

## **A General Framework for Design Courses: Experimentation towards a Comprehensive Architectural Curriculum\***

**Dr. Rafee Hakky\*\***

---

### **Abstract**

**Different teaching methods make students' educational experience hard and even frustrating. This article suggests a framework for architectural design courses that aims to provide a general road map according to which information is addressed in parallel with theoretical information gained from other courses. It is based on the three main issues of architectural design as defined by Vitruvius; namely, function, structure, and form. Two other issues are also addressed: the social and the environmental side. The framework was applied for two semesters at the International University for Science and Technology in Damascus; open juries were also used for the first time. Results obtained from questionnaires and interviews indicate acceptance of the proposed framework and the idea of open juries by faculty and students. However, the application of the framework requires longer time to be fully and seriously accepted and then adopted by faculty. Students were enthusiastic about the open jury.**

---

Key words: architectural education, design studio courses, design studio, evaluation of architectural projects

---

\* For The paper in Arabic see pages (163-178)

\*\* Associated Professor, Faculty of Engineering, International University for Science and Technology

## References

1. Forsyth, G., et al. (2007). National Forum on Studio Teaching. Australia: University of New South Wales.
2. Kuhn, S. (2001). Learning from the Architecture Studio: Implications for Project-Based Pedagogy. *International Journal of Engineering Education*, vol. 17, no. 4 -5, pp. 349-352.
3. La Harpe, B., et al. (2009). Assessment Focus in Studio: What is Most Prominent in Architecture, Art, and Design? *International Journal of Art & Design Education*, Volume 28, Number 1, February 2009, pp. 37-51.
4. Ostwald, M., et. al. (2008). Understanding Architectural Education in Australia, volume 2. Australia: Australian Learning and Teaching Council.
5. Salama, A. (1995). *New Trends in Architectural Education: Designing the Design Studio*. Raleigh, NC: Tailored Text and Unlimited Potential Publishing.
6. Saliklis, E. (2009). Teaching Architects and Engineers: Up and Down the Taxonomy. Proceedings of the 2009 American Society for Engineering Education Annual Conference and Exposition. Austin, TX.
7. Sturgis, C., et. al. (1914). Proceedings of the 48th Annual Convention of the American Institute of Architects. Washington, DC: AIA.
8. Zehner, R., et. al. (2008). Second National Forum on Studio Teaching Assessment. Sydney, Australia: The University of New South Wales.
9. Zehner, R., et. al. (2009). Curriculum Development in Studio Teaching, volume 1. Australia: Australian Learning and Teaching Council