

	School of Planning and Architecture: Vijayawada	
	(An institution of National Importance under the Ministry of Education, Govt. of India)	
	Survey No.4/4, ITI Road, Vijayawada-520008, Andhra Pradesh, India	
Department of Architecture		
Course:	ARC512 - Dissertation	Class: B.Arch 5th Year I-Semester 2026-27
Instructors:	Section A Ar. Charitha Y	Internal Assessment: 50
	Section B Ar. Thushara P T	External Theory Exam: 50
Contact Periods/ week: 06 periods (55 min each)		Total Marks: 100
Time Table:	Monday 03 periods (L-01 + S-02) Tuesday 03 periods (L-01 + S-02)	Credits: 6
Attendance:	Min 75%	
Min. Passing Marks:	50% each in Internal & External	
Objective: ● To enable students to establish a strong theoretical foundation, clarity of thought on areas of their interest. ● To orient the students to a structured way of collecting the reading materials, taking notes and technical writing. ● To assist the students in understanding the process of conducting a study in a scientific manner, closely following the research methodology. ● To encourage the students to select a topic which may eventually culminate in the form of architectural thesis in the subsequent semester, so as to utilize this opportunity to do a pre-thesis study that includes Literature review and Case studies.		

Week	Lecture Plan	Remarks/Topic of Assignment
Week 1 (20/07/2026)	Lecture (1): <i>Introduction to Architectural Dissertation</i> [Disclosing the Schedule for the semester] ● Difference between Dissertation, Thesis & Research ● Research ethics ● Topic Selection ● Role of Pre-Thesis Studio/Self-Study (2): Selection of 2 topics, each with scope for conversion into an Architectural Thesis	Lecture/Practical <u>Handout:</u> Google Classroom credentials, Excel sheet for noting the Topics
Week 1 (21/07/2026)	Lecture (1): <i>Synopsis</i> ● Background Study of the selected topics (with keywords) to identify the existing gap ● Writing a Problem Statement ● Framing a Research Question ● Identifying the type of study (Quantitative/Qualitative/Mixed) ● Developing relevant Aim, Objectives, Scope, and limitations Studio/Self-Study (2): Preparation of Synopsis (Report)	Lecture/Practical <u>Handout:</u> Template for Synopsis <u>Deliverable:</u> Titles for 2 topics
Week 2 (27/07/2026)	Lecture (2): <i>Synopsis Report Discussion and Introduction to Vision Poster</i> ● Open discussion with Co-ordinators for doubt clarifications (randomly selected students' topics only) ● Conversion of a written synopsis into a graphic [Disclosure of the Guide allotment process] Studio/Self-Study (1): Refinement of Synopsis Report and Preparation of Vision Poster	Demonstration/Practical <u>Handout:</u> Template for Poster <u>Deliverable:</u> Synopsis Report
Week 2 (28/07/2026)	Studio/Self-Study (3): Preparation for a <i>Closed presentation</i> in the studio (open to all the faculty)	Presentation <u>Deliverable:</u> Printed Poster, Report
Week 3 (03/08/2026)	Lecture (1): <i>Scientific Literature – Identification and Quick Review of available Secondary data</i> [Disclosure of the Guide list and Selected Topics] ● Identifying various types of relevant Sources ● Academic writing/Paraphrasing/Plagiarism	Lecture/Demonstration/Practical <u>Handout:</u> Template for Literature Matrix

