UNIVERSIDADE LUSÍADA
LISBOA

Course Unit Program
Ergonomic Colour

Academic Year 2026/2027

1. Organic Unit

Faculty of Architecture and Arts

2. Course

Architecture

3. Cycle

1st

4. Course Unit

Ergonomic Colour (01327)

5. Scientific Area

6. Curricular Year

3rd

7. Type of Curricular Unit / Semester

2nd Semester

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8. Class type and workload (work time)

Theoretical classes:	
Practical classes:	
Theoretical-Practical Classes	30,00
Tutorial Guidance:	

9. ECTS Credits

2,00

10. Scientific Area Coordinator

Profª Doutora Arqtª CRISTINA MARIA DOS SANTOS NUNES PIRES CARAMELO GOMES

11. Regent

12. Assistants

13. Teaching Language

Portuguese

14. General Objectives

The aim of the course is to make students aware of the importance of studying color as a defining element of the identity of an interior or/and urban space.
The use of a certain texture, light, and color necessarily results in a more comfortable environment or, in an environment of tension and discomfort. The participation of these elements in the built environment is not limited to the aesthetic factor, quite the contrary, it influences its functionality and essentially the quality of experien

15. Specific Objectives

Provide the necessary information for architect training for a conscious and responsible intervention.
Understand color, texture, and light as defining elements of space and the interactions that this space provides to its users.
Understand color, texture, and light as defining elements of the identity of the place and simultaneously guiding human behavior.
Facilitate communication with different interlocutors to promote qualified spaces through the use of color.

16. Skills to be acquired

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Consolidation of previously acquired knowledge on the bionivocal relationship between Man and space.
Students' awareness of the physical/psychological impact of the layout presented by a given space and consequent reactions and/or inhibitions.
Students' awareness of the study of color as a result of cultural, social, ethnic and geographical experience.
Ability to analyze and evaluate the surrounding space. Color as an identity factor for indoor /outdoor spaces.

17. Teaching Methodology

Classes will address different examples, motivating the capacity for analysis and subsequent debate of the issues presented.
Analysis of project solutions and theoretical development presented by research centers specialized in these themes.
Development of practical work allowing knowledge of the relationship between theory and practice.

18. Course Unit Program

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Color study
What is color - hue, saturation and brightness
Color contrasts and harmony
color physiology
Psychophysiological effects
Personality and reaction to a stimulus
Study of light
What is light: definitions of wavelengths
The effect of light on humans
Natural light and artificial light
Quantity and quality of light
Light as a defining element of space
Itten's Seven Contrasts
Psychosomatic, emotional, and design issues
Communication, perception, impression, emotional reaction
Impressions and associations - character or personality
Synesthesia - the unity of the senses
Color in architectural interior space
Color as a defining element of space
The notion of depth
The notion of texture
Light/shadow contrast
Color and temperature
The spatial identity
The emotional, symbolic, and cultural dimensions of color
Color in urban space
The importance of color in the immediate analysis of an urban fragment
Color as a defining parameter of the culture, time, and geographic location of an urban fragment.
Analysis and objectives of the application of color in different built environments.

19. Assessment Methods

The evaluation will be based on attendance, participation, and commitment in the debates made during the privileged contact by the classroom space, in the execution and presentation of works of application of knowledge.
The assignments requested, as well as the written tests in compliance with the evaluation regulations of Universidade Lusíada, are the object of a specific statement, following the most appropriate methodology for the objective to be achieved and duly scheduled.

20. Didactic Resources

Referenced bibliographical elements.
Existing databases in the Media Library.
Computer equipment, HW (PC), and SW (power point) for presentation of classes and student work.

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21. Sustainability Objectives

Good health and well-being
Quality education
Decent work and economic growth
Reduced inequality
Sustainable cities and communities
Climate action
Partnerships to achieve the goal

22. Keywords

Color
Texture
Light
Shadow
Architecture

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23. Main Bibliography

Author(s): Lluch, J.S.
Title: Color for Architects
Edition: Year: 2019
Local: New York
Publisher: Princeton Architectural Press
ISBN Code:

Author(s): Fiona MCLACHLAN, Fiona
Title: Architectural Colour in the Professional Palette
Edition: Year: 2012
Local: New York
Publisher: Routledge
ISBN Code:

Author(s): ANTER, K. F.
Title: Colour and Light: Spatial Experience
Edition: Year: 2017
Local: New York
Publisher: Routledge
ISBN Code:

24. Complementary Bibliography

Author(s): LIVINGSTON, J.
Title: Designing with Light: The Art, Science, and Practice of Architectural Lighting Design
Edition: Year: 2021
Local: New York
Publisher: Wiley-Blackwell
ISBN Code:

Author(s): MAHNKE, F. and MAHNKE, R.
Title: Color Environment and Human Response
Edition: Year: 1996
Local: New York
Publisher: John Wiley and Sons

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