

Dalhousie University - School of Architecture
ARCH 5308.03/ 5309.03 **Professional Practice (Co-op Work Term)**
ARCH 5310.00 **Co-op Work Term Continuation**
Winter/ Summer 2012
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Work Book Assignment

Introduction

The work term is an exciting stage of your architectural career, in which your studies of architecture are made from the perspective of practice. This provides a unique opportunity to complement and contrast the studies that you have been pursuing in the academic setting of the School. The MArch work term also offers the opportunity to align your work experience with your research and thesis interests. The privileges and responsibilities of this mode of study are twofold:

- To contribute to the office such that your participation in the work and the life of the office is valued;
- To contribute to your own knowledge and skill in architecture, and to develop your thinking about the profession.

This Work Book has been prepared to assist you in these roles. The premise is that these roles enhance each other – if you understand and make a contribution to the work and the life of the office, you will increase your knowledge and skill in architecture; as your knowledge and skill increases, so too does your contribution to the office.

The Work Book has been arranged so that issues of Design, Humanities, Technology, Representation and Professional Practice may be studied from the vantage point of the office. This parallels the structure of the academic program in the School, and should help you reflect on architectural issues in both school and office. Studies in an office setting provide an occasion to reflect from a different perspective on the studies in the School; when you return to the School, there will be occasions to reflect on the office-based studies from the vantage of an academic setting.

Work Book Topics

The Work Book is a critical analysis of your work experience. It is based on direct experience, interviews, and discussions with your employer and colleagues. It is also supported by research, including a review of relevant literature, legislation and professional handbooks, and the Canadian Handbook of Practice. The Work Book is an academic report, and must include critical analysis, citations, diagrams and charts. Expect to spend at least 40 hours on research, preparation and completion of this assignment.

While the majority of your effort during the work terms will be devoted to professional work, you are expected to spend a substantial amount of time and effort on the Work Book assignment. Your responses may be based upon projects other than those on which you worked directly. The total length of your responses should be no more than (2000 words) plus supporting illustrations. Any additional material you feel is necessary should be included in an appendix. The Work Book is an academic report, and must include critical analysis, citations, diagrams and charts. Illustrations must have captions and sources, and should be referenced in the text.

The topics are intended to be general enough so that they may be studied and discussed in any type of practice situation in the realm of built environment analysis, design or construction. If the work in your office does not lend itself to the questions outlined below, you should do the following:-

- Consult with your employer to see if your work may be adjusted to allow study of the topics;
- See if you can use other work in the office (previous or current projects) to study the topics;
- Consult the School to see how the topics may be re-interpreted or reformulated to allow relevant office-based studies to proceed.

Please be clear that the Work Book is not intended to be a recounting or diary of your work term activities; it is an academic study of issues and concerns in professional practice, based on your place of work. You should consider your responses in relation to issues and concepts studied in the Professional Practice Modules in the School.

Work Book Questions

Using examples and case studies from your work term office, from publications and from the field of architecture in general, please prepare a response to selected aspects of this general question:

For the Masters Work Term, each of the following topics should be considered toward a general understanding of Professional Practice gained during your work term. Please address each of these topics with one slide in your slide presentation, relating the topic to your work term experience. For the written report, provide a more detailed discussion centering on any one of the five topics (again, reflecting on your work term experience). Limit your answers to a maximum of 1500 words for the topic, and complete with a conclusion – see point 6 below (maximum 2000 words total). Your understanding of the topic should be described by a combination of writing, diagram and interview; please include a bibliography of your source material.

1. Leadership and Advocacy

Demonstrate an understanding of the technique and skills for Architects to work collaboratively with allied disciplines, clients, consultants, builders and the public in the building design and construction process, and to advocate on environmental, social, and aesthetic issues in their community. Consider how aspects of entrepreneur, steward, and creative social critic inform the role of the architect.

2. Ethics and Professional Judgment

Demonstrate an understanding of the ethical issues involved in the formation of professional judgment regarding social, political, and cultural issues in architectural design and practice. Consider the way in which projects may pose ethical considerations such as those in the Codes of Conduct, and how you (the office) would react.

3. Legal Responsibilities

Demonstrate an understanding of the architect's responsibility (and liability) to the client and the public under the laws, codes, regulations and contracts common to the practice of Architecture in a given jurisdiction. Consider ways in which public health, safety and environmental aspects of a project are addressed through the implementation of code in the design phase of a project.

4. Project Delivery

Demonstrate an understanding of the different methods of project delivery, the corresponding forms of service contracts, and the types of documentation required to render competent and responsible professional practice. Consider the timeline stages of a project, the disciplines involved, and information management and control (decision-making authority).

5. Practice Organization

Demonstrate an understanding of the basic principles of practice organization, including financial management, business planning, marketing, procurement, negotiation, project management, risk mitigation, as well as future learning, and understanding trends that affect practice.

6. Conclusion

Consider the relationship between the type of work the office does, and the office structure. Demonstrate an understanding of the role of internship in the office, in personal professional development, and the reciprocal rights and responsibilities of interns and employees, based on your own experience.