

# ARCHITECTURAL THEORY

## 2026/27 – 1ST SEMESTER

| BASIC DATA                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                  |                                                                                                                               |
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| COURSE NAME                                            | Építészetelmélet                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                  | Architectural Theory                                                                                                          |
| COURSE CODE(S)                                         | YAXARTHMF                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                  |                                                                                                                               |
| DEPARTMENT                                             | Óbuda University, Ybl Miklós Faculty of Architecture, Institute of Architecture, Department for the Built Environment                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                  |                                                                                                                               |
| PROGRAMME, TRAINING                                    | Architect MSc                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                  | full time                                                                                                                     |
| COURSE INSTRUCTOR<br>(Instructor, managing the course) | Dr. habil.<br><b>Gergely NAGY</b><br>PhD, Associate Professor<br>(=NGD)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <a href="mailto:nagy.gergely@ybl.uni-obuda.hu">nagy.gergely@ybl.uni-obuda.hu</a> | Consultations:<br>Monday 12.35-13.20<br>Thursday 15.20-16.05                                                                  |
| INSTRUCTORS, LECTURERS                                 | Dr. habil.<br><b>Deodáth ZUH</b><br>PhD (=DZ)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <a href="mailto:zuh.deodath@uni-obuda.hu">zuh.deodath@uni-obuda.hu</a>           | Consultations: online / <a href="mailto:zuh.deodath@uni-obuda.hu">zuh.deodath@uni-obuda.hu</a><br>offline: Friday 10:40-12:00 |
| PRE-REQUIREMENT                                        | none (subject name and code, if any)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                  |                                                                                                                               |
| HOURS OF LECTURES                                      | 3 hours (weekly)/every Wednesday, 8:55-11:30                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                  |                                                                                                                               |
| HOURS OF CLASSROOM TRAINING / LABORATORY TRAINING      | 0 hours                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                  |                                                                                                                               |
| FIELD WORK AND TRAINING                                | 0 hours                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                  |                                                                                                                               |
| ASSIGNMENT                                             | Midterm assignment and exam (if the midterm assignment has failed)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                  |                                                                                                                               |
| CREDITS                                                | 5 credits (ECTS)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                  |                                                                                                                               |
| AIM OF THE COURSE, BRIEF DESCRIPTION                   | Students receive the basic knowledge on the history of architectural thought from ancient times until twentieth century and contemporary agendas. The instruction methods are mostly historical, but chronological survey is often bound with many explanations using advances in the history of ideas, and the preliminary but still actual notions of architectural criticism. The three leading concepts used are: architectural meaning, its subcategory: honest building and construction, respectively natural and cultural environment as the basic context of architectural practices. Students will be perusing some classical and contemporary texts in order to explain, interpret, and critically engage with selected buildings (mostly from the capital city of Budapest) by actively employing the knowledge gained during the lectures. The list of proposed architectural objects is provided annexed to this course description.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                  |                                                                                                                               |
| RECOMMENDED LITERATURE                                 | <p>*** <i>Architectural Theory</i>. Vol. I. From Vitruvius to 1871; Vol. II. From 1871 to 2005. Ed. Harry Francis Mallgrave. Wiley/Blackwell 2005, 2008.</p> <p>*** <i>Architecture theory since 1968</i>. Ed. K. Michael Hayes. Columbia Books/MIT Press, 1998.</p> <p><b>De Graaf</b>, Reinier: <i>Four Walls and a Roof</i>. The Complex Nature of a Simple Profession. Harvard UP, 2017.</p> <p><b>Evers</b>, Bernd - <b>Biermann</b>, Veronica: <i>Architectural Theory from the Renaissance to the present</i>. Taschen, 2019.</p> <p><b>Frampton</b>, Kenneth: <i>Modern Architecture: a Critical History</i>. Thames and Hudson, 1992.</p> <p><b>Frampton</b>, Kenneth: <i>The Other Modern Movement</i>. Architecture 1920/1970. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2021.</p> <p><b>Gelernter</b>, Mark: <i>Sources of Architectural Form</i>. A Critical History of Western Design Theory. Manchester University Press, 1995.</p> <p><b>Guyer</b>, Paul: <i>A philosopher looks at architecture</i>. Cambridge UP, 2021.</p> <p><b>Hitchcock</b>, Henry-Russell - <b>Johnson</b>, Philip: <i>The International Style</i>. [Architecture since 1922] New York: Northon Library, 1966 [1932].</p> <p><b>Kruft</b> Hanno-Walter: <i>A History of Architectural Theory</i>. Princeton Architectural Press, New York, 1994. (Hanno-Walter Kruft: Geschichte der Architekturtheorie. Verlag C.H.Beck, München, 1986)</p> <p><b>Mallgrave</b>, Harry Francis: <i>Modern Architectural Theory</i>. A Historical Survey, 1673-1968. Cambridge UP, 2005.</p> <p><b>Moravánszky</b>, Ákos: <i>Competing Visions</i>. Aesthetic Invention and Social Imagination in Central European Architecture, 1867-1918. MIT Press, 1998.</p> <p><b>Moravánszky</b>, Ákos: <i>Metamorphism</i>. Material Change in Architecture. Birkhäuser, Basel, 2017.</p> <p><b>Rasmussen</b>, Steen Eiler: <i>Experiencing Architecture</i>. MIT Press, Cambridge MA, 1959. LCCN 62 21 673.</p> <p><b>Wittkower</b>, Rudolf: <i>Architectural Principles in the Age of Humanism</i>. W.W.Norton. New York, 1971.</p> |                                                                                  |                                                                                                                               |

