The Department of Architecture is a close-knit, diverse intellectual and creative community that excels in design teaching and research. We pride ourselves on our strength in urban design, our reputation for outstanding teaching, and excellence in sustainable building and urban design research.

We offer two Master's courses. Our RIBA Part II MPhil in Architecture and Urban Design (MAUD) attracts students from across the world to tackle the most pressing themes through design research. This is complemented by a more theory-focused MPhil in Architectural and Urban Studies (MAUS).

MAUD is a unique opportunity for students to develop an individual dissertation topic and design direction, and undertake an extended fieldwork period. Work in studio is complemented by seminars from world-leading specialists and supported by studio staff and a dedicated dissertation supervisor.

MAUS is a programme of advanced study on modern and contemporary architecture and the development of cities around the world. It attracts students from many academic backgrounds to work in an interdisciplinary environment, enabling them to advance their careers in professional practice as well as embarking on PhD research.

We aim to make a difference to cities worldwide, as well as contributing to academic discourse. By exploring a wide range of ideas, research methods and theoretical approaches, you will be able to analyse issues relating to architecture and the complex challenges of the world's rapidly changing cities.

MAUS offers a flexible structure tailored to your interests and research needs. Seminars and lectures cover two main strands. One emphasizes the socio-political and cultural contexts of architecture and the city. The other addresses the technical issues central to urban development today. Each year we organize a voluntary field trip to analyse urban development in a particular region. Over the past five years, our students have produced incisive studies on urban conditions in Africa, China, Europe, North America, Latin American and South East Asia.

“At Cambridge, I was taught how to become a researcher. It was more like being a PhD student and I was able to reach out to experts in other fields. I had access to a broad network of related disciplines, all of which were completely accessible. I went to a lecture given by the Head of one of the major science departments. We went out for coffee afterwards and he was very encouraging about my topic. My research benefitted from the critical perspective and collaboration with other disciplines, namely Earth Sciences, Engineering and Physics.”

Mehrnaz Ghojeh
Senior Urban Development Specialist & EPSRC PhD Candidate at UCL Department of Science, Technology, Engineering and Public Policy

The course stretches students, equipping them with the intellectual and design skills to lead the profession. We teach students to be resourceful, seek out the direct impact of their projects, and engage with the broader fields of research-led practice.

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