

## TERMS OF REFERENCE

### REVIEW OF THE MASTER OF ARCHITECTURE AND MASTER OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE OFFERED BY THE FACULTY OF THE PROFESSIONS

The School of Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Urban Design in the Faculty of the Professions offers the following postgraduate coursework programs:

- Master of Architecture
- Master of Landscape Architecture
- Master of Architecture with Master of Landscape Architecture

The Master of Architecture and Master of Landscape Architecture are intensive four-semester length studio-based academic programs that, together with the preceding Bachelor of Design Studies, provide a five year accredited pathway to becoming a professional architect or landscape architect.

The Master of Architecture and Master of Landscape Architecture double degree is an intensive six-semester length studio-based academic program that includes all of the requirements for the degrees of Master of Architecture and Master of Landscape Architecture.

The Review is to take place in the context of the University's [2008-2012 Strategic Plan, Building a Great Research University](#) and as part of the University's five-year program review cycle. In conducting the review, the Panel will take into account the views of current staff, students and external stakeholders, including employers, alumni, and representatives of relevant professions and other relevant academic areas of the University.

The Review is also taking place in the context of the University's approval of a revised Bachelor of Design Studies program following the 2010 Review. In addition to the following specific terms of reference, the Review Panel is asked to consider the progress in implementing the recommendations arising from the 2010 Review (a copy of the recommendations is attached).

The Review Panel is asked to consider and make recommendations on:

1. The structure, content, quality and overall coherence of the programs;
2. The appropriateness and effectiveness of teaching methodologies to deliver the aims and objectives of the programs;
3. The destinations and outcomes for graduates who complete the program;
4. The student profile of the programs and future demand and growth opportunities; and
5. The programs' performance and outcomes, benchmarked against similar programs at Go8 universities or similar programs in other Australian universities and relevant international institutions.

In making its recommendations, the Review Panel should assume that there is unlikely to be an increase in the resources provided from internal University funds, but is invited to indicate the highest priorities for the use of extra resources should they be made available.

**FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS**  
*from the Review of the Bachelor of Design Studies*

**Recommendation 1:**

That a distinctive identity for the Program be built around the three disciplines of Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Urban Design, having design as its central feature, and include:

- leveraging recruitment opportunities to support this;
- having regard to the weighting of professional experience and expertise against academic qualifications when recruiting staff; and
- aiming to raise the program ATAR (formerly TER) to levels comparable to other Go8 universities.

**Recommendation 2:**

That the Program be redesigned to increase the level of clearly identifiable design content and for the design studio to be central to the program structure.

**Recommendation 3:**

That the Executive Dean ensures that there is an effective program management committee and that the program coordinator has the authority and means to ensure that the Program is revised and managed in accord with the recommendations of the review.

**Recommendation 4:**

That the new Program includes the following:

- core courses covering the four pillars of Design, History & Theory, Technology and Communications;
- thematic linkages between courses to ensure the logical staging of the courses to support the core Design Studios at each level;
- a minimum of 6 Design Studios with at least 3 Studios of 6 units;
- well structured courses that provide an overall framework for learning outcomes, ensure appropriate and timely feedback and that courses are in accordance with University policies and Academic Program Rules;
- clearly identifiable pathways in Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Urban Design but all students should undertake a common first year; and
- sustainability embedded in all courses rather than being treated as a separate issue.

**Recommendation 5:**

That the School build a design culture in the Program by:

- giving the Professor of Design the authority to articulate a design vision and ensure that this is captured in the program structure and all courses within the Program;
- increasing the internationalisation of the School by providing opportunities for international student exchanges and encourage and build relationships with international design schools;
- encouraging and developing relationships with the profession and reaffirming existing ones, including the establishment of industry studios;
- holding at least one exhibition annually;
- ensuring that the reintroduction of the Critique is central to the Design Studio; and
- identifying opportunities to recruit young professionals with enthusiasm for design to teach within the Design Studio.

**Recommendation 6:**

That the School, as part of making the Design Studio the core of the program:

- Ensure that the Advisory Board meets regularly and is engaged with the development and effective management of the program;
- Look to establish industry partnerships along the lines of the UNSW/City of Sydney model;
- Investigate opportunities to establish student work experience; and
- Encourage students to engage with the local profession through industry studios and participating in work experience.

**Recommendation 7:**

That the School review the amount and appropriateness of the space available to support the proposed revised program, including:

- immediately undertaking renovations and refurbishment of existing spaces;
- redeveloping the existing facilities to support the provision of the Design Studios;
- utilising common teaching areas for tutorials; and
- considering how to establish the entry and address of the School as being in keeping with the development of the student hub.

**Recommendation 8:**

That the School should investigate the IT support for the Program with a view to:

- it being mandatory for all students to have laptops to prescribed specifications;
- the School providing appropriate software for use on the laptops and keeping software up to date in accordance with industry standards and best practice; and
- ensuring that students are introduced to software applications as early as possible and taught to develop expertise to enable critical application of software during the design process.

**Revised Recommendation 9:**

That the implementation of the recommendations be reviewed in approximately six months as determined by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Vice-President (Academic).