



Paris School of Architecture

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The Paris School of Architecture is an experimental and innovative new architecture school with an international focus based in central Paris.

It is the only entirely post-graduate architecture school in France teaching solely in the English language, and prepares its graduates to operate across Europe and the rest of the world.

The Paris School is pedagogically radical and experimental. It is the first new independent school of architecture in Paris in over a century, created in response to the radical changes over the last decade, and the changing nature of architectural practice today. Moving away from the instructive pedagogical methods of the past, it is a place for the incubation and development of each student's individual ideas, situated within the context of a support network of practicing architects and designers.

The Paris School is a post-graduate only institution. The two year post-graduate course of study at the School offers a bespoke and innovative mode of architectural study. The course is specifically aimed at graduates of three and four year undergraduate degree courses who wish to use their post-graduate study to specialise and research within a particular field of architecture. Students of the School combine their traditional architectural studies with emerging and disruptive subjects and technologies, in which they become specialists.

Located in the centre of Paris, the school is positioned at the heart of Europe in one of the world's greatest international cities. Continuing this international focus, our programme of study prepares graduates to be leaders in the fields of architecture, construction, philosophy, journalism, emerging technologies, and the arts.

The Paris School of Architecture equips its graduates with the artistic, philosophical, intellectual and technical skills required by industry to produce exceptional future professionals. Set in the centre of Paris, informed by the European design and construction world, with Master Classes provided by a faculty of leaders in the creative industries from all over the world, the School is deliberately international; producing the next generation of global architectural practitioners.

Philosophy

The Paris School is different to many other architecture schools, being conceived and run by a new generation of architects and designers.

Rather than instructive teaching of a particular thematic or topic, the school's focus is on the development of rigorous design projects through the incubation of student's individual ideas. This research freedom typifies the experience of studying at the school.

The Paris School exists to create a space for students who are minded to specialise in a particular area of architecture, use part of their studies to develop a new product, service or idea within the broader scope of architectural thinking, to create their own practices after graduation, or to embark on careers as researchers and thinkers within architecture and urbanism.

For any students who have found their previous architectural studies too rigidly framed, or without the freedom to pursue their key research interests, the Paris School offers a place to think, research, experiment, be radical, and take risks. Located in the centre of Paris, the school is positioned at the heart of Europe in one of the world's greatest international cities. Continuing this international focus, our programme of study prepares graduates to enter the fields of architecture, construction, philosophy, journalism, emerging technologies, and the arts.

The school was established to offer an alternative route into architecture and associated disciplines in response to the radical changes in architectural practice in the past decades.

Most schools of architecture follow a pedagogical methodology adopted nearly a century ago that has become less relevant to the realities of architecture today. The Paris School offers a new system, combining core architectural components with emerging professional and intellectual requirements, better preparing its graduates for work in practice, establishing their own practices, or work in related fields. Each tutor at the PSA is also active in practice, so that we retain our strong connection to industry

A European School

The school was founded by practitioners in Paris who work around Europe, and who have either taught or graduated from the schools in Europe and the US. As the English language cements its position as the global lingua franca, and regulatory reform by the European Union brings greater uniformity to architectural practice within the bloc, the need for an anglophone European school in Paris has never been more pressing.

In addition, the school places importance on the study of architectural, artistic, philosophical, legal and construction methodologies pertinent to different jurisdictions to allow graduates to work seamlessly across Europe and the world. This cultural exchange promotes and reinforces the international focus of the school and its pedagogy.

A New School

In development since 2016 the Paris School offers a single post-graduate course in Architecture. The post-graduate course commences on the third Monday in September, when the intake of year 1 students join the school (equivalent to the first year of masters studies). ECTS (European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System) will apply to the school, the two year course offering a total of 120 Credits. The school is also completing the process of registration with Répertoire national des certifications professionnelles who accredit private educational institutions in France.

Our cohort of students will form a critical part of our course development, with a student council with the power to propose additional subjects as technologies and cultures evolve, develop exchange relationships with other institutions, and create, amend and vote on the school's charter.

