



Royal Institute of British Architects

**Report of the RIBA Full visiting board
to the Confluence Institute for Innovation
and Creative Strategies in Architecture**

Date of visiting board: 08-09 November 2023
Confirmed by RIBA Education Committee: 09 January 2024

- 1 Details of institution hosting courses**
Confluence Institute for Innovation and Creative Strategies in Architecture
11 Rue des Arquebusiers
75003 Paris
France
- 2 Courses offered for validation**
RIBA Part 1 Architecture Confluence Cycle I (level A)
RIBA Part 2 Architecture Confluence Cycle II (level B)
- 3 President** Odile Decq
Academic Advisor Nicolas Hannequin
- 4 Awarding body**
The Confluence Institute
- 5 The visiting board**
David Howarth Chair / Practitioner
Sally Stewart Academic
Sara Shafiei Academic
Sophie Bailey RIBA Head of Validation
- 6 Procedures and Themes and Values for Architectural Education**
The visiting board was carried out under the RIBA Procedures for Validation and Themes and Values for UK and international courses in architecture (published September 2021, and effective from September 2022); this document is available at www.architecture.com.
- 7 Proposals of the visiting board**
On the 09 January 2024 the RIBA confirmed that the following courses and qualifications are unconditionally revalidated:

RIBA Part 1 Architecture Confluence Cycle I (level A)
RIBA Part 2 Architecture Confluence Cycle II (level B)

The next visit to the Confluence Institute for Innovation and Creative Strategies in Architecture will take place in 2028.
- 8 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 of the annual statistical return issued by the RIBA Education Department

9 Academic position statement (written by the School)

In a world where all productions are tending inexorably towards uniformization, disregarding every cultural, historic and social distinctiveness, architecture is too often compromising with imposed industrial standards and political power. We strongly believe that it is essential to build a new place for architecture in Europe.

CONFLUENCE is an educational approach that is open, alternative, international, collaborative and innovative, moving towards a hopeful and forward-looking architecture for the 21st century. Based on an evolving and radical understanding of research, experimentation and trans-disciplinarity.

The Institute propose to:

- construct an unparalleled understanding of architecture at the encounter of disciplines
- cross prospective and experimental visions
- create an appetite for engagement
- generate unpredicted alternatives
- resist the uniformization of production and imposed standards
- go beyond the implicit limits of architecture, in order to create unimaginable opportunities.

CONFLUENCE, anchored in the economy of the world, is a site of synergies, a site of hybridization. Architects, critics, artists, thinkers, philosophers, film-makers, scientists, engineers and manufacturers work together to share knowledge and discoveries. Without stylistic prejudice or ideology, a diversity of cultures, knowledge and practices makes it possible to develop ideas and projects in order to imagine all that is possible.

Intuition, analysis, confrontation, reaction, beginnings, destabilization, emulation, convergence – CONFLUENCE.

CONFLUENCE is the place where open attitudes and autonomous temperaments are forged through diverse forms of experimentation. The teaching of architecture must allow students to confront problems encountered in the world and to use new tools to address them.

CONFLUENCE is the convergence of different forms of knowledge that generate new understandings and hybrid forms of research. Different disciplines like physics, biology, neurology and new technologies as well as sociology and the visual arts take part — in an original way — in the elaboration of teaching and contribute to the elaboration of research and new projects.

CONFLUENCE is the site of emergence of new relations between systems of thought, modes of construction, aesthetic systems, manufacturing processes and modes of organization. The specificity of the experimentation / creation / research at CONFLUENCE is its capacity to bring together prospective visions with their deployment.

CONFLUENCE fosters the convergence of conception and production: The studio project is an experience fed by multiple exchanges between theory and experimentation.

10 Commendations

- 10.1 The board commends the leadership team for their dedication, drive, and commitment to continue to evolve the innovative model of the school.
- 10.2 The board commends the clarity of the academic position statement provided in setting out the vision of the school.
- 10.3 The board commends the Institute in providing a platform for student autonomy and community building.

11 Conditions

There are no conditions.

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. The university is referred to the RIBA's criteria and procedures for validation for details of mid-term monitoring processes. Failure by the university to satisfactorily resolve action points may result in a course being conditioned by a future visiting board.

- 12.1 The Institute should provide clarity for students in terms of the aims, objectives and learning outcomes within each course element as they move through the core years and describe the progressive nature of the six semesters forming the programme core.
- 12.2 The Institute should consider how best to engage with external examiners to benefit from their insights and detailed feedback to the programme, beyond commentary on individual graduating students.
- 12.3 The Institute will develop a comprehensive and rigorous engagement with and integration of structures, construction technology and strategies for energy and resource efficiency in design across all levels of the programme, but with particular attention paid to the two award levels.
- 12.4 The Institute should consider where the comprehensive design proposal is located within cycle 2 and how it evidences each student's knowledge, skills and understanding of technology and environmental design to meet the graduate attributes and competences required at RIBA part 2.

13 Advice

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

- 13.1 The Institute should consider how it can leverage the opportunities available in its new setting, to support and extend the student experience, to engage with partners and collaborators, and to increase visibility of the programme.

13.2 The Institute is encouraged to use case studies and precedents across workshops, seminars, and design work to inform the development of student outputs.

13.2 The institute should consider how student experience is maintained in relation to any projected plans for growth or portfolio expansion.

14 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 RIBA Part 1 Architecture Confluence Cycle I (level A).

Graduate Attributes for Part 2

The Board confirmed that all of the Part 2 graduate attributes were met by graduates of the RIBA Part 2 Architecture Confluence Cycle II (level B).

15 Review of work against Themes and Values

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

Themes and Values for Part 1

The Board confirmed that all of the Themes and Values were met by graduates of the RIBA Part 1 Architecture Confluence Cycle I (level A).

Themes and Values for Part 2

The Board confirmed that all of the Themes and Values were met by graduates of the RIBA Part 2 Architecture Confluence Cycle II (level B).

16 Other information

16.1 Student numbers (from the School)

Architecture Confluence Cycle I (level A)	19 students
Architecture Confluence Cycle II (level B)	20 students

16.2 Documentation provided

The Department provided all documentation as required by the Procedures for Validation.

17 Notes of meetings

On request, the RIBA will issue a copy of the minutes taken from the following meetings. These notes will not form part of the published report but will be made available on request.

- Budget holder and course leaders

- Students
- Head of Institution
- External examiners
- Staff