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# Implementation of Project-Based Learning in structural design and architectural modules to achieve improved graduate employability

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School of Computing and Engineering

19th July 2022

# Summary

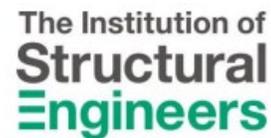
- Introduction
  1. Liaising with professional bodies
  2. Applying Project based learning and Group work
  3. Using industry practices
  4. Site visits
  5. Liaising with industry practitioners
- Conclusions
- References

# Introduction

- Many UK civil engineering and architectural programmes address industry's requirements for graduates that can:
  - identify and solve **complex** problems
  - understand **ethical, environmental** and the **business** aspects of Built Environment projects.
- Project-based learning (PBL) is a successful learning strategy for the development of graduate employability skills that has a considerable impact on **work-readiness**.
- PBL group projects lead to **enhanced** employability skills and provide ample scope for the development of **original** and **innovative** design solutions

# 1 Liaising with professional bodies to inform the curriculum relevant to practice

- Accreditation process
- Consultation when any changes in Courses are planned
- Participating in CPD events and competitions
- Organising end of year shows / events to show-case student work and give awards



JBM – Joint Board of Moderators for Civil Engineering Course

# 2 Project Based Learning

- Project-based learning (PBL) is a successful learning strategy for the development of graduate employability skills that has a considerable impact on work-readiness.
- PBL group projects lead to **enhanced** employability skills and provide ample scope for the development of **original** and **innovative** design solutions
- PBL practiced in Engineering and Built environment courses simulate **real life** projects in assignment briefs and encourage **group work**

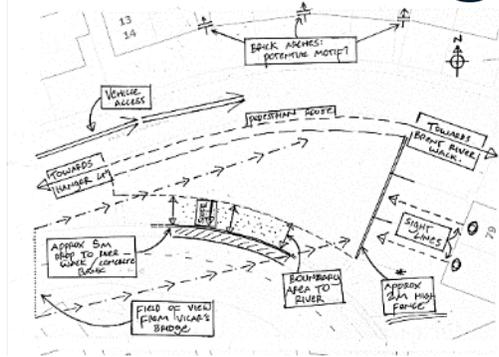
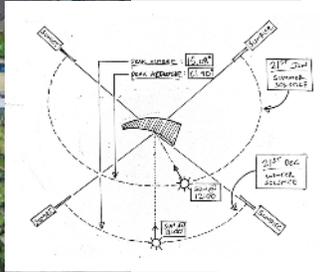
HOW?

# 2 Applying Project Based Learning

- PBL covers holistic design projects which investigate authentic complex scenarios.
- Reflective of Industry practice, students are required to interpret a client's design brief, establish preliminary outline designs, review, and critique these and finally produce a detailed design for one of their approved schemes.
- The briefs are formulated to realise the full structural, architectural, economic, aesthetic and sustainability benefits

HOW?

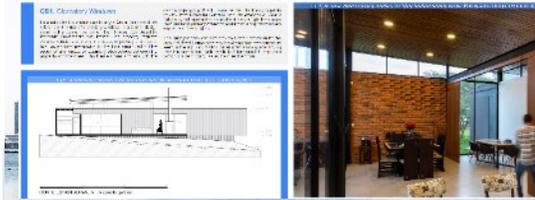
# 2 Applying Project Based Learning in BE modules



Brief is like a **real** project 'working for a client'

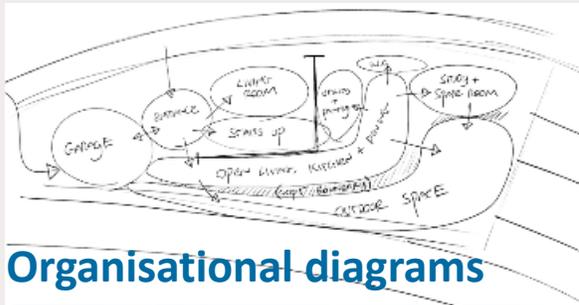
Room Schedule	
Room	Area
Living Room	26m <sup>2</sup>
Dining Room	24m <sup>2</sup>
Kitchen	24m <sup>2</sup>
Studio/Guest Room	15m <sup>2</sup>
Main Bedroom/Ensuite	15m <sup>2</sup>
Double Bedroom n1	12m <sup>2</sup>
Double Bedroom n2	12m <sup>2</sup>
Single Bedroom	9m <sup>2</sup>
Additional Toilet n1	4,5m <sup>2</sup>
Additional Toilet n2	4m <sup>2</sup>