	• Creating the list of References • Introduction to the Literature Matrix <i>Studio/Self-Study (2):</i> Preparation of a Bibliography and a detailed skeleton for the Literature Matrix	
Week 3 (04/08/2026)	<i>Lecture (1): Methodology</i> • Realising the best possible and practical flow of the research process • Self-scheduling of the same as required <i>Studio/Self-Study (2):</i> Preparation of a Methodology Chart [First meeting with the Allotted Guide]	Lecture/Demonstration/Practical <u><i>Deliverable:</i></u> Vetted Bibliography, Methodology
Week 4 (10/08/2026)	<i>Lecture (1): Synopsis Refinement</i> [Finalization of the already Guide Approved Topics] • Narrowing the topic and setting a lens • Session for Queries <i>Studio/Self-Study (2):</i> Preparation of a Synopsis Report	Demonstration/Practical
Week 4 (11/08/2026)	<i>Lecture (1): Synopsis Presentation</i> • Structuring a fitting presentation for the already written synopsis • Session for Queries <i>Studio/Self-Study (2):</i> Preparation of a Synopsis Presentation [Guide Review at any time during the entire week, as per mutual convenience, Guide marks should be submitted by Thursday]	Demonstration/Practical <u><i>Handout:</i></u> Assessment I Criteria <u><i>Deliverable:</i></u> Complete Synopsis Report
Week 5 (17/08/2026) (18/08/2026)	<i>Review (3+3): First Stage Assessment – Synopsis</i> [Students who haven't submitted Guide Review Marks prior will not be allowed to appear for the External Review]	Online External Review <u><i>Deliverable:</i></u> Presentation (by EOD 15/08/2026)
Week 6 (24/08/2026) (25/08/2026)	Study Tour (Critical Thinking in process)	Observation/Recording
Week 7 (31/08/2026) (01/09/2026)	Study Tour (Identification of existing architectural possibilities or potential case studies of the chosen topic in a new place visited during the tour)	Observation/Recording

Week 8 (07/09/2026)	Lecture (1): Literature Study (Secondary Data) • Data categorization • Reviewing and Reporting (writing) Studio/Self-Study (2): Completion of Literature Matrix	Lecture/Demonstration/Practical <u>Handout:</u> Assessment I Marks
Week 8 (08/09/2026)	Lecture (1): Literature Study (Secondary Data) • Data Analysis • Academic Writing • Inserting relevant citations Studio/Self-Study (2): Updating the Report until Literature Study throughout the week	Lecture/Demonstration/Practical <u>Handout:</u> Formatting Instructions for the report <u>Deliverable:</u> Completed Literature Matrix
Week 9 (14/09/2026)	Lecture (1): Literature Study (Secondary Data) • Structuring the presentation • Inserting relevant graphics with sources Studio/Self-Study (2): Updating the Presentation until Literature Study	Demonstration/Practical
Week 9 (15/09/2026)	Lecture (1): Literature Study (Secondary Data) • Session for Queries Studio/Self-Study (2): Completion of the Report and Presentation until Literature Study [Guide Review at any time during the entire week, as per mutual convenience, Guide marks should be submitted by Thursday]	Discussion/Practical <u>Handout:</u> Assessment II Criteria <u>Deliverable:</u> Complete Report until Literature Study
Week 10 (21/09/2026) (22/09/2026)	Review (3+3): Mid Term / Second Stage Assessment – Until Literature Study [Students who haven't submitted Guide Review Marks prior will not be allowed to appear for the External Review]	Online External Review <u>Deliverable:</u> Presentation (by EOD 19/09/2026)
Week 11 (28/09/2026)	Lecture (1): Architectural Applications • Identifying the possibilities of applying the research in design • Deciphering the qualitative and/or quantitative aspects for further perusal Studio/Self-Study (2): Identification of a possible building typology and similar existing projects	Lecture/Demonstration/Practical <u>Handout:</u> Assessment II Marks, Updated Excel sheet for noting case studies
Week 11 (29/09/2026)	Lecture (1): Case Study (Desktop) • Selection Criteria	Demonstration/Practical

	• Data collection and Analysis • Deriving design inputs and writing inferences • Identifying a direction towards a detailed technical study for design <i>Studio/Self-Study (2):</i> Preparation of a Casestudy Matrix, Updating the Report until Case Studies throughout the week	<u>Handout:</u> Template for Case Studies Matrix <u>Deliverable:</u> Selected Case studies
Week 12 (05/10/2026)	<i>Lecture (1): Case Study (Desktop)</i> • Comparative analysis • Structuring the presentation <i>Studio/Self-Study (2):</i> Updating the Presentation until Case Studies	Lecture/Demonstration/Practical
Week 12 (06/10/2026)	<i>Lecture (1): Case Study (Desktop)</i> • Session for Queries <i>Studio/Self-Study (2):</i> Refining the Report and Presentation until Case Studies	Discussion/Practical <u>Deliverable:</u> Completed Case Studies Matrix
Week 13 (12/10/2026)	<i>Lecture (1): Report Writing</i> • Editing content as required • Sourcing additional supporting graphics/tables • Formatting and Proofreading <i>Studio/Self-Study (2):</i> Completion of Report	Demonstration/Practical <u>Handout:</u> Turnitin Class credentials
Week 13 (13/10/2026)	<i>Lecture (1): Publication Possibilities</i> • Identifying relevant journals/conferences • Noting the requirements and deadlines <i>Studio/Self-Study (2):</i> Completion of presentation (including a slide on identified possibilities for publication) [Guide Review at any time during the entire week, as per mutual convenience, Guide marks should be submitted by Thursday]	Discussion/Practical <u>Handout:</u> Assessment III Criteria <u>Deliverable:</u> Complete Report until Case Studies (with attached Similarity Report)
Week 14 (19/10/2026) (20/10/2026)	<i>Review (3+3): Third Stage Assessment – Until Case Studies</i> [Students who haven't submitted Guide Review Marks prior will not be allowed to appear for the External Review]	Online External Review <u>Deliverable:</u> Presentation (by EOD 17/10/2026)

