

# Learning & Teaching Showcase 2017

## Inspired Learning Initiative (ILI)



### ARCH1080 Introduction to Architecture and Enabling Skills

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#### About the Course

This course is a first-year, first-session core course within the Bachelor of Architectural Studies degree designed to support the development of foundational skills for architectural research and thinking. It is one of the largest courses within this degree (199 students in 2017) and includes a cohort of students enrolled in the Bachelor of Civil Engineering with Architecture degree.

#### Approach

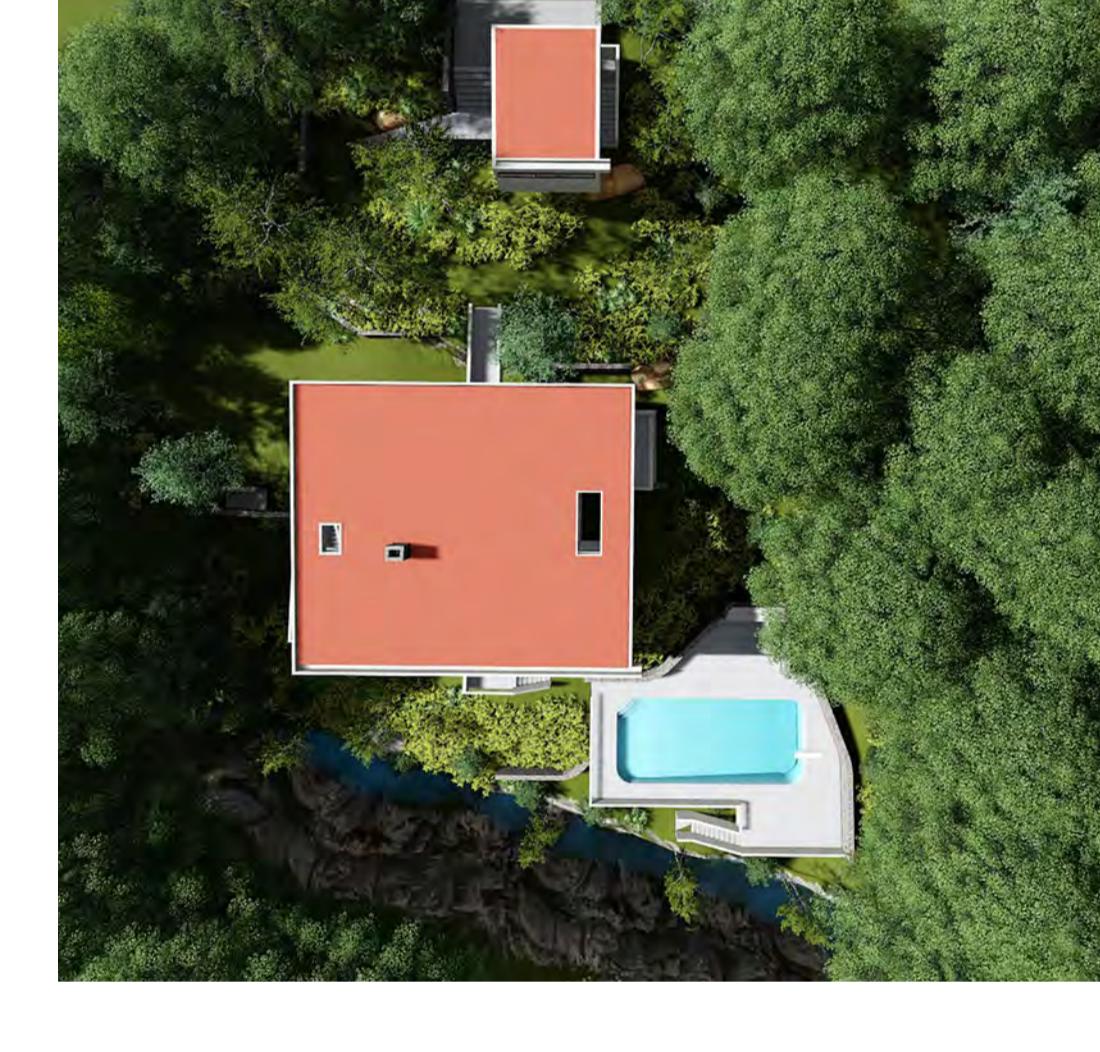
The course is focussed on exemplary modern and contemporary architects and their buildings. These form the basis of three discreet yet interdependent 'case study' projects. The first two projects aim to develop student skills in architectural description. The third project aims to develop student skills in the analysis and interpretation of architectural strategies. Together they teach elementary tools for the study and communication of architectural ideas and meaning.

#### Redesign Aims

In 2016 the course was selected as the Faculty's inclusion in the Course Design Tool Pilot run by the office of the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education) as part of the initial implementation of the university's Inspired Learning Initiative. This involved trialling a new Moodle interface template ('theme') and providing feedback on its usability from a course administrator's and student point of view. The structure and program of the course basically remained the same as in previous years but with the addition of new online resources and content designed to assist students in the preparation of their assignment work. These consisted of a guide to the different case study projects, a referencing instruction module (tailored to the course requirements) and four recorded commentaries on previous exemplary student work.

