RIBA

Royal Institute of British Architects

Arab Academy of Science, Technology and Maritime Transport (AASTMT)
Cairo

Date of visiting board: 24/25 September 2017
Confirmed by RIBA Education Committee: 9 February 2018

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1   Details of institution hosting course
ARAB ACADEMY OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND MARITIME
TRANSPORT (AASMT)
Department of Architectural Engineering and Environmental Design
College of Engineering and Technology, Cairo
El Mosheer Ahmad Ismail st.
Heliopolis, Cairo, Egypt

2   Head of Architecture Department
Sherif M. El-Fiki, PhD, Associate Professor

3   Courses offered for validation
Part1: The first 4 years (full-time) of the BSc in Architectural
Engineering and Environmental Design

Part 2: The final two semesters (year 5) of the BSc in Architectural
Engineering and Environmental Design, and including the two
part-time years of the MSc in Architectural Engineering and
Environmental Design

4   Awarding body
The Arab Academy of Science, Technology and Maritime Transport
(AASTMT) – Cairo Campus

5   The visiting board
Harbinder Birdi, Chair – practitioner
Andy Usher – Vice Chair – practitioner
Angie Pascoe – academic
Jane McAllister – academic
Dr Amr Abdel Kawi - regional representative

Stephanie Beasley-Suffolk – RIBA validation manager was in
attendance.

6   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, 2nd revision May 2014)*;* this document is available at
www.architecture.com.

7   Proposals of the visiting board
On 9 February 2018 the RIBA Education Committee confirmed, by
circulation, unconditional validation of the following programmes:

Part1: The first 4 years (full-time) of the BSc in Architectural
Engineering and Environmental Design

Part 2: The final two semesters (year 5) of the BSc in Architectural
Engineering and Environmental Design, and including the two
part-time years of the MSc in Architectural Engineering and
Environmental Design

The next full visiting board should take place in 2022.

8   Standard requirements for continued recognition
        Continued RIBA recognition of all courses and qualifications is
        dependent upon:
i   external examiners (or an acceptable alternative) 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

9   Academic position statement (written by the school)
        Areas of Activity and Specific Outcomes
        The Department aims at achieving excellence in architectural
        education, providing the best possible learning experience to students,
        and competing for the best offered courses in Egypt and the region.
        Our mission is to equip graduates to meet challenges of the future,
        address local and regional responsibilities towards society and the
        architectural profession, and prepare licensed architects who meet
        local and international academic and professional standards. The
        course takes place in Cairo, a city with a rich architectural heritage and
        a multiplicity of cultural and architectural influences. A city that is also
        witnessing vigorous intellectual and political activity since the Egyptian
        Revolution of 2011, which has significant influences on every aspect of
        its dwellers' everyday life. Internationally, the course must respond to
        many global challenges including social, environmental, economic and
        technological dimensions. It must also engage in recent and emerging
        global discourses on architecture, technology and urbanism. The
        sections below detail the ways in which the Department meets the
        aforementioned goals and challenges.

        The B.Sc. course is mainly planned in ten integrated groups of core
        and elective subjects, which are studied over the degree-award years.
        The core groups include Introductory modules; Visual Studies;
        Architectural Design modules; Building Technology and Execution
        Design modules; History and Theories of Architecture modules; Town
        Planning and Urban Design modules; Management modules;
        Environmental Studies modules; Computer Application modules and
        Structural Engineering modules. This organization allows for easy
        tracing of students' development in relation to every group of subjects,
        in order to devise the most appropriate means for supporting them in
        regard of their very specific needs.

        Being chiefly meant with 'architectural design' as a main component,
        the course extends its emphases to the various scales and elements of
        'design' to be addressed at the levels of Urban design, Landscape
        design, Interior design and Execution and detailing design, parallel with
        the different 'Architectural design' modules.

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Nevertheless, the environmental dimension is well-addressed in contextual, social, cultural, and physical terms. This is to make sure they all reflect well upon design in an integrated fashion that clearly realizes the holistic nature of design, as a process and a product that addresses human satisfaction without compromising sound environmental settings.