Pedagogy

The pedagogy of the Paris School of Architecture is rooted in testing the complex and divergent issues in which architecture exists through a single, comprehensive, year-long studio project. Developing a post-graduate architectural project from September until June allows for greater time of research, narrative, representational expression, philosophical engagement, and craft output than found in other institutions with semester-long briefs. Such projects are intellectually demanding, and critically rigorous, with graduates leaving with portfolios with projects of great depth and complexity.

The two year post-graduate course at the Paris School is composed of five subjects;

- *History & Theory
- *Communication
- *Studio Research
- *Master Classes
- *Critical Writing

The History and Theory subject involves the study of the historic architecture and philosophical movements of Paris from Antiquity to the present day, and forward to projected future projects for the city. This is delivered through site visits, lecture series, talks, and seminars in the first two terms of the first year.

Communication involves the study and development of methods of visually expressing architectural concepts, the agency of drawing and making as forms of representation, and how the language of architectural representation sits within the wider discourse of visual communication and its related fields. This course is delivered as an integrated part of the Studio Research subject, but is assessed separately.

The Studio Research subject involves the production of an architectural project over the period of one academic year. This project is to be based within the greater Paris region, Île-de-France. This subject is delivered through weekly tutorials and termly project reviews. The studio project is developed through a period of several months rigorous research into an area of interest to the student. With support from studio tutors this research is then formulated into a brief identifying and elaborating on a scenario written by the student and presented at the beginning of the Spring Term. In terms two and three, an architectural response to this brief is formulated. As the length of time of the Studio Research project is much longer than many students will have experienced in their undergraduate studies, and it is expected that a greater depth and complexity in their work, and ultimately more sophisticated portfolios will result. The Studio Research project results an architectural output unique to each student, and frames their learning each academic year.

Master Classes augment the Studio Research, and are composed of 1 or 2 week-long projects or lectures on a highly specialised subject, and delivered by an expert in the field from industry. The Master Classes are elective and each term the student may select from a range of options presented to them. The Master Classes are an opportunity both to gain specific skills and knowledge or simply broaden the scope of study that term.

The Critical Writing subject follows on from the students History and Theory courses, and affords the opportunity for a single topic research paper of between 15,000 and 20,000 words to be developed and presented. The resulting essay may be related to other subjects studied, or may provide an opportunity for significant divergence from the student's other work that year. The final paper is presented in the first week of the second year as a paper submission, followed by a presented defence of the topic and paper by the student.

Each academic year culminates in the End of Year Show, a public gallery exhibition of each student's work held in central Paris. This offers our students the opportunity to showcase their work to family, friends, and potential employers and investors. Assessments of the year-long studio project are made following a final presentation on the day before the opening night of the end of year show. Additional assessments on each Master Class are made on a subject by subject basis, depending on the subject in question. All Master Classes must be passed in order to exhibit at the show.

One unique element of the pedagogical philosophy of the School is that we do not implement a grading system, meaning that projects are judged as either a Pass or a Fail. This encourages maximum freedom of expression, and allows students to take risks and innovate without fear. In order to maintain high academic standards, a Pass mark is awarded only to high quality and rigorously researched submissions. Exceptional projects in any subject area may be awarded a Distinction, at the discretion of the head of that subject.

Students who wish to undertake French language courses during their studies will be able to do so. These are offered to assist the student with their day to day activities while they are living in Paris. These will be available at both beginner and intermediate level and will not be subject to assessment.

Programme

The Paris School post-graduate course is composed of an in-depth, two-year period of study in central Paris, culminating in a year-long research project in the second year, and public end of year show exhibition and the award of the Paris School Diploma in Architecture—DArch

*Duration: 2 Years

*120 ECTS Credits = international MArch/Masters

*Entry requirements: BA degree in Architecture

*Tuition Fees: 10.109 euros per year

*Application Documents: PDF Portfolio, CV and Letter.

