



Architecture & Design Reading List (two weeks)

We're looking forward to welcoming you to the Architecture & Design course, and we hope you're looking forward to joining us too!

If you'd like to start exploring the subject ahead of the start of your course, here's a list of resources that will help you engage with some of the ideas you'll be exploring in more depth across the two weeks. These are by no means in order of importance and you don't have to look at all of them – let your instinct choose what sounds more interesting to you!

Books:

- **Architecture: A Very Short Introduction by Andrew Ballantyne** - Explore the fascinating history of different styles and movements, from Gothic to Modernism, and discover the power and influence of architecture in society. With vivid illustrations and engaging examples, this book is a must-read for anyone interested in the built environment.
- **Phantom Architecture by Philip Wilkinson** - This book takes you on a journey through history, exploring magnificent buildings and structures that never made it past the blueprint stage. Discover towering castles, glittering palaces and futuristic skyscrapers that were never built, and learn about the fascinating stories and characters behind these phantom structures. A captivating read for anyone interested in architecture, design or history.
- **Form, Space, and Order by Francis D.K. Ching** - This book is a must-read for anyone interested in the basics of architectural design. With clear explanations and illustrations, you'll learn how architects use form, space and order to create functional and aesthetically pleasing buildings.

Short Articles:

- **100 Architecture Terms** - This might be your first time learning architecture! To hone your basic knowledge of architecture, familiarise yourself with common terms to help you describe buildings better.

Link: Read [here](#)

- **IKEA's Democratic Design Philosophy** – The concept of “democratic design” was introduced by French designer and visionary Phillipe Stark as “design that provides quality pieces at accessible prices”. Ikea adopted and expanded this idea around five key principles: form, function, sustainability, quality and low price. Ikea is spreading the gospel of “democratic design” across the globe through its 300-plus stores in 25 countries and its rapidly growing internet presence as the world's largest furniture retailer since 2008.

Link: Read [here](#)

Videos:

- **How the world's tallest skyscraper was built by Ted-Ed** - In 2004, construction began on a new building in Dubai, promising a revolutionary design that would dwarf the rest of the world's skyscrapers. Five years later, the 828-meter Burj Khalifa was complete, surpassing the previous record-holder by over 60%. What innovations allowed for such a huge leap in height? Watch this video as it digs into the architecture of this unprecedented project.

Link: Watch [here](#)

- **How to solve problems like a designer by Vox** - The process to solving problems, whether they be simple or complex, encompasses these four steps: observing, idea making, prototyping and testing. Tim Brown, CEO and president of the company, explains how human-centred design (and this four-step process) is a major key in how IDEO approaches complex challenges.

Link: Watch [here](#)

- **What Is Urban Design by NYC Department of City Planning** - More than half of the world's population already lives in cities, and another 2.5 billion people are projected to move to urban areas by 2050. The way we build new cities will be at the heart of so much that matters, from climate change and economic vitality to our very well-being and sense of connectedness. The importance of good urban design is crucial now more than ever. Watch this video to learn what urban design is all about.

Link: Watch [here](#)

Next Steps:

We're really looking forward to welcoming you to our two week Architecture course! If you'd like to take your learning to the next level, you're welcome to join one of our other

programmes too – many of our students sign up to multiple programmes as they prepare for their futures. Your options include:

- Our month-long [Research Internships](#) will see you gain hands-on experience, working with an industry professional – you can choose from subjects like Engineering and Business, so you're sure to find one that matches your interests.

Other Resources:

Clarity about your future career direction will help you in your academic studies and in your university applications. We've created a quick Careers Test to help you to know what careers might suit you best. You'll then receive a personalised Careers Report, with recommended careers and resources to explore. We hope you'll find it useful!

Try the Test [here](#)