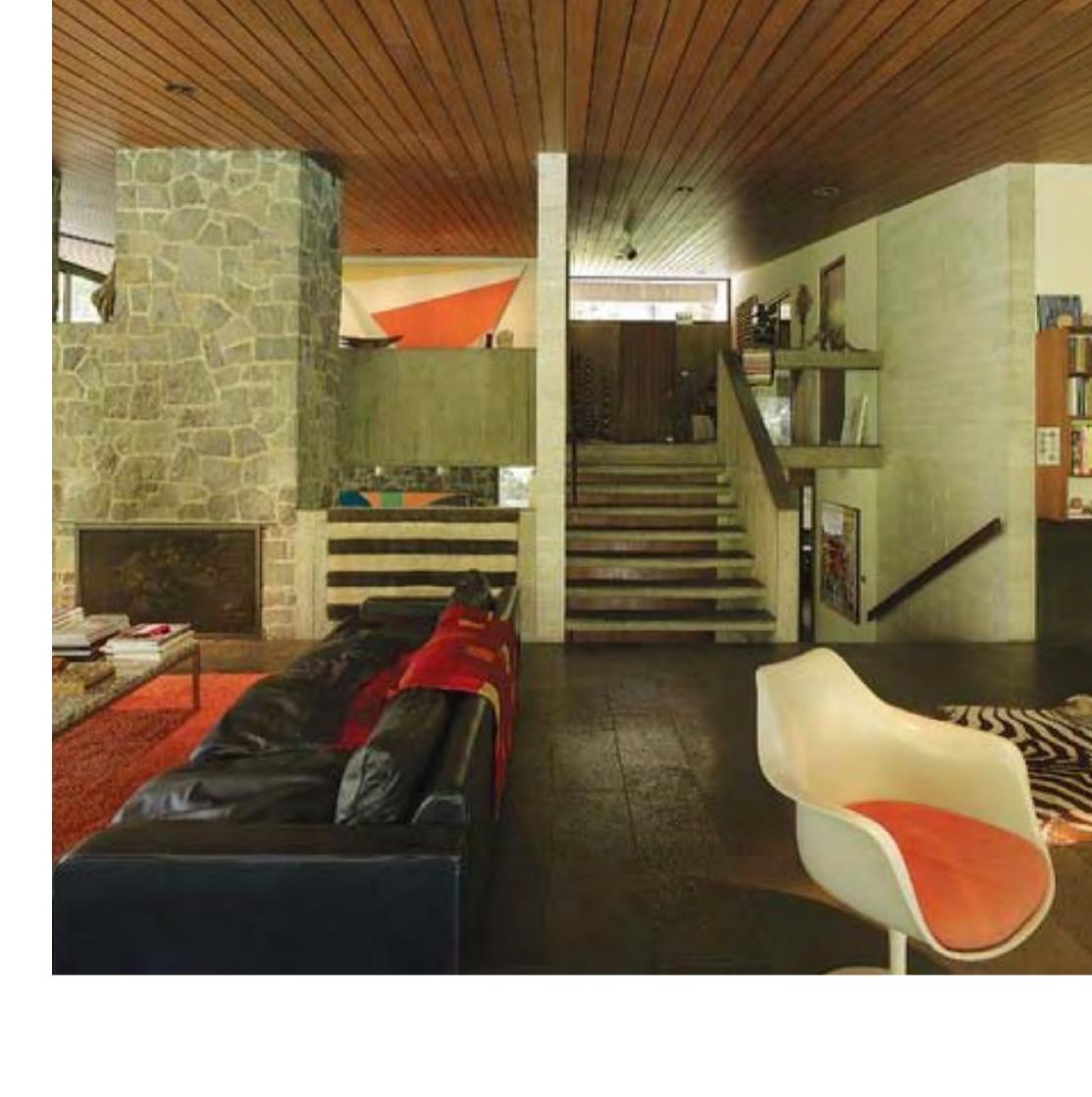
#### Outcomes

The course outcomes demonstrate a high level of student engagement, satisfaction and achievement of learning goals. The Moodle site had a high and wide rate of use particularly in relation to the new components that were developed as part of the redesign. For example, viewing of the recorded commentaries on exemplary work for Projects 2-4 averaged between 4-5 times per student. Student satisfaction with the overall quality of the course as registered through the myExperience survey was improved (90.8% Agreement = above both Program and Faculty % Agreement for Session 1 2017). The use and appreciation of the new components also contributed to the general solid quality of student assignment work, exceeding staff expectations for first year work with many high distinction achievements. The rate of plagiarism was also down on previous years.



**Harry and Penelope Seidler House  
(1966-67), Killara**

**Image Credits**  
**Main image:** Back view of the houses and surrounding landscape. Image by Monyneath Chan.  
**Image 1:** From Peter Blake, *Architecture for the New World: The Work of Harry Seidler* (Sydney: Horwitz Australia Ltd, 1973), 147.  
**Image 2:** Aerial view. Image by Monyneath Chan.  
**Image 3:** Photo by Brett Boardman from Peter Salhani, "The Seidlers' Killara House (1966) Revisited," *Houses 81* (August 2001).  
**Image 4:** Interior view of multi-level arrangement of the house. Image by Monyneath Chan.



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