Associate Professor of the Paris Val de Seine School of Architecture, gave a lecture on "Soviet Architecture and Urbanization" for the students of the Architectural faculty

April 15 to May 26, 2019, the USA Fulbright Program scholar, a member of the Montana Heritage Commission, professor at Louisiana State University, Iowa State University and many other universities in the field of landscape and city planning, public and private planning for the past 40 years., had been teaching at architectural faculty of AzUAC. Professor **Phillip Michling** has delivered a lecture on "Modern Education Directions in the Development of Sustainable Urbanization" as part of the Fulbright Research Travel Program funded by the US Department of State.

11 Commendations

The visiting board made the following commendations:

- 11.1 The board commends the development of the exhibition and portfolios provided for the RIBA visiting board which have provided the board with a comprehensive overview of the structure and output of the degree award.
- 11.2 The board commends the faculty's commitment to teach the programme content through three languages and the additional language support provided to develop and sustain student mobility through exchange.
- 11.3 The board commends the faculty for its use of the validation process as a self-reflective tool.

12 Action points

The visiting board proposes the following action points. The RIBA expects the university to report on how it will address these action points. Failure by the university to satisfactorily resolve action points may result in a course being conditioned by a future visiting board.

- 12.1 The faculty must make available to the RIBA Visiting Board portfolios containing the full range of students' achievements. An academic portfolio contains all assessed work produced by a student in disciplines where the RIBA Graduate Attributes and General Criteria are met (as noted in clause 4.7 of the RIBA Procedures for Validation).
- 12.2 The faculty must provide a complete and coherent set of documentation for the board ahead of the next RIBA validation visit. Documents required are outlined in item 4.1 of the RIBA Procedures for Validation.
- 12.3 The faculty should consider how the integration of technology and architectural context can be better deployed as design drivers and to support the students in key design decisions. The faculty should consider how this can be best documented by the students within the academic portfolio.

12.4 The faculty consider, given the range of climatic conditions within the country, how a more explicit exploration of sustainable and passive environmental design can inform the development of student concept and detailed designs within the diploma project.

13. Advice

The visiting board offers the following advice to the Department on desirable, but not essential improvements, which, it is felt, would assist course development and raise standards.

13.1 The faculty should consider how the range of manual skills developed in year one would allow students to engage with representation and communication could be further developed and extended in subsequent years.

13.2 The board encourages the faculty to consider how it might make most effective and productive use of the additional studio and workshop spaces recently completed.

13.3 The faculty should consider rewriting their academic position statement to better reflect the ethos, identity and distinctiveness of the faculty. The statement is published on architecture.com and is accessible to the public.

13.4 The faculty should consider how staff engagement with the validation process can be built upon as both a staff development opportunity and a pedagogic tool for further curriculum alignment.

14 Delivery of academic position

Please see advice point 13.3

15 Delivery of graduate attributes

It should be noted that where the visiting board considered graduate attributes to have been met, no commentary is offered. Where concerns were noted (or an attribute clearly not met), commentary is supplied. Finally, where academic outcomes suggested a graduate attribute was particularly positively demonstrated, commentary is supplied.

Graduate Attributes for Part 1

The Board confirmed that all of the Part 1 graduate attributes were met by graduates of the Bachelor's programme.

16 Review of work against criteria

It should be noted that where the visiting board considered a criterion to have been met, no commentary is offered. Where concerns were noted (or a criterion clearly not met), commentary is supplied. Finally, where academic outcomes suggested a criterion was particularly positively demonstrated, commentary is supplied.

Graduate Criteria for Part 1

The Board confirmed that all of the Part 1 graduate criteria and were met by graduates of the Bachelor's programme.

17 Other information

17.1 Student numbers

| Year of education | Students' number | Architecture | | | Urban planning | | Design | | |
|-------------------|------------------|--------------|------------|-----------|----------------|-----------|------------|-----------|----------|
| | | Az | Ru | En | Az | Ru | Az | Ru | En |
| I | 308 | 142 | 33 | 36 | 21 | 15 | 39 | 16 | 6 |
| II | 225 | 87 | 37 | 18 | 24 | 8 | 29 | 22 | - |
| III | 205 | 83 | 35 | 16 | - | - | 50 | 21 | - |
| IV | 144 | 75 | 36 | 15 | - | - | 18 | | - |
| Total | 882 | 387 | 141 | 85 | 45 | 23 | 136 | 59 | 6 |

17.2 Documentation provided

Please see action point 12.2

Notes of meetings

On request, the RIBA will issue a copy of the minutes taken from the following meetings:

- **Budget holder and course leaders**
- **Students**
- **Head of institution**
- **External examiners**
- **Staff**