

**UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON**

University of London

**EXAMINATION FOR INTERNAL STUDENTS**

For The Following Qualification:-

*M.Sc.*

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

**COURSE CODE : ENVSGA12**

**DATE : 06-MAY-05**

**TIME : 10.00**

**TIME ALLOWED : 3 Hours**



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

**Theory Examination Questions**

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. *'Information about a world that surrounds a point of observation implies information about the point of observation that is surrounded by a world. Each kind of information implies the other.'* (Gibson, 1979) Discuss this quote with specific reference to the relationship between configuration and cognition.

2. Describe the relationship between the *'knowledge of architectural possibility'* and *'architectural actuality'* (architecture as realised), in the context of a architect's design brief and form-function knowledge.

3. Explain the distinction between the *'weak'* and *'strong'* language analogies, with respect to architecture, and describe how these relate to the concept of meaning as used in space syntax. Your answer should include (at least) an example of both types of language analogy.

4. *'While things may exist that can be treated purely aesthetically..., the crucial question remains whether such purely aesthetic judgement is possible in the case of architecture... The primary condition that would allow architecture to be considered purely aesthetic would be if it could be considered a means without an end or an end in itself.'* (Weber, 1995) Discuss this quote against the concept of a *'generic meaning'* (a configurational logic of oriented shapes) of architectural form.

5. Many academic disciplines have views or conceptions of space that are at variance with one another. Compare and contrast two such views, indicating how each discipline might benefit from the knowledge or insights of the other.

6. *'Neighborhoods are important because they provide one of the gateways to the social life of cities. The neighborhood is a gateway in time, as a child slowly expands his or her knowledge of the neighborhood to the city as a whole. And it is a gateway to place, as local connections provide a key to larger social and economic networks, or as a neighborhood becomes unique enough to attract visitors from other areas.'* (Rofé, 1995) Discuss this quote with reference to the Hillier and Hanson notions of *'spatial'* and *'transpatial'* solidarities and Jane Jacobs' ideas about what makes neighbourhoods work socially. How do these ideas relate to the notion of the *'virtual community'*?

7. Describe, with examples wherever possible, how *evolution theory* (from biology) might be adapted in order to describe the process of *'the transmission of culture through artefacts'*? (You may assume that buildings are cultural artifacts.)

8. How do we find our way in complex, spatial environments? Describe, in detail, the physical and cognitive characteristics of the process involved when navigating from one location to another and how these actions relate to each other.

9. *'There is no such thing as society: there are individual men and women, and there are families.'* (Margaret Thatcher, 2002). Discuss.

END OF PAPER