

# UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON

*University of London*

## EXAMINATION FOR INTERNAL STUDENTS

*For the following qualifications:-*

*M.Sc.*

**ESGA12: Theory in Architecture and Urban Space**

COURSE CODE : **ENVSGA12**

DATE : **29-Aug-03**

TIME : **10.00**

TIME ALLOWED : **3 hours 0 minutes**

03-N1-4-20

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**TURN OVER**

## MSc in Advanced Architectural Studies: A12: Theory in Architecture and Urban Space

Answer THREE questions. 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 - In what ways can the study of cities as physical and spatial layouts further our understanding of how they function ?

2 - 'All the various non-verbal dimensions of culture such as styles of clothing, village layout, architecture, furniture, food, cooking, music, physical gestures, postural attitudes, and so on, are organised into patterned sets so as to incorporate coded information in a manner analogous to the sounds and words and sentences of natural language.' (Edmund Leach in 'Culture and Communication'). Discuss and evaluate the usefulness of this generalisation when applied to architecture.

3 - Intuition and rationality are often presented as opposing models of the design process. How far do you think this opposition does justice to the ways in which architects design ?

4 - Discuss, with reference to two or more specific concepts, how ideas from the social sciences can usefully be brought into the study of architectural and/or urban space.

5 - Explain the concept of 'generic function' as used in space syntax, and evaluate its relevance to the form-function question in architecture and/or urbanism.

6 - *'I am every Day more and more convinced of the Truth of Pythagoras's saying, that Nature is sure to act consistently, and with a constant Analogy in all her Operations: from whence I conclude, that the same Numbers, by means of which the Agreement of Sounds affects our Ears with Delight, are the very same that please our Eyes and our Mind.'* - Alberti. How far do you think Alberti's theory is able to account for the experience of 'delight' in architecture ?

7 - Compare and contrast two views of space from different disciplines, and suggest how each might gain theoretically from an understanding of the other.

8 - *'One contribution that can be made, however, is to help to break down the supposition that there can be a distinctive 'science of space...such formulations, of course, express a conception of laws that I have earlier discarded as inapt....they suppose that space has its own intrinsic nature, a proposal that 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'* - Anthony Giddens 1984 - Discuss

**END OF PAPER**