* Post-nominal style: DArch (Paris)

In the first year students study History & Theory, Communication, Studio Research, Critical Writing and take 3 mandatory Master Classes from a common truck, and a further optional 3 Master Classes each year.

Master Class subject areas typically cover the following areas:

- * Communication Design
- * Fine Art
- * Print Making
- * Architectural Draughtsmanship
- * Modelling and Animation
- * Publishing and Curatorship
- * Philosophy
- * Moving Image
- * Business Structures
- * Finance and Economics
- * Procurement
- * Cost Management
- * Roles of Consultants
- * Emerging Construction Technologies
- * World-building
- * Virtual World Design
- * UAV's in Architecture
- * Video Game Design
- * Interaction Design
- * Prototyping
- * Critical Design
- * Modelling and Rendering

Master Class areas change in response to cultural shifts over time, the requirements of future architectural practice, and substantive requests from the Student Council.

In the second year, students are expected to develop their thesis as integrated research projects, more closely resembling PhD 'study by project'. Each separate subject is combined into a single area of study with one outcome and point of assessment: the Final Research Project. This mode of study offers considerable freedoms for each student to conduct their own rigorous research, develop a project brief and an architectural response to it. Although closely resembling the First Year Studio Research project, the Final Research Project is expected to reach levels of thinking, ambition, and complexity greatly in excess of that of a First Year project. The FRP is assessed through a curated exhibition of writing, images, drawings, models, moving image and other media at the End of Year Show. A student may only pass this subject, and therefore the course, by attaining a pass from each member of the Academic Council, representing each area of study from the First Year; History & Theory, Communication, and Studio Research, and as

such must contribute substantially to the body of knowledge in each area.

Master Classes continue to be offered in the Second Year, with a minimum of 3 to be taken by each student.

The academic year is divided into three parts, or terms, the Autumn Term, Spring Term, and Summer Term. Assessments of each First Year subject will take place at the end of each term, and must be passed to allow progression to the next.

In recent years, and increased focus on the mental health of architectural students has demonstrated that some pedagogical formats exerted considerable and consistent stress on many candidates. Unlike the semester system where work is produced throughout break periods with exams occurring in January and July, the Paris School Term system focuses on research and production solely during the academic terms. While the Paris School's curriculum remains competitive and rigorous, the Christmas and Easter breaks afford students the opportunity for rest, recuperation, and reflection. The Critical Writing Essay is produced over the Summer break with submission in September to allow students to focus solely on their written paper without the distraction of other subjects.

The Paris School academic calendar commences each year on the third Monday of September.

Pathways

The Paris School of Architecture offers a single post-graduate course in Architecture framed by three pathways. Upon applying, we request that our students select one of the three following pathways:

- A. Pavilion (Design & Making)
- B. Imagery (Design & Communication)
- C. Futurology (Design & Disruptive Technology)

These pathway choices allow the staff to better interpret the students prior experiences and study, as well as how each candidate views their future career path.

Upon arrival at the School, each new student meets with a member of the Academic Council, known as the Entry Interview, to further discuss their expectations of the year to come, and to assure that their pathway selection will offer the correct template for their initial research.

Students in the Pavilion pathway will be encouraged to design and produce tangible interventions, rather than a 'paper' project, so they may gain experience in the implementation of architectural designs.

The Imagery pathway will focus primarily on the development of architectural representation and the means of communication of complex ideas both to other Architects and to others..

Students who select the Futurology pathway will develop emerging technologies into potential products or enterprises in which study and extrapolation of these technologies can be formed into an architectural application.

Through the research-led culture of the school, students will be taught as individuals, rather than in 'units'. The selection of a pathway allows the student to demonstrate which area of architecture they are most interested in developing. The pathways are not distinct courses, but rather a frame through which the students ideas and research should be viewed and assessed, and while students of each of the three pathways will be taught together, their specialism will become apparent through the development of their studio project.

It is possible that a student's research will steer them away from their original pathway selection, and moving from one pathway to another will be permitted at select stages of the academic year in discussion with their tutor.

