

**UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON**

University of London

**EXAMINATION FOR INTERNAL STUDENTS**

For The Following Qualification:–

*M.Sc.*

**Theory in Architecture and Urban Space**

**COURSE CODE : BENVAS03**

**DATE : 05-MAY-06**

**TIME : 10.00**

**TIME ALLOWED : 3 Hours**

**BENVAS03 Theory in Architecture and Urban Space**

**Examination Questions**

ANSWER THREE QUESTIONS: 3 hours

*All questions carry equal marks. Candidates should refer to the work of authors they have studied wherever relevant and illustrate their answers with examples wherever possible. Candidates should also feel free to use graphical means of expression in their answers wherever they feel it is appropriate. You should take care not to use the same material or ideas in different answers, although cross referencing is acceptable.*

1 Explain the syntactic concept of *generic function*, and discuss its relevance to the debate on the form-function relation in architectural theory.

2 Space has taken a key position in several social scientific fields in recent years. Discuss how the syntactic concept of space can clarify, or gain clarification from, the discussion of space in one or more of these fields.

3 The cognitive strategies that people use in navigating complex architectural and urban spaces have been much discussed in the cognitive and spatial literature. Describe at least two different models that have been suggested, and describe how you would construct an empirical or experimental study to test alternative models. You should include an account of your research design and data-collecting methods and the kind of analysis you would apply.

4 Explain the concept of 'embodiment' in cognitive science, and discuss how it can contribute to our understanding of spatial cognition in the architectural and/or urban field. Your answer may make use of diagrams.

5 A basic distinction has been proposed in space syntax theory between 'order' and 'structure'. Explain the differences between these two concepts and discuss their relevance to the study of how people experience buildings and cities.

6 Discuss the senses in which the analogy with language has been used in architectural and/or spatial studies. Explain how far you think the analogy is useful or misleading.

7 Discuss the senses in which it is useful to describe architectural design as a knowledge based process.

8 To '*...suppose that space has its own intrinsic nature .....is logically questionable and empirically unfruitful. Space is not an empty dimension along which social groupings become structured, but has to be considered in terms of its involvement in the constitution of systems of interaction.....in human geography spatial forms are always social forms*' – Anthony Giddens 1984 – Discuss.

9 Discuss the ways in which concepts from the theory of evolution in biology might be used, adapted, or reinterpreted for the study of space and/or society.

**End of exam**