

MA DESIGN: PRODUCT SPATIAL



Kingston University London

Original Stools by Sascha Mikel



MA DESIGN: PATHWAYS IN PRODUCT DESIGN AND SPATIAL DESIGN

FAST FACTS

Further information, including fees

See www.kingston.ac.uk/pgdesign

Duration:

FT 1 yr

Attendance

FT: 2 days per week

Qualification, recognition and accreditation

MA

Entry requirements

Applicants should have a good BA(Hons) degree or equivalent qualification in a relevant subject.

We also welcome applicants with relevant professional or vocational experience.

You must supply a portfolio of work, preferably on CD, demonstrating the necessary skills required to undertake Master's-level studies.

International students

We welcome applications from international students with relevant qualifications, which must include a 6.5 IELTS score or equivalent.

Interviews

We invite all qualified applicants for an interview prior to selection. We can make alternative arrangements for international students based overseas.

Prior learning – AP(E)L

Applicants with prior qualifications and learning may be exempt from appropriate parts of a course in accordance with the University's policy for the assessment of prior learning and prior experiential learning.

Fees and bursaries

The course offers three internal bursaries of £1,000 each. For details of how to apply contact: studentfunding@kingston.ac.uk

What is the MA Design?

This MA is for graduates and professionals who wish to play an active role in designing the future landscape of our everyday environment. Product Design and Spatial Design pathways are accommodated.

What do we work on?

MA Design engages directly with the broad range of contemporary and projected issues that inform the design, development and realisation of artefacts and spaces. Industry contact provides live topicality and promotes a spirit of innovation and enterprise.

Who do we work with?

The programme offers opportunities for students to engage with specialist practitioners and industry as well as key research staff within the University. Contributors have included Frank Duffy of DEGW, Peter Higgins of Land Design Studio, Nigel Cross, Carl Clerkin and iguzzini lighting.

How do we teach?

The programme encourages risk taking and innovation. Design processes and themes are explored with the intention of expanding outlook and enhancing insight. Product and Spatial students work alongside one another, responding to the MA context in line with their personal motivation and discipline identity. Study is centred on practical studio based design projects supported by lecture and seminar programmes, field visits and visiting practitioners.

The interdisciplinary nature of the programme broadens outlook and increases potential opportunity across the design spectrum. Kingston University's School of 3D Design is not only part of London's exciting creative economy but also works with international staff and students to develop global design. You will join a vibrant and friendly community of innovative practitioners and students with international reputations and ambitions.

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Course structure

Please note that this is an indicative list of modules and is not intended as a definitive list.

Modules

- Process
- Focus
- Context
- Master's Project Preparation
- Master's Project and Exhibition
- Interdisciplinary Practice Research

Process

This model promotes a critical investigation of generative processes within creative design and how they might be shared between disciplines. It expands creative outlook and critique beyond the familiarity of a single discipline. It is broad in scope and culminates in a 'work in progress' interim show. A number of short practical design projects (group or individual work as determined by project brief).

Focus

This module explores thematic foci that are universal across design disciplines, such as:

- light;
- colour;
- materials;
- sustainability.
- inclusion

Typically two practical design projects are undertaken. The first is normally a response to a given line of enquiry and the second allows students to extend the experience with greater independence. Key research staff within the Faculty help lead the projects, supported by industry experts where appropriate.

Context

This module offers a specialist study opportunity, in either product design or spatial design.

The product design pathway might include:

- strategic product development; or
- ideas-led product development.

The spatial design pathway might include:

- exhibition design;
- historic conservation; and
- workplace environment.

The number and range of specialisms offered will be reviewed with each cohort intake.

A specialist practitioner will guide each specialism alongside the core staff. The module offers a design project opportunity within a specific context. Typically a great luminary is invited to propose a context. Students contribute to and develop the context debate to reflect their individual discipline interests.

Master's Project Preparation

In this module students outline the philosophical and strategic basis for their Master's Project within the context of their chosen discipline interest.

