3.2.1 BA (Architecture) (Hons) Programme

The BA (Arch) is a four-year honours degree programme that comprises a general programme and three other design-focused tracks - 1) Design, 2) Landscape Architecture (LA) and 3) Urban Planning (UP). The curriculum content for the first three years is common to the general as well as the design-focused tracks.

The general programme terminates at the BA (Arch) degree whereas the design-focused tracks are concurrent with the Master of Architecture (M (Arch)), Master of Landscape Architecture (M (LA)) or Master of Urban Planning (MUP) degree programmes. Only students who have achieved creditable grades in design, i.e. at least a B or B- in design at the third year (depending on the track of study) will be permitted to opt for a design focused tracks.

Students who are not eligible for the design focused tracks will continue in the general programme in their fourth year of study, leading to BA (Arch). Under this programme, students will no longer be required to take the design modules at fourth year. In its place, students will take elective modules with options to focus on Design Computing, Architectural & Urban Heritage or Urban Studies. Students who graduate with a high CAP in the general programme would continue to have the opportunity to pursue other graduate programmes.

Career Opportunities and Professional Registration

Graduates with a BA (Arch) degree who have completed Advanced Architectural Studies on Design Computing, Architectural & Urban Heritage or Urban Studies could work within these areas in architectural practices, government agencies or in research. Graduates would also have opportunities to work in related fields including and not limited to interior design, industrial design, industrialised building systems, graphic design, commercial art and architectural journalism. Graduates who complete the Landscape Architecture (LA) or Urban Planning (UP) specialisation may also work in fields related to their specialisation.

The BA (Arch) degree does not in itself qualify graduates for registration with the Board of Architects. In order to eventually register as an architect with the Board of Architects, Singapore, BA (Arch) graduates must complete the M (Arch) degree and serve a minimum of two years of practical experience in an architectural practice to be eligible for the Professional Practice Examination conducted by the Board of Architects, Singapore. Those who pass the examination are then eligible to apply for registration as architects in Singapore.

TABLE 1: CURRICULUM STRUCTURE OF THE FOUR-YEAR BA (ARCH) PROGRAMME
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NO.</th>
<th>MODULES</th>
<th>MCS</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>University Requirements</td>
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<tr>
<td>a</td>
<td>General Education Modules (GEM)</td>
<td>20</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Programme Requirements</td>
<td>108</td>
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<tr>
<td>a</td>
<td>Essential modules taken within the Department</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Unrestricted Electives (UE) ¹</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>160</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹ Requisite modules taken to be considered for admission to the Masters programmes can be used to fulfil the UE requirements

**Design-Focused Tracks**

Students who have achieved creditable grades (B or B-, depending on the track of study) in design at the third year will be permitted to opt for the design-focused tracks.

The Design track will lead to the M Arch degree programme. The Design track offers students the opportunity to focus on design ideas, innovation and conceptualisation from a theoretical framework.

Students who obtained at least B average in design at third year level are eligible to be considered for Urban Planning track. The UP track allows students to proceed to the Master of Urban Planning programme subjected to fulfilment of the admission requirement.

The Landscape Architecture track enables students to migrate to the Masters in Landscape Architecture (MLA) programme. The LA modules will be offered at the third and fourth year. Students who have opted for the LA track after completion of second year but fail to achieve B- for design modules at third year will pursue the general degree programme.

**Progression for the Architecture Concurrent Degree Programme**

The admission requirements for various tracks of the M (Arch), M (LA) and M (UP) programmes are summarized in Table 2.

