

Students as Co-Creators Curriculum Design Collaborations (CDC) FINAL REPORT

A Disciplinary Research Collaboration

Architecture RIBA Part Three: Mastering Contracts through "Role Play"

Student Partners:
Mital Patel, Architect & Athina Ralli, Architect

Academic Partner: Michael L. McNamara

School of Architecture + Cities
Academic Year 2021-22

Executive Summary

ROLE PLAY performance puts students and tutors "on the spot" when they perform for an audience: they must act fast to display knowledge and judgment. The magic of performance derives from our fascination with story-telling and witnessing: if the building contract is presented with conflict and surprise, the audience will get involved and they will want to know (or guess) the textbook next step of contract procedure. Furthermore, tutors can "throw a curve ball" by suggesting incorrect and even corrupt practices: this is the moment that ethics and professionalism of inexperienced "actors" will be fully tested.

At the heart of this review is the chance for students to perform tasks required of their much more experienced colleagues. Every child learns by "dressing up" like an adult. If we consider role playing in a Shakespeare production at A-Level which can continue later in life as corporate team-building, then everyone can benefit from good coaching. The students are not experimental guinea pigs in this proposal, rather, they will play the "lead roles" of Architect, Client, and Builder in a playful but intense session of administering contracts. Office experience shapes their roles, but students will no longer remain "bit players" in the drama since they will perform the key procedures with significant obstacles to overcome.

Co-Creator students were vital to the process of making Flash Cards and building the final PowerPoint presentation based on their individual Case Study projects. This was a true collaboration since the tutor was there to perform the builder role but the students provided the actual narrative. Any student with a decent Case Study story to tell can play the lead role in their own experience, greatly accelerating the process of gaining experience that will make them "wise beyond their years."

There are three artefacts that students and tutors have assembled:

- 1- Flash Cards of each contract instrument that are handed over in sequence,
- 2- PowerPoint slides which are projected behind the Role Play actors, and
- 3- A video of the Role Play performance on 18 June, 2022.

What your report should include:

1. Where did the inspiration to do the project come from?

Michael McNamara had the benefit of singing and performing on stage in secondary school and at university: one observes great "coaching" and later begins to coach others. An audience galvanizes our best performance. "Stage Fright" is the real adrenaline experience of approaching an audience with all the anxieties of remembering what to do and when so that the story flows and avoids "going pear-shaped." This is the excitement that breaks out when the collaborators take the Role Play seriously: it can turn into serious fun.

2. What did you set out to achieve?

The three artefacts are finished and they represent a genuine collaboration between students and tutor. When the Flash Cards and PowerPoint are assembled, the presence of a professional videographer can make the learning experience very compelling. Students want to get it right on camera and they take away a genuine commitment to become seasoned performers.

3. How did students and staff work together on this project?

There were several "dress rehearsals" which revealed problems with our sequence and unexpected audience interactions that we wanted to encourage and also be prepared for. Although the tutor began making Flash Cards, the students truly "got stuck in" on a Friday evening before the video session. That was the night that the PowerPoint slides were assembled and made the video effective.

4. What kind of impact do you anticipate that your work may have on learning and teaching going forward (specific to your course/module or in a broader context)?

In Oral Exams, I it is surprising how often students often find themselves unprepared for questions on contract administration. Building Contracts are complicated: they require several years of trial and error to master. The Architects Registration Board stipulates that Westminster lecture extensively on Contracts. Meanwhile, the RIBA writes and sells Standard Appointment Agreements; the RIBA can also acts as mediator to settle contract disputes. Our course provides plenty of lectures, notes, and tutoring, but we can still fall short when our students lack real world experience od contracts.

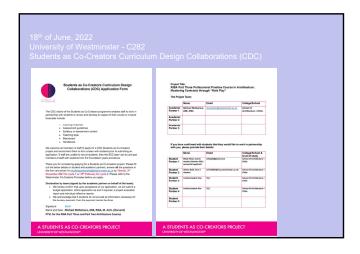
The impact of Role Play will be to provide the "muscle memory" of contract events. Every seasoned architect has seared into their memory their past shortcomings in the company of builders, clients, and project teams. As our PPT slides demonstrate, we have built a "plight simulator" which allows us to virtually crash the plane or make a mistake in which no one gets hurt.

5. Any lessons learned from working in partnership?

Mital Patel progressed considerably in becoming a fine presenter and a future distinguished tutor. She knows how to work the audience, get them engaged, and has a great teaching style. Athina Ralli sat down and solved the problems of our PowerPoint slides with skill and professionalism. It is hard to believe that this fine new architect was recently the callow student in my group! Her native language is Greek but she is mastering English contracts and presenting to the audience like a seasoned pro, wise beyond her years.