A document is produced as a reference point against which to measure the subsequent progress and development of the Master's Project. This is exhibited, along with the portfolio, as part of the final Master's Project exhibition.

Master's Project Exhibition

This module offers you the opportunity to:

- pursue your individual lines of enquiry, as developed in the Master's Project Preparation module; and
- undertake the realisation of your Master's Projects.

Interdisciplinary Practice Research

In this module you participate in an interdisciplinary programme of lectures and seminars addressing:

- specialist professional practice research methods and resources; and
- the integration of theory and practice.

You will initiate your own area of research. Assessment is through seminar presentations and the production of a research dossier.

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Course features

The Design MA focuses on the future landscape of our everyday environment. You can choose to specialise in either product or spatial design.

The Master's Project allows you to further develop your own interests, culminating in an exhibition.

Field visits and the direct involvement of specialist practitioners supplement your lectures and seminars.

Many members of staff are professional designers, which keeps your learning cutting-edge.

You will engage with guest luminaries and industry as well as key research staff within the University. Outside collaborators to date include Frank Duffy, Land Design Studio, Carl Clerkin and iguzzini.

Alongside your academic studies, you develop workplace skills in:

- problem solving and organisation;
- data collation, review and synopsis;
- communication (oral, written and electronic);
- time management;
- computing; and
- co-operation and teamwork.

The spirit of innovation and enterprise is sought throughout this course.

Assessment

Design projects, written submissions, presentations, major project.

Special features

The School of Design has an established reputation within the international design community, and graduates go on to successful careers in all areas of the industry. Our connections mean we provide unique study opportunities, such as:

- the chance to have your work seen by eminent members of your profession;
- 'live' projects, site visits and placements in prestigious companies or institutions;
- project work and workshops with visiting lecturers and industry specialists.

You will engage with guest luminaries and industry as well as key research staff within the University. Outside collaborators to date include Frank Duffy, Land Design Studio, Carl Clerkin and iguzzini.

Links with business and industry

Our links with professional practice provide a real-world base for our courses. They also help us to ensure your studies are kept up-to-date and relevant to the workplace.

Many members of staff on the Design MA are professional designers, which keeps your learning cutting-edge. You also benefit from:

- the input of specialist practitioners
- the opportunity to go on field trips; and
- the exhibition at the end of your Master's Project.

Student exhibitions

Your Master's project culminates with a gallery assessment show.

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Events and lectures

There are always interesting activities taking place at Kingston and exciting opportunities to take advantage of. The range of events and lectures in the Faculty of Art, Design and Architecture enhances your studies and adds an extra perspective to your learning.

Professional practice lectures

“Interdependence” is a new series of lectures for postgraduate students in the School of Design in which leading practitioners explore the key issues for the creative industries.

For example, the first lecture addressed how to “Help Change The World During Working Hours”. Tim Ashton (Antidote), a former Kingston graduate, and Eugenie Harvey (We Are What We Do) discussed themes from their latest book. Other recent lectures in the series included “Colour in Design” and “Envisaging our Design Future”.

A series of film talks by Dominic Power (Head of Screen Arts at the National Film and TV School) is also featured.

Where is the Faculty based?

Most students in the Faculty are based at the University's Knights Park campus, with surveying courses based at Penrhyn Road. Our well-equipped facilities offer a modern study environment so that you graduate with cutting-edge skills and knowledge.

This course is taught at the Faculty of Art, Design and Architecture, which has its roots in the studio-based approach of Britain's art school system (the original School of Art was founded in the 1890s).

Today, most of our teaching still takes place in our specialist studios. Each subject area has its own fully-equipped studio, where students take part in classes, tutorials and critical reviews with fellow students. This strong studio culture also ensures regular interaction between students and tutors.

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STAFF PROFILES

Who teaches the course?