Students will receive both BA (Arch) (Hons) /BA (Arch) (depending on his/her CAP) and M (Arch)/M (LA)/M (UP) degrees concurrently upon completing the Masters programme.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level 5 (Masters)</th>
<th>Master of Architecture</th>
<th>Master of Landscape Architecture</th>
<th>Master of Urban Planning</th>
<th>Master of Arts (Architecture) or Other NUS Graduate Programmes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Admission Criteria to Level 5</td>
<td>- Min C grade for AR5801 &amp; AR5802</td>
<td>- Min B average for AR5801 and AR5802</td>
<td>- Min B- average for LA4701 &amp; LA4702</td>
<td>Subjected to admission criteria of MA (Architecture) or other NUS Graduate programmes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Min CAP of 2.50</td>
<td>- Min CAP of 2.50</td>
<td>- Min CAP of 2.50</td>
<td>- Min CAP of 3.00 for MUP modules</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Portfolio Review and Interview for Discretionary Admission</td>
<td>- Portfolio Review and Interview for all students who wish to read UD specialisation</td>
<td>- Portfolio Review and Interview for Discretionary Admission</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level 4 BA (Arch)/ BA (Arch) Hons</td>
<td>Design Track</td>
<td>Landscape Architecture Track</td>
<td>Urban Planning Track</td>
<td>General Programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eligibility Criteria to proceed with Level 4</td>
<td>- Min B average for AR3101/AR3101a &amp; AR3102/AR3102a</td>
<td>- Min B average for AR3101a &amp; AR3102a</td>
<td>- Min B average for AR3101a and AR3102a</td>
<td>- Min C grade for AR3101/AR3101a &amp; AR3102/AR3102a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Min B for AR3102/AR3102a</td>
<td>- Min B- for AR3102a</td>
<td>- or taken at least one of the modules attaining min B-grade</td>
<td>- Portfolio Review and Interview for Discretionary Admission</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Portfolio Review and Interview for Discretionary Admission</td>
<td>- Portfolio Review and Interview for Discretionary Admission</td>
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**Listing of Modules**

The four-year BA (Arch) programme is structured as follows:

**TABLE 3: BA (ARCH) CURRICULUM - GENERAL PROGRAMME**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Design</th>
<th>Sem 1</th>
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<th>Sem 1</th>
<th>Sem 2</th>
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<td>AR1101 Design 1</td>
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<td>AR1102 Design 2 (8 MCs)</td>
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<td>AR2101 Design 3 (8 MCs)</td>
<td></td>
<td>AR2102 Design 4 (8 MCs)</td>
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<td>AR3102 Design 6 (8 MCs)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Level 4000 &amp; Above Arch Related Elective (in lieu of Design) (8 MC)</td>
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</table>

| History Theory    | AR2224 Ideas & Approaches in Design (4 MC) | AR2222 History and Theory of Western Arch (4 MC) | AR2221 History and Theory of SEA Arch (4 MC) |
| Urban & Landscape |       |       |       |       |       |       | AR3223 Introduction to Urbanism (4 MC) |
| Tech Environment  | AR1327 Structural Principles (4 MC)         | AR2524 Spatial Computational Thinking (4 MC)     |       |       |       |       | AR4221 Urban Design Theory and Praxis (4 MC) |
|                   | AR1328 The Tropical Envelope (4 MC)         | AR2327 Architecture, Structure and Construction (4 MC) | AR2723 Strategies for Sustainable Arch (4 MC) |       | AR3721 Environmental Systems and Construction (4 MC) |

General Education Modules (GEM) - 20 MCs
Unrestricted Electives (within/outside SDE) (UE) - 32 MCs
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>LEVEL 1</th>
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<th>LEVEL 3</th>
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<td>History and Theory of SEA Arch</td>
<td>Urban Design Theory and Praxis</td>
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<td>AR3721</td>
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<td>The Tropical Envelope</td>
<td>Architecture, Structure and Construction</td>
<td>Environmental Systems and Construction</td>
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<td>Strategies for Sustainable Arch</td>
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<td>General Education Modules (GEM) – 20 MCs</td>
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<td>Unrestricted Electives (within/outside SDE) (UE) – 32 MCs</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Requisite modules to be considered for admission to the M.Arch programme. These modules can count towards UE requirements*
*Additional UEs students have to complete on their own if they are taking the requisite modules listed under * otherwise full 32 MCs of UEs will apply.