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| <b>REQUIRED TECHNICAL<br/>APPLIANCES/<br/>SOFTWARE</b> | The use of mobile phones is prohibited during the examinations.<br>In the case of online education:<br>Contact: Neptun, E-learning and E-mail.<br>Education materials: According to E-learning<br>Lessons: E-learning, Zoom |
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### Architectural analysis and critique.

#### *List of proposed items with suggested theoretical references<sup>1</sup>*

1. *Alfréd Hajós National Swimming Stadium* (Budapest, Margaret Island) – Walter Gropius, Hannes Mayer, Henry-Russell Hitchcock/Philip Johnson
2. *Chain Bridge* (Budapest, Szécsenyi István sq. – Clark Ádám sq.) – Matthew Digby Wyatt, John Ruskin
3. *Gutenberg House ['Home']* (Budapest, Gutenberg sq./Scheiber S. st. 1 ) – Herman Mutesius, Henry van der Velde, Otto Wagner
4. *Hungarian Museum of Ethnography* (Budapest, Dózsa Gy. av. 35) – Hugo Häring, Bruno Zevi
5. *Hungarian National Museum* (Budapest, Múzeum av. 14–16) – Johann Joachim Winckelmann, Karl Friedrich Schinkel, Karl Bötticher
6. *Hungarian Parliament Building* (Budapest, Kossuth L. sq. 1–3) – Gottfried Semper, John Ruskin, Eugène E. Viollet-le-Duc
7. *István Szécsenyi Secondary School of Commerce* (Vas Street High School; Budapest, Vas st. 9–11) – Josef Hoffmann, Josef Frank
8. *Pest Vigadó [Redoute]* (Budapest Vigadó sq. 1) – Eugène-Emmanuel Viollet-le-Duc, Ragnar Östberg
9. *Royal Palace of Buda* [the last reconstruction in the 1960s–1970s] (Budapest, Szent György sq. 2) – Richard Neutra, Robert Venturi, Charles Jencks
10. *Rózsi Walter Villa* (Budapest, Bajza st. 10) – Le Corbusier, Adolf Loos
11. *Former Villas of the Hungarian Association of Magistrates* (Budapest, Ráth György st.) – Louis H. Sullivan, Frank Lloyd Wright
12. *Wekerle Estates* (Budapest, 19th District, Kispest neighborhood) – Otto Wagner, Ákos Moravánszky, Camillo Sitte

<sup>1</sup> Students may also use pertaining archival sources and secondary literature on the history of each building.

