

NTU Global Summer School Course Description

Beautiful Little Buildings: Architectural Model Making

Credit Points: 5 (2.5 ECTS)

Duration: 5 days

This course is for people new to architecture and model making. You should have the required [English language skills](#).

Overview and aims

There is something very special about little buildings - something both fascinating and beautiful.

Architectural models are the best way of communicating 3D ideas. Model building teaches you fine technical skills that are easily transferable to other disciplines, and helps you understand design and visualise space. This practical course will help you to understand how to scale down, read technical drawings and find solutions to some of the challenges of model making. Classic model making tips and techniques such as skilful scalpel use, correct material choice, accurate measuring and cutting, gluing, sculpting, vacuum forming and spray painting will all be included.

You will be given a directed project, drawings and relevant equipment to build a simple 1:100 scale model, with its own baseboard. You will follow the project from a pile of MDF and plastic to a professionally finished model, and photos of your finished work will be taken before you proudly carry it home. The course will therefore add new work to your portfolio and improve your CV, as well as improve your architectural knowledge and bring you satisfaction of a job well done.

To attend this course no previous experience is necessary, just plenty of enthusiasm. It is ideal for anyone interested in model making such as hobbyist, students, graduates and architecture professionals as well as theatre set designers, photographers and artists who will find the skills very useful in their own practice. There are very few courses like this around (even though architectural model making is a well-established industry of its own).

Indicative reading

Designing with Models: A Studio Guide to Making and Using Architectural Design Models by Criss B. Mills. John Wiley & Sons. 2000. ISBN 0-471-34589-X

Ching, F.D. K., Adams, C. (2001) Building Construction Illustrated. New York: Chichester: Wiley.

Ching, F.D.K. (1995) A Visual Dictionary of Architecture. New York: London: Van Nostrand Reinhold.

Learning outcomes

After studying this course you should be able to:

- apply knowledge of architectural model making, materials and construction processes to a 3D project;
- integrate architecture, design and spatial concepts;
- apply colour and texture to enhance a model;
- use cutting and construction tools accurately and safely;
- use vacuum forming equipment;
- work accurately to scale;
- communicate a design in 3D; and
- present and photograph your work to achieve maximum impact.

Teaching and learning

This course will be taught via:

- Technical workshop activities
- Demonstrations
- Project work

Total contact hours: 25

In addition to the contact hours you should expect to spend no more than five hours before and during the course on preparation and reading.

Assessment methods

100% coursework. This will be a finished architectural model with photographs.

Final assessment

You will receive a pass/fail mark for the course. Written feedback from your tutor will identify strengths evident in the body of work and include some pointers on what to focus on to improve your future work.

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