Schedule of accommodation



"Inspiration"

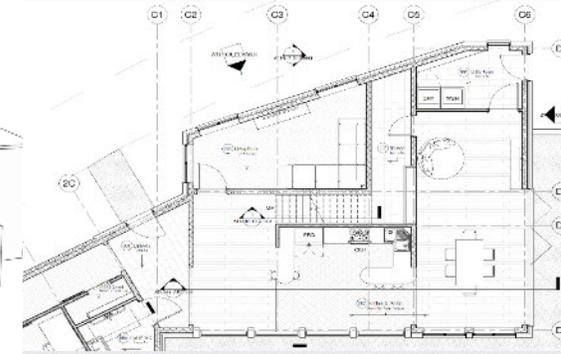
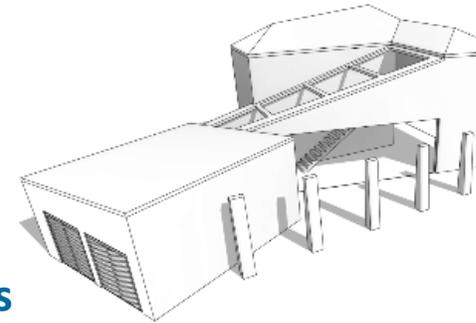
Site analysis **Real** Location



Organisational diagrams



Design sketches - ideas



Scaled drawings

HOW?



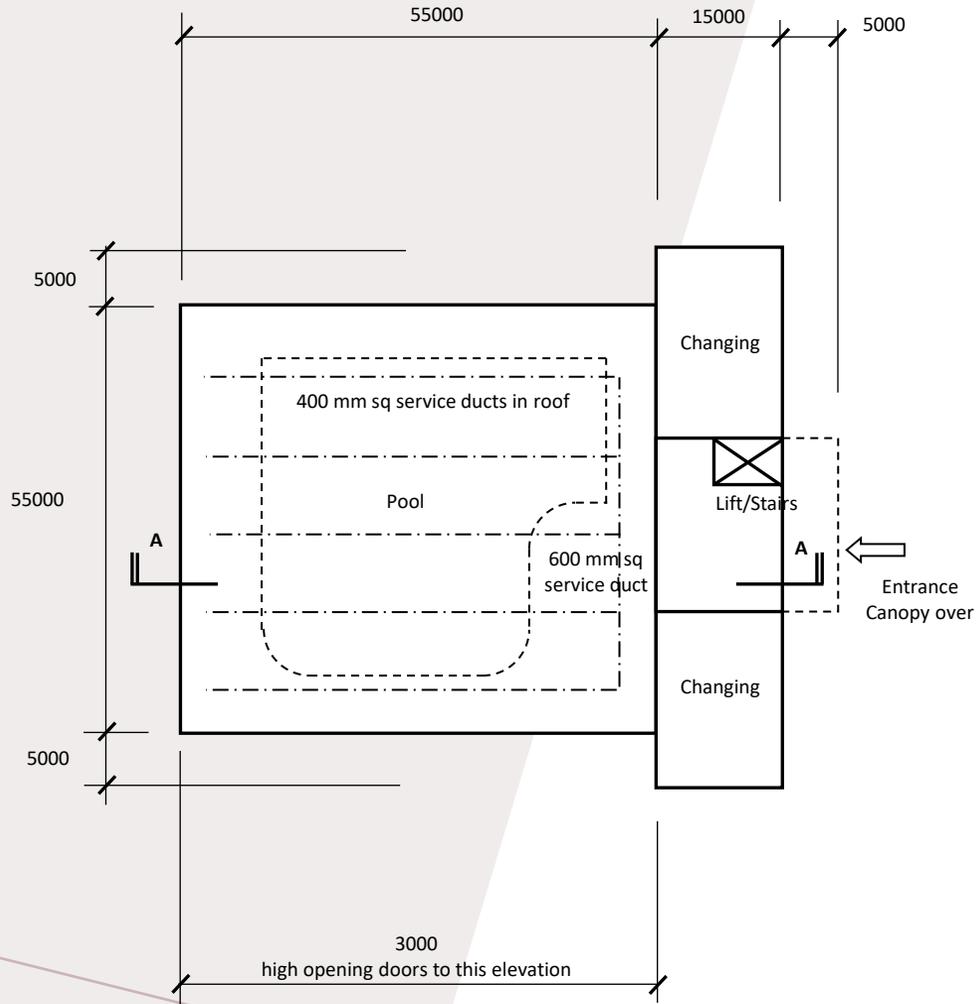
PBL practiced in Built environment modules simulating **real** projects

