

Professional Practice Seminar Blog

Week One – Seminar One

Attendance: 100%

Attendees: Matthew Bingham, Elizabeth Cowin, Heema Mistry, Morley Spinks, Sarah Young

Date: Monday 4th October

Tutors: Anthony Dalby, Simon Chiou

Getting Started

Our first week was mainly focused on delegating tasks and becoming familiar with our group. We started off with a briefing by Anthony Dalby, which led to a group discussion about the project ahead of us and how we would handle it as a team. We moved on to assess each area of work, assigning everybody with roles that they were happy to oversee and understanding the dynamic of the group (see end of blog for roles). We then went on to discuss an ethos for our practice, thinking about its importance and the influence this would give us throughout the whole project. This meant that we were thinking about what was important to us individually as Architects. To ensure that we were choosing an area that we were all happy with we investigated different Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), concluding that “Life on Land” was the factor that we were all the most passionate about. This idea then developed after some discussion into “Preserving and creating diverse ecosystems within natural Architecture.” This would then allow us to go away from the session and create a more detailed Ethos that we would follow for our business.

After proposing this Ethos to Simon Chiou and telling him that we wanted our research to focus on how we can create architecture that has little impact on the environment and climate change, he educated us on the idea of Circular Economy, telling us to look further into it as it was relevant to our ideas and goals. The idea behind a Circular Economy in Architecture is based on the re-use of materials or the use of materials that can be re-used when the building becomes redundant. “Circular design is about creating products that no longer have a lifecycle with a beginning, middle and an end. The purpose is to design products that can “be made to be made again””

Towards the end of the session Anthony gave another talk about the importance of not only the current news happening in the world, but how we should be thinking about what the future might hold for Architecture and how this is going to affect us and our careers. This discussion allowed us to refine our ideas as individual groups, allocating specific tasks and research for each member to complete for the following week (Monday 11th October)

These tasks included:

Matthew Bingham – Begin setting up website and create a spreadsheet for finances

Elizabeth Cowin – Write up Seminar Blog post and create relevant social media platforms

Heema Mistry – Research “Life on Land” and research precedent study of architecture that incorporates ecosystems and using natural materials

Morley Spinks – Write detailed design Ethos and think about the structure of the business using PESTEL

Sarah Young – Research and write up on relevant news and Circular Economy (Biophilia)

Overall, we all thought that we blended well as a group and understood what we all needed to contribute to this project for it to be smooth and efficient. We are confident that our business will be able to support our ethos and through thorough research and planning we will complete the given brief to an excellent standard.

Team Roles*:

Matthew Bingham – Website Design, Finance

Elizabeth Cowin – Admin, Training

Heema Mistry – Sustainability

Morley Spinks – Design Ethos, Design Control

Sarah Young – Research

*These roles are for organisation, and we have agreed to help anyone with an excess amount of work, making it equal and fair