| WEEK         | LECTURE                                                                                                                                                                                                     | LECTURER | PROGRAM OF TRAINING                                                                |
|--------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1<br>09.09.  | The problem of a history of architectural theory – Preliminary remarks and basic methodology – why edifices look like the way they do? The layered and complicated nature of a simple profession (de Graaf) | DZ       | Introduction, tasks of the semester – surveying the list of buildings for analysis |
| 2<br>09.16.  | contd.                                                                                                                                                                                                      | DZ       | Consultation of the semester task                                                  |
| 3<br>09.23.  | The Vitruvian tradition and its landmarks                                                                                                                                                                   | DZ       | idem.                                                                              |
| 4<br>09.30.  | The Quick look through Renaissance                                                                                                                                                                          | DZ       | idem. – final choice of the semester task                                          |
| 5<br>10.07.  | 19 <sup>th</sup> century and the beginnings of modern architectural theory I.                                                                                                                               | DZ       | idem.                                                                              |
| 6<br>10.14.  | 19 <sup>th</sup> century and the beginnings of modern architectural theory II.                                                                                                                              | DZ       | idem.                                                                              |
| 7<br>10.21.  | Modernism in theory I.                                                                                                                                                                                      | DZ       | idem.                                                                              |
| 8<br>10.28.  | Modernism in theory II.                                                                                                                                                                                     | DZ       | idem.                                                                              |
| 9<br>11.04.  | Modernism in theory III.                                                                                                                                                                                    | DZ       | idem.                                                                              |
| 10<br>11.11. | Contemporary issues: from postmodernism to regionalism and parametricism I.                                                                                                                                 | DZ       | idem.                                                                              |
| 11<br>11.18. | Contemporary issues: from postmodernism to regionalism and parametricism II.                                                                                                                                | DZ       | idem.                                                                              |
| 12<br>11.25. | Last consultation – survey of potential weak points in the presentations                                                                                                                                    | DZ       | Last consultation, 90% readiness                                                   |
| 13<br>12.02. | Presentations of semester tasks                                                                                                                                                                             | DZ, NGD  | Presentations                                                                      |
| 14<br>12.09. | Presentations of semester tasks                                                                                                                                                                             | ZD, NGD  | Presentations                                                                      |

| REQUIREMENTS FOR THE COMPLETION OF THE SEMESTER         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                            |
|---------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| MID-SEMESTER TASKS AND TESTS                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                            |
| Requirement                                             | Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Value<br>(point, %, grade) |
| <b>PARTICIPATION AT LESSONS</b>                         | The practice lessons can be missed up to three times.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | -                          |
| <b>IN CASE OF ABSENCE FROM LESSONS AND EXAMINATIONS</b> | Absence is considered to be justified with a medical certificate presented.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | -                          |
| <b>Short description of the TASK</b>                    | Students must choose a building to analyze from an architectural theory perspective. The building can be from any era. The main aspects of the analysis should be meaning, sincerity and relation to the environment. You must also choose a text from an architectural writer of your choice - but preferably from the same age. This text analysis must be linked to the analyzed building. The format of the task is ppt or pdf. | 100 points                 |
| <b>Exam</b>                                             | If the student is not achieving at least 60% of the points in Task, taking written exam is required, based on the themes covered during lectures.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | 100 points                 |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | 200 points                 |

| SEMESTER CLOSING REQUIREMENTS                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |          |                  |          |               |
|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|------------------|----------|---------------|
| <b>CONDITIONS FOR OBTAINING A SIGNATURE</b>      | Semester task should be completed to at least 50%.                                                                                                                                                                                  |          |                  |          |               |
| <b>SEMESTER GRADE</b>                            | 0-49 Point                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | 50-69    | 70-79            | 80-89    | 90-100        |
|                                                  | 1 - FAIL                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 2 - PASS | 3 - SATISFACTORY | 4 - GOOD | 5 - EXCELLENT |
| <b>CONDITIONS FOR OBTAINING AN OFFERED GRADE</b> | At least 60% of the semester task points should be reached to be able to receive an offered grade.                                                                                                                                  |          |                  |          |               |
|                                                  | 0-59 Point                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | 60-69    | 70-79            | 80-89    | 90-100        |
|                                                  | 1 - FAIL                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 2 - PASS | 3 - SATISFACTORY | 4 - GOOD | 5 - EXCELLENT |
| <b>CONDITIONS FOR ADMISSION TO THE EXAM</b>      | Only students who have already obtained a signature can take the exam.<br>During the exam period, the student has to register for the exam in the Neptun.<br>The test is a 60-minute written test with a total value of 100 points. |          |                  |          |               |
| <b>EXAM GRADE</b>                                | 0-49 Point                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | 50-69    | 70-79            | 80-89    | 90-100        |
|                                                  | 1 - FAIL                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 2 - PASS | 3 - SATISFACTORY | 4 - GOOD | 5 - EXCELLENT |