It is most evident that tutors do not always know what gaps to fill in student knowledge. Every tutor has had the experience of "talking till they are blue in the face" without engaging the students who might even view the tutor as a "know-it-all" talking *ad nauseum* to suit their own ego. The Role Play has shifted my role as tutor away from knowing it all (which I most surely do not) to my frequent suggestion that: "together, we can find out!"

18th of June, 2022
University of Westminster - C282
Students as Co-Creators Curriculum Design Collaborations (CDC)



18th of June, 2022
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1. You are a gain emission of the control of the contro



ROLE PLAY

Lama studio

what is ROLE PLAY?

what is ROLE PLAY:

role = the position or purpose that someone or something has in a situation, organization, society, relationship or performance.

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LaMa studio

what is ROLE PLAY:

play = when you play, especially as a child, you perform an enjoyable and entertaining activity.

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what is ROLE PLAY?

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what is ROLE PLAY?

child-ish

the LeMe studio

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what is ROLE PLAY:

childish *or* child-like

the LaMa studio

LaMa studio

what is ROLE PLAY:

childish child-like

the LaMa studio

what is ROLE PLAY:

childish like a child

the LaMa studio

LaMa studio

what is ROLE PLAY?

childish like a child:

"It took me 4 years to paint like Raphael, but a lifetime to paint like a child "

Pablo Picasso

the LaMa studi

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what is ROLE PLAY:



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what is ROLE PLAY:



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what is ROLE PLAY:



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what is ROLE PLAY?















what is ROLE PLAY?

what is ROLE PLAY?

plight = an unpleasant condition, or difficult one.

what is ROLE PLAY?

what is ROLE PLAY?

plight simulator

what is ROLE PLAY:

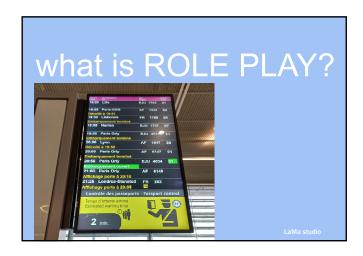
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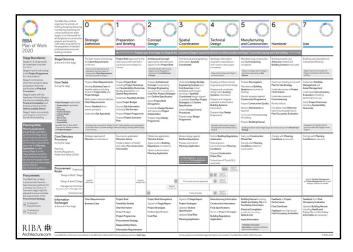
To: Michael McNamara < M.Mcnamara@westminster.ac.uk>; Amanda Pawliszyn

<A.Pawliszyn@westminster.ac.uk> Cc: mlm@post.harvard.edu < mlm@post.harvard.edu>

Subject: C282 Room Booking --- Michael McNamara Group 27

I can confirm you that C282 now has been added to your 18th June booking.





TENDER: ONE-STAGE TWO-STAGE WHAT IS A
STANDARD
REFERENCE FOR
TENDERING
PRACTICE?

JCT TENDERING PRACTICE NOTE 2017 NEGOTIATED TENDER



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TRADITIONAL

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WHAT ARE THE CONDITIONS FOR FORMING A BINDING CONTRACT?

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OFFER
ACCEPTANCE
CONSIDERATION
INTENTION
CAPACITY

Lobbo etudi

FORM OF CONTRACT

LaMa studio

JCT MW 16



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WHO ISSUES THE F10?

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THE CLIENT
OR
THE CLIENT'S NOMINEE

the LaMa studio

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CDM REGULATIONS 2015

PRELIMS/ DEPOSIT PAYMENT

the LaMa studio

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ENABLING WORKS

VALUATION (APPLICATION FOR PAYMENT)

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INTERIM CERTIFICATE

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PAY LESS NOTICE

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WHEN DOES THE PAY LESS NOTICE NEED TO BE ISSUED?

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5 DAYS

BREACH OF CONTRACT

EXTENSION OF TIME

the LaMa studio

LaMa studio

NON-COMPLETION CERTFICATE

LaMa studio

Q: WHAT ARE THE
TYPES OF
DISPUTE
RESOLUTION?

the LaMa studi

A:
NEGOTIATION
MEDIATION
ADJUDICATION
ARBITRATION
LITIGATION

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PRACTICAL COMPLETION

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Q: WHAT
HAPPENS AT
PRACTICAL
COMPLETION?