Workshops

In addition to the core curriculum the Paris School offers workshops outside the School to further broaden the student's exposure to external researchers and practitioners.

These workshops are typically a two-week period hosted within the studio space of a Parisian architectural practice. The workshops involve following a brief set by the practice directors, reinforced by site visits and discussions. The workshop projects are presented at the end of the two-week period for review within the host office.

The School also arranges an annual 4-day study trip outside of the Greater Paris region during the academic year in support of the History & Theory subject. These trips are typically within France, but may occasionally involve visits to other countries within the Schengen Area.



Academic Council

The School's pedagogical direction is decided upon by the Academic Council, a board composed of five members of senior teaching staff. At any one time at least 3 of the 5 seats of the Council are held by registered Architects, the other seat(s) are held by senior practitioners in associated disciplines.

The Academic Council has two primary roles concerning the governance of the school:

- *Creation and direction of the School's pedagogy and subject content
- *Assessment of candidates presenting their Final Research Project

The Academic Council has further roles including:

- *Reaching decisions on disciplinary matters arising out of breaches of the Student Contract
- *Curating the End of Year Show and awarding student prizes

The Board of Trustees governs the fiscal management of the school. At any time, members of the Academic Council make up a voting majority of the Board of Trustees.

Current members of the Academic Council are:

Henry Beech Mole, Architect

Henry Beech Mole is an architect registered in both France and the United Kingdom. He studied at the Architectural Association and the Royal College of Art in London where he graduated with a distinction. He has been nominated for the RIBA Bronze Medal, received the RIBA South East award and featured in the Architects' Journal in the UK. Having worked for practices in both Paris and London, he opened his architectural studio, BoBo, in Montmartre, Paris in 2017.

Bérénice Gaussuin, Architect

Bérénice Gaussuin is an architect, and associate professor at École Nationale Supérieure d'Architecture Paris-Malaquais in Paris. She studied architecture at ESA and art history at Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne. She also studied at École de Chaillot, specialising in restoration of historical monuments. She is researcher at LIAT (Laboratoire Infrastructure Architecture et Territoire) and writing a PhD thesis under the supervision of Professor Dominique Rouillard at Université Paris-Est on the dichotomy between the notions of restoration and creation in the 19th century. As a practitioner, she mainly works on historical monuments and heritage matters.

Laura Jouan, Graphic Designer & Art Director

Laura Jouan is a graphic designer and art director working between Paris and London. She studied at the Royal College of Art in the visual communication department. Her practice often questions the physicality of graphic design. She has exhibited her projects at Somerset House and the Whitechapel Gallery, London.

Salvator-John A. Liotta, Architect

Salvator-John is an assistant professor at ULB-Université Libre de Bruxelles, Faculty of Architecture La Cambre-Horta, a partner of LAPS Architecture based in Paris and a long time correspondent of Domus magazine. He is affiliated as a researcher at CNRS-LAVUE UMR 7218 in Paris, and he has worked as a researcher at Kengo Kuma Lab at the University of Tokyo, and as an adjunct professor at the National Institute of Architecture in Rome. In 2005 he moved to Japan where he earned a PhD with a study on the urban identity of Tokyo. From 2009 until 2013, he has worked as a researcher at the Graduate School of Engineering, Architecture department of the University of Tokyo.

Martin Tubiana, Architect

Martin studied at Ecole Spéciale d'Architecture (ESA) in Paris and SCI-Arc in Los Angeles. In 2010 he was awarded the 1st prize for the best ESA diploma and the special prize for the Best 2010 French diploma by 'Le Courrier de l'Architecte'.

After international collaborations (Projectiles FR, Horizon UK, Fourwall US, Périphériques FR), he settled in Paris where he worked for Didier Faustino and Dominique Perrault, before co-founding his architectural and experimental practice Bunker Palace in 2016.

Applications

As a wholly post-graduate school the Paris School of Architecture accepts applications from candidates who have completed previous undergraduate study elsewhere.

Assessment and admission of candidates' suitability for the course is made entirely by submission of a portfolio and an interview.