**TABLE 5: BA (ARCH) - LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE TRACK**

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<td>AR2101</td>
<td>AR2102</td>
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<td>AR3102a</td>
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<td>MLA Studio:</td>
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<td>(8 MC)</td>
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<td>(LA Emphasis)*</td>
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<td>History and Theory of Western Arch</td>
<td>History and Theory of SEA Arch</td>
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<td>Tropical Plant Identification*</td>
<td>Material and Design*</td>
<td>Planting Design*</td>
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</table>

General Education Modules (GEM) – 20 MCs
Unrestricted Electives (within/outside SDE) (UE) – 12 MCs*
Students have to take at least one of the modules (AR3101a or AR3102a) to be considered for LA specialisation in fourth year.

Requisite modules to be considered for admission to the M.LA programme. These modules can count towards UE requirements.

Additional UEs students have to complete on their own if they are taking the requisite modules listed under * otherwise full 32 MCs of UEs will apply.

**TABLE 6: BA (ARCH) CURRICULUM - URBAN PLANNING TRACK**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<td><strong>Theory</strong></td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Ideas &amp; Approaches in Design</td>
<td>AR2222</td>
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<td>AR1328</td>
<td>The Tropical Envelope</td>
<td>4 MCs</td>
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<td>AR2327</td>
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<td>4 MCs</td>
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<td>Strategies for Sustainable Arch</td>
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<td>General Education Modules (GEM) – 20 MCs</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Unrestricted Electives (within/outside SDE) (UE) (UE) – 12 MCs*</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Requisite modules to be considered for admission to the M.UP programme. These modules can count towards UE requirements

*Additional UEs students have to complete on their own if they are taking the requisite modules listed under * otherwise full 32 MCs of UEs will apply.

**Teaching Approach**

Design modules are taught through design studios. Critique sessions will form part of the studio procedure in teaching. Lecture modules include formal lectures, followed by seminars/tutorials. Field trips, site visits, measurement and study of buildings for research, investigation and documentation may be involved.
Assessment and Examination

Assessment criteria will vary according to subject content. In the Department of Architecture, design modules are assessed by 100% "continuous assessment" (CA). The other essential modules may also be assessed by 100% CA or a combination of CA and Examination.

Students who fail an essential module will retake the module when it is next offered and must sit for the examination in that Semester. A retake module refers to a module where students have to attend lectures and tutorials and complete assignments and examinations. A new CA grade has to be obtained.

Students who fail a GEM/UE module may either replace it with a new GEM/UE module or retake the failed module the following year. There is no limit to the number of times a student may retake the same GEM/UE module.

A student who has passed the examination of a module will not be permitted to retake the same module for the purpose of improving his/her grade. This condition does not apply to the Design modules where the prerequisite for progression to the next level is a “C” or “S” grade. Students who achieve a “D” or “U” grade will be required to retake the Design module.

Progression of Students

Please see the table below:

| Minimum MCs (in general) for promotion to the next level | ARK1 -> ARK2 [>=40 MC]  
ARK2 -> ARK3 [>=80 MC]  
ARK3 -> ARK4 [>=120 MC]  
| Additional requirements | Must pass Design with a minimum “C” or “S”** grade  
** Applicable to AR1101/ AR1102 if students declare S/U for the module(s) under the S/U policy (for 2016/17 cohort onwards) |

Graduation Requirements for four-year BA (Arch) Programme

Students are required to take all essential modules offered in the semester to which they have progressed, provided they have passed the relevant prerequisites. In addition, they may take modules to satisfy University and other requirements.

Minimum Graduating criteria for

- BA (Arch) Hons: Minimum Grade C for Design and CAP 3.00
- BA (Arch): Minimum Grade C for Design and CAP 2.00
Students who exit the concurrent degree programme at the end of BA (Arch) Year 4 and consequently seek admission to M (Arch), M (LA) or M (UP) would be required to fulfil a minimum CAP of 3.50 and other criteria governing admission as determined at the point of application.

**Advanced Placement Credits**

Polytechnic diploma holders admitted to the programme may be granted advanced placement credits (APCs) for relevant modules. This is subject to Departmental consideration, given the wide range of subject modules from the polytechnics.

For up-to-date APCs list, please refer to:

http://www.sde.nus.edu.sg/acad/download/SDE_APC.pdf