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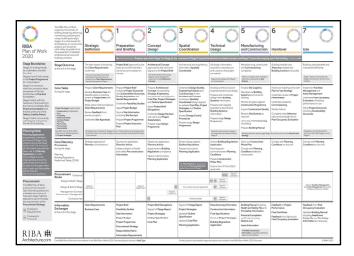
A:
RECTIFICATION PERIOD STARTS
CONTRACTOR'S INSURANCE
H&S FILE IS HANDED OVER
50% OF RETENTION IS PAID

Q: WHAT ARE LAD's?

the LaMa studio

A: LIQUIDATED & ASCERTAINED DAMAGES







18th of June, 2022
University of Westminster - C282
Students as Co-Creators Curriculum Design Collaborations (CDC)



Students as Co-Creators Curriculum Design Collaborations (CDC) Application Form

The CDC strand of the Students as Co-Creators programme enables staff to work in partnership with students to review and develop an aspect of their course or module. Examples include:

- Learning materials
- Assessment guidelines
- Syllabus or assessment content
- Teaching style
- Blackboard
- Handbooks

We welcome all members of staff to apply for a CDC Students as Co-Creators project and recommend them to form a team with students prior to submitting an application. If staff are unable to recruit students, then the SCC team can try and pair members of staff with students from the Foundation years and above.

Thank you for considering applying for a Students as Co-Creators project. Please fill out the below details on student and academic partners, answer **all** the questions in the form and email it to <u>studentpartnership@westminster.ac.uk</u> by **12noon**, **3**rd **November 2021 for cycle 1 or 16**th **February for cycle 2.** Please refer to the Westminster Co-Creators Principles before you apply.

Declaration by team (signed by the academic partner on behalf of the team):

- We hereby confirm that upon acceptance of our application, we will submit a budget application, ethics application as and if required, a project evaluation report and individual reflective reports.
- We acknowledge that if students do not provide all information necessary for the bursary payment, then the payment cannot be done.

Signature: *MLM*

Name and Date: Michael McNamara, ARB, RIBA, M. Arch. (Harvard)

PTVL for the RIBA Part Three and Part Two Architecture Courses

Project Title:

RIBA Part Three Professional Practice Course in Architecture: Mastering Contracts through "Role Play"

The Project Team:

	Name	Email	College/School
Academic Partner 1	Michael McNamara, ARB, RIBA	mcnamam@westminster.ac.uk	School of Architecture + Cities
Academic Partner 2			
Academic Partner 3			

If you have confirmed with students that they would like to work in partnership with you, please provide their details:

Name	Email	College/School &
		level of study

Student Partner 1	Mital Patel, recent student October 2021 successful applicant	mitalp9@gmail.com	School of Architecture + Cities
Student Partner 2	Athina Ralli, Part 3 student	w1792895@my.westminster.ac.uk	School of Architecture + Cities
Student Partner 3	Invited student four	TBC	School of Architecture + Cities
Student Partner 4	Invited student five	TBC	School of Architecture + Cities
Student Partner 5			

1. Which area of your curriculum are you interested in reviewing and/or developing? Please tell us what you think will be involved in undertaking this review (200-300 words)

RIBA Part Three Professional Practice Course in Architecture: Mastering Contracts through "Role Play"

- Final Oral Exams are revealing in our RIBA Part Three Course: students often find themselves unprepared for questions regarding building contract administration.
- Building Contracts are complicated instruments requiring several years of trial
 and error to master. The Architects Registration Board stipulates that Westminster
 lecture extensively on Contracts. Meanwhile, the RIBA writes Standard Appointment
 Agreements and also settles contract disputes. Our course provides plenty of
 lectures, notes, and tutoring, but we can still fall short when our students lack real
 world experience.
- Even a year of Part Three Study fails to prepare some students for whom the late RIBA Stages remain a mystery. Employers can "type cast" our students in early design stages and then rely on much more experienced staff to deliver a final building. Student disenchantment runs high when they are side-lined from the "muddy boots" role of building live projects.
- "Role Play" treats the RIBA Plan of Work (attached) as a "chessboard" (8 X 8 squares---8 RIBA Stages) featuring successful Contract moves that they can master.
- Students' Role Play would begin with the more straightforward Building Contract processes, such as awarding a Tender, after which they would act out complex discussions such as awarding Liquidated Damages to the client, terminating a builder, and so on.
- 2. Why do you want this review and/or development to take place in partnership with students? (250-350 words)

ROLE PLAY is at the heart of this Review as the students perform the tasks of their much more experienced colleagues. Every child learns by "dressing up" like an adult. Furthermore, if we consider role playing that starts with a Shakespeare production at A-Levels and continues later in life as corporate team-building, everyone can benefit from good coaching. The students are not experimental guinea pigs in this proposal, rather, they will play the "lead roles" of Architect, Client, and Builder in a playful but intense session of administering contracts. Office experience shapes their roles, but students will no longer remain "bit players" in the drama since they will perform the key procedures with significant obstacles to overcome.