Name: Colin Holden

Title: Course Director, MA Design: Product + Spatial

An innovative and interdisciplinary team is led by course director Colin Holden MA(Hons) DipArch, an architect with 15 years practice experience in Berlin, Kuala Lumpur and London. Most recently he worked for Stanton Williams on projects for Issey Miyake and The National Gallery before setting up the studio arclab.

Email: c.holden@kingston.ac.uk

Name: Amanda Sleet MA(RCA)

Title: Module Leader, MA Design: Product + Spatial

Amanda works independently and collaboratively on socially inclusive design projects, working with the Vassall Centre, Teenage Cancer Trust, BBC Science, BBC Factual, Motorola and Sony. She is a member of the Screen Arts Research Group and the Westfocus Media and Moving Image group.

Email: a.sleet@kingston.ac.uk

Name: Hilary Dalke

Title: Professor of Design

Director Design Research Centre, Design for Environments
Module Leader, MA Design: Product + Spatial

Hilary has built an internationally recognised centre of excellence on colour design and lighting. Dalke is active in knowledge transfer as a designer, educator and leader, and at Kingston University she is now a Professor of Design.

Email: h.dalke@kingston.ac.uk

Name: Jakki Dehn M.Des(RCA)

Title: Module Leader, MA Design: Product + Spatial

Jakki has run her own furniture design and manufacture business, judged high profile international design competitions and taught extensively around the world. Jakki currently directs Creative Resource, an AHRC supported international design research programme.

Email: j.dehn@kingston.ac.uk

Annual Fund Postgraduate Scholarships

The Development Office is offering two postgraduate scholarships for UK and EU students for the 2007/08 academic year. They are available for any subject and will pay 50% of the fees for a one-year, full-time or two-years, part-time masters programme (excluding MBA). Applicants should:

- be classed as "home" for fees purposes; and
- have already received an offer of a place for 2008 entry.

For further details see

<http://www.kingston.ac.uk/postgraduate/fees-and-funding/funding-your-course/scholarships/>

International scholarships 2008

The International Office is offering awards totalling £250,000 for 2008 entry, with each scholarship worth £3,000. These are open to prospective full-time postgraduates in any subject area on a one-year taught masters degree.

You can apply for an international scholarship if you:

- are an international student (classified as "overseas" for fee purposes)
- have an offer of a place on a course at Kingston for 2008 entry
- are not currently registered on a postgraduate course at Kingston University

You might also be eligible for an international loyalty bursary if you are Kingston University alumni or have a family connection with the University.

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RESEARCH GROUPS AND CENTRES

Contemporary Art Research Centre

The recently established Contemporary Art Research Centre explores innovation in contemporary fine art, focusing on:

- art and social context;
- art and technology;
- art and epistemology; and
- art and materiality.

Visual and Material Culture Research Centre

This research centre focuses on the practice, histories, and theories of modern and contemporary visual, spatial and material culture. This encompasses:

- art, design, film and architectural practice;
- art and design criticism; and
- the history and theory of visual and material culture.

Since 1997, the group has organised a series of conferences and symposia in collaboration with major London museums and galleries.

Design Research Centre

The Design Research Centre provides a creative environment for researchers engaging with the cultural, environmental and presentational contexts of design practice in its widest sense. Research in this diverse area is developed through five interrelated areas:

Design Innovation – focusing on the presentational contexts of contemporary design practice;

Curating the Contemporary – focusing on new initiatives and perspectives on curating, including the interface between design, craft and fine art;

Design for Environments – including design for wellbeing, health and micro-environments, as well as spatial, aesthetic and critical enquiries into building typologies and cultural analysis of urban and leisure environments;

Design for Screen – focusing on interdisciplinary and practice-based enquiries into screen-based media; and

Sustainability – multidisciplinary research into issues of sustainability across product and packaging design, recycling and materials innovation.

Student research

You may be able to publish any research you undertake on the Kingston University Research and Innovation Reports (KURIR) website. This site gives anyone associated with Kingston University the opportunity to publish articles, which will be permanently available to the academic community.

