Students' Perceptions towards Assignment Integration between Architecture Design Studio and Structural and Technological Subjects

Ruzanah Abu Bakar[1*], Atta Idrawani bin Zaini[2], Siti Syariazulfa binti Kamaruddin[3] and Raja Nur Syaheeza Raja Mohd Yazit[4]

[1,2,3,4] *Faculty of Built Environment, Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS) Kota Samarahan, Sarawak*

[1]*abruzanah@unimas.my;* [2]*izzata@unimas.my;* [3]*kssyariazulfa@unimas.my;* [4]*rmysyaheeza@unimas.my*

*Corresponding Author

ABSTRACT

Architecture is a process of planning, designing, and constructing buildings or structures. In architecture, structural and technological aspects need to be considered in the design process for better service. Architecture Design Studio (ADS) is the fundamental course of the Architecture Programme. It teaches students about the design process and techniques via design projects. Courses on structure and technology (S&T), on the other hand, teach students technical knowledge. In the evolution of the University Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS) architecture programme, these two - ADS and S&T - are integrated to enhance critical thinking and design ability. Integration is achieved by requiring students to apply the knowledge that they have gained in S&T courses to their design projects in ADS. This study investigated the perception of students towards this integration. Respondents were from Year 2 and Year 3 students undergoing their Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Architecture at UNIMAS. The data

analysis gathered from the questionnaire based on 59 respondents showed that the majority of students had a positive attitude towards this integrated assignment, and with adequate execution and support from lecturers, this approach to improving critical thinking in architecture design projects may grow and succeed in the future.

INTRODUCTION

Architecture Design Studio (ADS) is widely recognized as the backbone of architectural education in all architecture schools. Design is taught as a domain subject, while all S&T subjects are taught to serve and enhance design quality. With the current rapid growth of building technology, architectural education must keep pace and provide sufficient qualitative knowledge, particularly technical knowledge, to assist architectural students in meeting up the 21st-century expectations of development. Academicians and practitioners are accountable for the growth of architectural education as providers and transmitters of knowledge. Paying insufficient attention to S&T knowledge may result in the loss of values in architecture, resulting in unfavourable architectural design imbalances.

Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Architecture of UNIMAS has been accredited by the Council of Architectural Accreditation and Education Malaysia for a full five (5) years. As such, the curriculum structure is recognised and up to the standard. One of the requirements of accreditation is to have ADS integrated with other non-studio subjects such as S&T. This has been implemented via assignment integration between ADS projects and S&T courses in the teaching and learning process where students need to apply the knowledge that they have gained in the technical class into their design. The purpose of this integration is to elevate students' design ability and critical thinking and to apply their understanding of theoretical knowledge to practical design. This study investigated the perception of UNIMAS architecture students towards this integration via an online questionnaire.