Selection is rigorous and candidates are encouraged to focus their attention on their portfolio submission and interview technique.

Submission Requirements

Admission to the school is based on the submission of a digital portfolio followed by an interview. The school welcomes applications from all those who are interested in studying architecture and associated disciplines, but as the school teaches in English only, a high level of English is required before starting the course. This will also be assessed at interview.

Candidates for entry will also need to select their specialism from the following pathways;

- ** Pavilion (Design & Making)
- ** Imagery (Design & Communication)
- ** Futurology (Design & Disruptive Technology)

Candidates should also demonstrate an awareness and ability to undertake advanced study of their proposed subject.

Fees and Funding

Tuition Fees are currently €10,109 per year.

A €3,400 deposit is paid during the enrolment process to confirm your place, this is deducted from the remaining tuition fee balance, which is then due in the July preceding your arrival at the school.

Architecture students will typically incur higher course-related costs due to the materials required for model-making, drawing, and presentations.

The Paris School of Architecture Studio Research Project Award provides the opportunity for one graduate student to teach within the school's research studio, as a paid teaching assistant, for the duration of the academic year following their graduation. This will be awarded by the academic council at the end of year show in June.

Living in Paris

It is the responsibility of the student to organise their housing and maintenance while in Paris. Paris is a global city and renting can be expensive. The French State currently provides some housing assistance to students and interns, further information can be found at <https://www.caf.fr>

Non-EEA citizens will require a visa to enter France. It is the student's responsibility to obtain the correct paperwork for their stay. The Paris School of Architecture will provide a letter confirming acceptance to a course if required.

An orientation week at the beginning of term will introduce students to the school and the city with a number of visits, tours, and events.

Studios

The Paris School of Architecture studios are based in a city centre campus next to Parc des Buttes-Chaumont in the 19th Arrondissement at 78 rue Compans. PSA is situated within an ecosystem of artists, makers and start-ups powered by Volumes, an innovation laboratory which offers industry-quality workshop facilities, maker-spaces, conference rooms and a rich program of curated transdisciplinary events.

As we are a small and highly selective school, and for the security and privacy of our students, visits to the school are open solely to candidates who hold an offer from the school.

Information about open days will be communicated to candidates via email. For more information, please email contact@parisarch.fr

The ethos of the school is to engage directly with Paris as our testbed. As part of this, certain courses, workshops, lectures, screenings, and exhibitions will be held at other locations across the city.

The Paris School offers two forms of facilities to its students, Internal Facilities within the Paris School's building, and External Facilities, providing access to industry-standard equipment through out network of associated practices.

Internal Facilities:

- *Research studio space
- *Presentation Rooms and Lecture Theatres
- *Model making area
- *Workshop, 3d printers, Laser-cutter
- *Large and small format printing
- *A copy of all titles in current and past reading lists

In addition to copies of this years reading list being held in the studio, students may order their own copy of all titles from the school for collection in the first week of studies.



Alumni Network

Graduates of PSA may choose to join our Alumni membership network, conferring continued use of workshop facilities, studio spaces, and faculty networks. The alumni network provides our graduates with a range of possibilities, ranging from social and communal aspects, attending events and shows, to continued incubation within the PSA space while they create their practices, or develop their research, or commercialise their ideas.

Information about how to join the Alumni network is issued to each graduate upon successful completion of the two year course.

Alumni Careers

In addition to our Alumni network, PSA offers the possibility for graduates to integrate into professional practice after graduation.

As each member of staff at PSA is also in private practice, we have an extensive network of practicing architects in Paris and around Europe.

Each year a number of (at least) 6 month, paid, full-time employment positions, equivalent to the number of graduating students, is offered within our network of practices. This ensures every graduate can gain early career experience directly after graduation.

PSA also offers a small number of 6 and 12 month teaching assistant positions, for graduates interested in continuing their careers in academia.

The next generation of architects is graduating into one of the most challenging job markets in recent history. We value our own graduates and want to ensure that those who wish to gain vital early career experience can do so.