Week 15 (26/10/2026)	Lecture (1): <i>Abstract writing</i> - Understanding the construction of an abstract - Setting different word limits - Writing and refining various versions Studio/Self-Study (2): Writing an original Abstract with varying word limits as set in class	Lecture/Demonstration/Practical <i>Handout:</i> Assessment III Marks, Updated Excel sheet for noting aimed journals and/or conferences
Week 15 (27/10/2026)	Lecture (1): <i>Conclusion and Way Forward</i> - Understanding the construction of a conclusion - Identifying the possible ways of continuing the research (remaining gaps) Studio/Self-Study (2): Completion of Abstract and Conclusion throughout the week, Preparation of pitches for publication (with guide)	Lecture/Demonstration/Practical <i>Deliverable:</i> Journal and/or Conference names
Week 16 (02/11/2026)	Lecture (1): <i>Graphical Abstract</i> - Communicating the essence of the written Abstract visually - Comparing the graphic with the initial Poster and realising the role of research Studio/Self-Study (2): Creation of a Graphical Abstract	Demonstration/Practical <i>Deliverable:</i> Abstract and Conclusion
Week 16 (03/11/2026)	Lecture (1): <i>Final Proposal</i> - Identifying/Creating a project to design - Detailing the project's requirements Studio/Self-Study (2): Completion of the Draft Report and Presentation [Guide Review at any time during the entire week, as per mutual convenience, Guide marks should be submitted by Thursday]	Discussion/Practical <i>Handout:</i> Assessment IV Criteria <i>Deliverable:</i> Draft Report including the Graphical Abstract
Week 17 (09/11/2026) (10/11/2026)	Review (3+3): <i>Fourth Stage Assessment – Complete Draft</i> [Students who haven't submitted Guide Review Marks prior will not be allowed to appear for the External Review] Concluding Remarks	Online External Review <i>Deliverable:</i> Final Presentation (by EOD 07/11/2026)
(11/11/2026)	End of Classwork	
(17/11/2026)	Display of Total Internal Marks and Semester Attendance to the Students	<i>Handout:</i> Assessment IV and Total Internal Marks

S. No.	Stages of Evaluation	Weightage
1	First stage: Assessment	15
2	Mid Semester Assessment	10
3	Third stage: Assessment	10
4	Fourth stage: Assessment	15
	Total	50

Students finishing this course will be able to:

1. Learn the art of scientific reading, writing, and annotated bibliography.
2. Do the structuring of a scientific paper, understand referencing style, paraphrasing, and interpretation of analysis.
3. Copywrite over images/figures, understand data presentation and tabulation, etc

References:

- Groat, LN., & Wang D., (2013). Architectural Research Methods. John Wiley & Sons.
- Fraser, M., (2013). Design Research in Architecture: An Overview. Routledge
- Wiseman, C., (2014). Writing Architecture: A Practical Guide to Clear Communication about the Built Environment. Trinity University Press
- Borden, I., (2014). The Dissertation: A Guide for Architecture Students. Routledge
- Sen, I., (2018). 11 Steps to Architectural Thesis. Notion Press

Course Instructors: sd/- Section A Ar. Charitha Y Section B Ar. Thushara PT	Head of Department : sd/- (Dr. Amitava Sarkar)
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