Taking this down to practical contexts, the courses lay no less emphasis upon the comprehensive technical modules of Building technology, Execution design, Project Management, Professional Activities, and Regulations and Laws being a backbone for sound implementation and site work technicalities.

On another hand, 'History and Theories of Architecture' modules set a theoretical springboard out of which grounded understanding to the course-objectives may stem, towards feeding into their design approaches and methods. The courses also recognize the significance of modern technologies in supporting its objectives. Therefore, digital 8 RIBA Revalidation for Part 1| Pre-Visit Documentation (September 2017) applications like Computer Aided Drafting, 3D Modelling are introduced to students as core modules, with the intent to improve their design and presentation skills.

Parallel with the aforementioned core modules, students can choose from a wide spectrum of elective modules to extend their knowledge in particular areas and to cater for their individual interests. Such modules include some theoretical means to further understand architectural discourses like 'Architectural Criticism', 'Research and Programming', 'Scientific Thinking' 'Topics in Sustainability', 'Introduction to Environmental Systems, 'Mediterranean cities' and 'Historical Preservation and Conservation'. Elective modules also encompass art components like 'Painting', 'Photography', 'Workshop And Architectural Models', 'Sculpture' and 'Music and Civilization' to address another significant approach to architectural studies.
For those who are keen on focusing on technology, more computer applications like 'GIS', 'Rendering and Animation', 'Computer Graphic Design' and 'Web Design' are introduced using up-to-date software, to improve design and communication skills.

Students who have special interest in interior design have the following electives; 'Interior Design Principles', 'Colours & Light In Interior', 'Furniture Design', 'Functional Requirements In Interior Environment', '20th Century Interior', and 'Comparative Styles In Furniture'

10 Commendations
The visiting board made the following commendations:

10.1 The Board commends the Department for the well-presented documentation, exhibition and portfolios, which aided the Board's ability to review the architecture programmes.

10.2 The Board commends the Department for its management of a comprehensive architecture programme that clearly prepares students

for professional practice within the architectural and construction industries.

10.3 The Board commends the Department for having a committed and collegiate complement of faculty and teaching assistants, who are dedicated to the success of the students and the Department.

10.4 The Board commends the Department for its response to action points raised by the previous validation board and the Department's external examiners. The Board particularly wishes to highlight the extent and role of the Library and the model-making facilities.

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 Board recognises that significant improvements have been made to the programmes, faculty and physical resources. The Board recommends that the Academy continue to support the enhancement of the Department across all areas.

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 Board encourages the Department to invest further in marketing itself to raise the profile of the School, not only within the region but also internationally, which aligns with Department's ethos and the Academy's strategy of increased internationalisation, and will enable it to continue to attract the best students.

13.2 The Board advises that the students are encouraged, at the end of semester 7, to collate a succinct and comprehensive portfolio of work, which demonstrates integration between courses and can serve as a valuable resource when engaging with potential employers.

13.3 The Board appreciates that the architecture programme has a very full academic schedule. However, the Board encourages the Department to consider ways to establish a stronger design culture, with greater time for critical thinking, reflection and documentation of the design process.

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.

The Board was content that all Part 1 graduate attributes were met on completion of the first four years of the Bachelor programme.

The Board was content that all Part 2 graduate attributes were met on completion of the final two semesters (year 5) of the BSc in Architectural Engineering and Environmental Design, and including the two part-time years of the MSc in Architectural Engineering and Environmental Design.

15   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.
The Board was content that all criteria were met.

16   Other information

16.1   Student numbers
Part 1: First four years of BSc course: 631
Part 2: Terms 9 and 10 of BSc: 125
          MSc: 117

16.2   Documentation provided
The School provided all documentation required in accordance with the Procedures for Validation. The Board has offered advice regarding the compilation of portfolios for students (13.2).

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. The full set of notes will be issued to the next full visiting board.

17.1   Meeting with head of architecture and budget holder
17.2   Meeting with students
17.3   Meeting with the Head of Institution
17.4   Meeting with external examiners
17.5   Meeting with staff