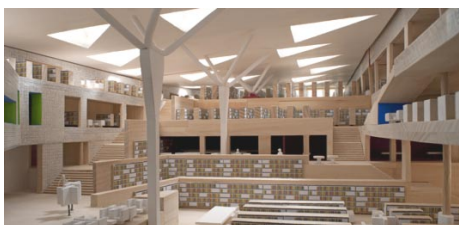


## BA [HONS] ARCHITECTURE Level 5

Tutors: Professor Jim Low, Hannah Vowles, Mark Griffiths [VT], Jonny Muirhead [VT]

ARC5001 STUDIO DESIGN 1  
LIBRARY FOR 400,000 BOOKS [05]

The Hive Worcester  
Fielden Clegg Bradley Studio



Bibliotheque Nationale de Luxembourg  
Bolles Wilson Architects



New Central Library Berlin  
Kubota Bachmann Architects

**PROJECT AIMS**

We now move on to where you are being provided with a brief – schedule of accommodation for a university library to house 400,000 books and ancillary accommodation. The project primarily focuses on planning and form making of the project in its context. It incorporates a Management Planning Law Workshop. It provides an opportunity to develop a design process. The project is to be located on a tight urban site in Eastside, Birmingham.

*“When architecture students are asked to design a place to read in, some of their initial proposals are – inevitably – buildings that look like books. Armed with lengthy commonsense explanations about symbolism in architecture and the relationship between form and function, teachers move quickly to strangle at birth such naïve attempts to demonstrate that the only physical form of reading must be in the actual shape of a book. The statement a book-like building makes seems so obvious: even allowing for massive transposition of scale, who could ever doubt what goes on inside?”*

*Taking a more kindly view of such naivety, these proposals could be considered to be based, however unconsciously, on important libraries where the relationship between design, construction and book, or rather, books was a determining factor in their design. To give students their due, if we leave aside “reading” – a vague term at best – and use the more precise architectural term “library”, it’s worth remembering that Dominique Perrault’s Bibliotheque Nationale de France [1997] consists of four angular towers whose L-shaped plans were inspired by the form of open books.*

Fabrizio Gallanti, *Bricks made of paper and ink*, in *Abitare* 510 March 2011 p

**SITE**

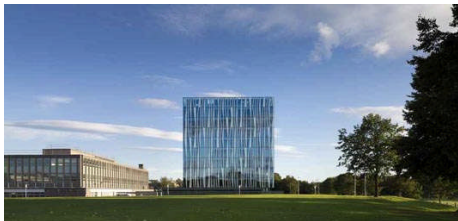
There is a choice of two sites, both located in Eastside:

1. A triangular site adjacent to Hotel Le Tour and bounded by New Canal Street
2. A rectilinear site adjacent to Millennium Point and bounded by Fox Street, Etna Street and Grosvenor Street.

The design must be represented in its context.



*Sir Duncan Rice Library, Aberdeen*  
*Schmidt Hammer Lassen Architects*



*Sir Duncan Rice Library, Aberdeen*  
*Schmidt Hammer Lassen Architects*

## DEVELOPING THE BRIEF/ ACCOMMODATION SCHEDULE

The first task is, working in tutorial groups, to develop the brief – brief making. Taking the list of accommodation requirements below you are to produce a schedule of accommodation with areas for the activities.

- > space for 400,000 books
- > archive for 5.000 rare books
- > study areas for 500 students
- > 50 no. study carrels
- > 4 no. seminar rooms for 25, 50, 75 and 100 students respectively.
- > café/ kitchen
- > entrance area
- > public area
- > exhibition space
- > 20 no. offices
- > storage area
- > stairs
- > lifts [public and service]
- > toilets [including disabled]
- > plant room
- > garden

Design considerations:

- > Orientation
- > Topography
- > Access
- > Fire strategy
- > Health and safety
- > There is no requirement for car-parking
- > Vehicular access to storage area

PROGRAMME TIMETABLE	
<b>04</b> Friday 18 October pm.	Introduction to brief and site visit
<b>05</b> Tuesday 22 October pm.	Arup Visit
<b>05</b> Friday 25 October	'Charrette' one-day design workshop: tutorial groups develop proposition[s] for the library
<b>06</b> Tuesday 29 October pm.	Tutorials on concept and form
<b>06</b> Friday 01 November	Tutorials site appraisal, individual sketch design developed from initial propositions, development models showing massing and form
<b>07</b> Tuesday 05 November pm	Tutorials
<b>07</b> Friday 08 November	FORMATIVE REVIEW: sketch design exploring the implications of planning/ context/ structure/ environmental design.
<b>08</b> Tuesday 12 November pm	FORMATIVE REVIEW ARC5007 TECHNOLOGY
<b>08</b> Friday 15 November	Finalised Sketch Design, Develop Exhibition panel
<b>09</b> Tuesday 19 November pm	Management Planning Law Workshop – site appraisal
<b>09</b> Friday 22 November	SUMMATIVE REVIEW of finalised sketch design digital presentation



Ceuta Public Library  
Paredes Pedrosa Architects

## ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS

### FORMATIVE REVIEW

The finalised sketch design is to be presented digitally and should include sketch/work book drawings showing the process and development of the design. Development models showing the massing of the library and in context. Also A4 prints of the design project are to be pinned-up for viewing.

### SUMMATIVE REVIEW

The presentation can be mixed-media demonstrating your abilities, hand-drawing, the use of CAD and model making. The presentation should be on an A2 sheets showing library plans, sections and elevations [in context] together with photograph[s] showing model[s]. An important element of the assessment is the quality and precision of your drawings that form your presentation together with the design of the sheets. Sketch/note book showing development of the design is to be available.

All drawings presented are to clearly show your name. Remember printing/plotting will have to be done the day before the review. All work to be pinned-up by 09.45am.

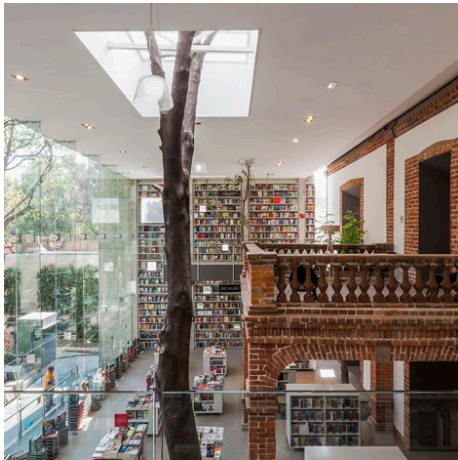
### REFERENCES

Christopher, Alexander et al [1977] *A Pattern Language*. Oxford University Press. New York

2G Sou Fujimoto N50 2009 Barcelona Spain

Sou Fujimoto in *AZURE* 203 October 2010 p. 30

Adjaye, David [2006] *MAKING PUBLIC BUILDINGS Specificity Customization Imbrication*. Thames & Hudson London



Elena Garro Cultural Centre Library  
Fernanda Canales & Arquitectura 911sc\_sq

### SUGGESTED PRECEDENTS

Gunnar Asplund  
Alvar Aalto  
James Stirling  
Dominique Perrault  
Will Alsop  
Mecanoo [Francine Houben]  
Fielden, Clegg and Bradley.  
Sou Fujimoto  
Gordon Bunshaft  
and those included in the images

VISIT: you must visit the Hive Worcester, and Library of Birmingham