Students as lead players whilst the tutors act as coaches: Within one Role Play scenario, an underperforming builder (the tutor) will receive a reduced payments from a student "Architect" and their "Quantity Surveyor." This leads to Negotiation and Arbitration when the builder disputes the putatively invalid *Pay Less Notices*. In one version, the builder's Contract is eventually terminated whilst in another, Mediation or Arbitration at the RIBA is successful --- the project completes after a short delay.

Tutors expect students to master complicated material which they have little or no role doing in their actual jobs. This leads to frustration and job changes when the student has no opportunity to branch out into late stage experience. Role Play can put them in the driver's

seat: they can make mistakes and try again. Complicated legalities and time and money pressures of big buildings on site will become less daunting.

On the other hand, TUTORS need to observe and learn from the students. Student experience is great when managing huge workloads and time pressure so the tutors need to see students "in action." Thus tutors can be more effective at filling in the blanks of the experience they lack.

3. How do you propose to undertake this review and/or development? Please describe how you want to work with students. (250-350 words)

Students have trouble identifying what knowledge they lack. Nonetheless, their missing work experience within RIBA Work Stages 0-7 is much easier to identify on the "chessboard" provided by RIBA: the detailed *RIBA Plan of Work* (attached) lists the important events of every project that students need to memorize.

Review Under this CDC is a before and after picture of the students' experience before the Role Play, followed by at least two Role Play sessions. Finally, we can assess their progress after the biannual Oral Exams.

- Before Role Play would be a short written quiz on key aspects of the Architects'
 Appointment and on three common Building Contracts to include the JCT Standard
 Building Contract 2016, JCT Design and Build Contract 2016, and JCT Minor Works
 Contract, 2016.
- Once the students identify their areas of concern, their Role Play can focus on weaknesses, e.g. the team's role in the *Construction Phase Plan*, making Valuations, and settling disputes over *Extension of Time* and late project delivery.

Review after Role Play would be a series of tutor and student recorded interviews to identify what has worked well in the exercises and what needs development.

An important development will be the Flash Cards which give students a graphic tool to communicate key events, e.g. Pay Preliminaries and to get a tactile grip on contract events.

Developing students' knowledge and judgment alongside their role in other students' success is the most important goal of this CDC. Even if tutors "talk till they are blue in the face," students under pressure might from time to time switch off. The Role Play is a spontaneous interaction which can be good fun and should be quite memorable.

Illustrations on final page:

Above: 2020 detailed RIBA Plan of Work lists the essential items our students must master.

Below: Students in their respective roles as Architect, Builder, and Client, 28 October 2021.

END OF PROPOSAL

Next Steps and Key Dates

A student and staff selection panel will meet to assess the applications. You will receive the outcome of your application via email by the 12th of November 2021 for cycle 1 and 25th February 2022 for cycle 1. If your application is successful, your team will be required to attend a mandatory introduction workshop. Below are all the key dates and timings you need to keep in your diaries:

Project timelines for 2021/22 cycles 1 and 2

Timeline for cycle 1:



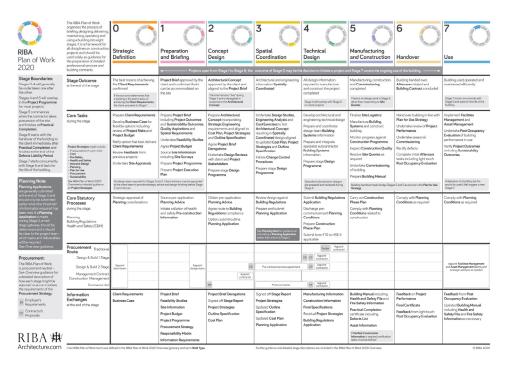
Timeline for cycle 2:



For further information and guidance on completing your project submission please contact:

Dr Fatima Maatwk

Student Partnership Lecturer, Centre for Education and Teaching Innovation, studentpartnership@westminster.ac.uk



Above: 2020 detailed RIBA Plan of Work lists the essential items students must master.

Below: Students in their respective roles as Architect, Builder, Client, et al on 28 October 2021.