See www.kingston.ac.uk/kurir

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POSTGRADUATE REFLECTIONS ON KINGSTON

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FACILITIES

The Faculty of Art, Design & Architecture began an ambitious and ongoing programme of investment over the summer. Consequently, we have been able to make significant improvements to our workshops and some other resources in order to support your learning.

These include:

- Faculty wide technical resources available to students on all courses;
- significant improvements to the 3D workshops with an investment in new equipment, which now includes a CNC controlled 3D router, a rapid prototyper 3D printer, a 3D scanner and a 2D plotter/cutter;
- the creation of a state-of-the-art filming environment and animation suite;
- the development of an industry standard photographic suite with two new digital darkrooms;
- the newly specified Digital Media Workshops I & II, with hardware and software upgraded
- the creation of a bookable, inter-disciplinary project studio;
- ongoing refurbishment of studios.

The University has its own on-site galleries, including:

- Dorich House – home of the sculptor of Dora Gordine;
- the Stanley Picker Gallery – featuring exhibitions of contemporary art plus exhibition space for students; and
- project spaces in the main University campus, which you can book for the construction of large-scale work.

You also benefit from:

- well-equipped lecture theatres, seminar rooms and workshops;
- the library's extensive book and journal collection – as well as over 150,000 slides and visual references dating back to the 1600s;
- computer resources; and
- the dedicated Graduate Centre on campus – including IT facilities, seminar rooms and social spaces.

Resources in London

Kingston is just a 25-minute train journey away from central London. Here you can access a wealth of exhibitions and galleries, including the Tate Modern and the National Gallery.

Learning support

We want to make sure you get all the support you need while you are with us. Here you can see the range of support we can offer you while you're doing this course.

When you arrive at Kingston, we will allocate you a personal tutor to make sure you have access to appropriate advice regarding your academic development. You will also be able to use the University's Careers Service and counselling service.

Personal training plans

We offer all students training sessions when they arrive at Kingston University, covering:

- project management;
- communication skills; and
- information research and retrieval.

The aim is to give you the chance to improve your study, research and life skills.

Blackboard

Blackboard is an online learning management system. It is a potentially limitless resource for lecture notes and interactive teaching including:

- access to course materials – such as lecture notes, backup materials, presentations and previous exam papers;
- online chatrooms and bulletin boards – so you can interact with staff and other students; and
- multimedia features – such as video tutorials.

Because you can use Blackboard from any internet-enabled computer at any time, you can choose when and where you study.

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FACILITIES

StudentSpace

The Kingston University student intranet provides a fast, easy way to find information and work online. It provides everything you need to know about student life at Kingston.

You can also use StudentSpace as a virtual workspace, customising it to include:

- your chosen web-based applications;
- favourite web links;
- a useful calendar; and
- your recently opened files.

The Graduate School and Centres

All postgraduate students at Kingston have the support of the Graduate School. The Graduate School:

runs special training programmes for research students;

works with academics and administrators to develop graduate education and reinforce the links between teaching and research; and

helps to introduce new initiatives to postgraduate activities.

It also manages the Graduate Centres, dedicated spaces for graduate students. These are ideal for private study or holding meetings.

Language support

International students can access plenty of language support, both before and during your course:

Pre-sessional English Language Course – improve your English language skills and learn about study methods and life in the UK

English Language Support Programme – after you enrol, this free programme offers a range of academic English courses and tutorial support throughout the academic year.

After you graduate

Examples of recent graduate destinations for this and similar courses include:

- acting head of art at St John's School, Surrey;
- art creator at Robert Sandlejon, London;
- art department assistant at DW Production, Berkshire;
- art director at Princess Production, London;
- assistant curator at Royal Institute of British Architects, London;
- self-employed graphic designer, London; and
- standby art director at Greenlit Productions, Hertfordshire.

CONTACT

Postgraduate Admissions Administrator

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