# 2 Applying Project Based Learning for structures

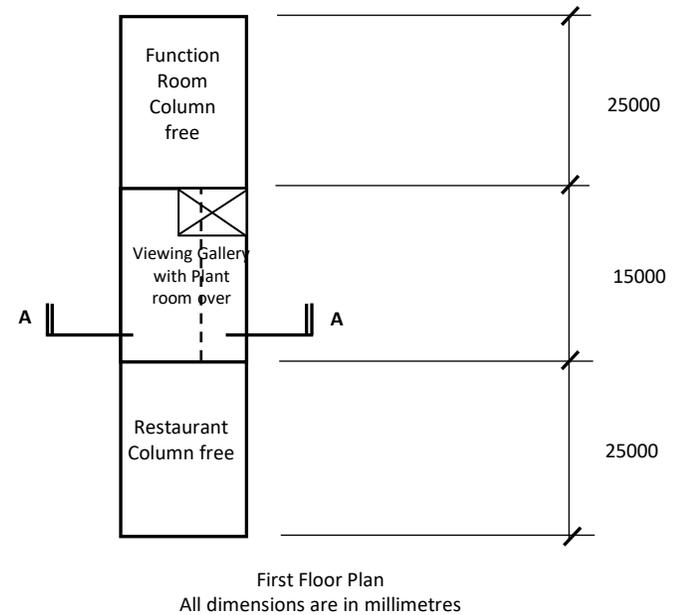
PBL practiced in Engineering modules simulating **real** projects



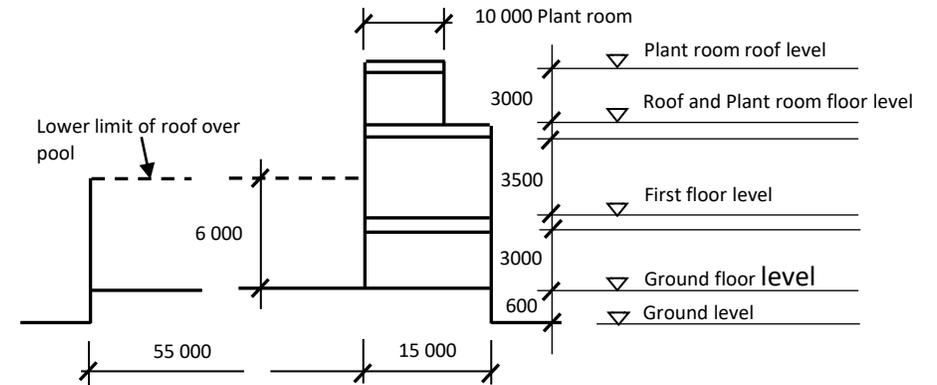
# 2 Project Brief - Leisure Pool and Facilities Project



Ground Floor Plan  
All dimensions are in millimetres

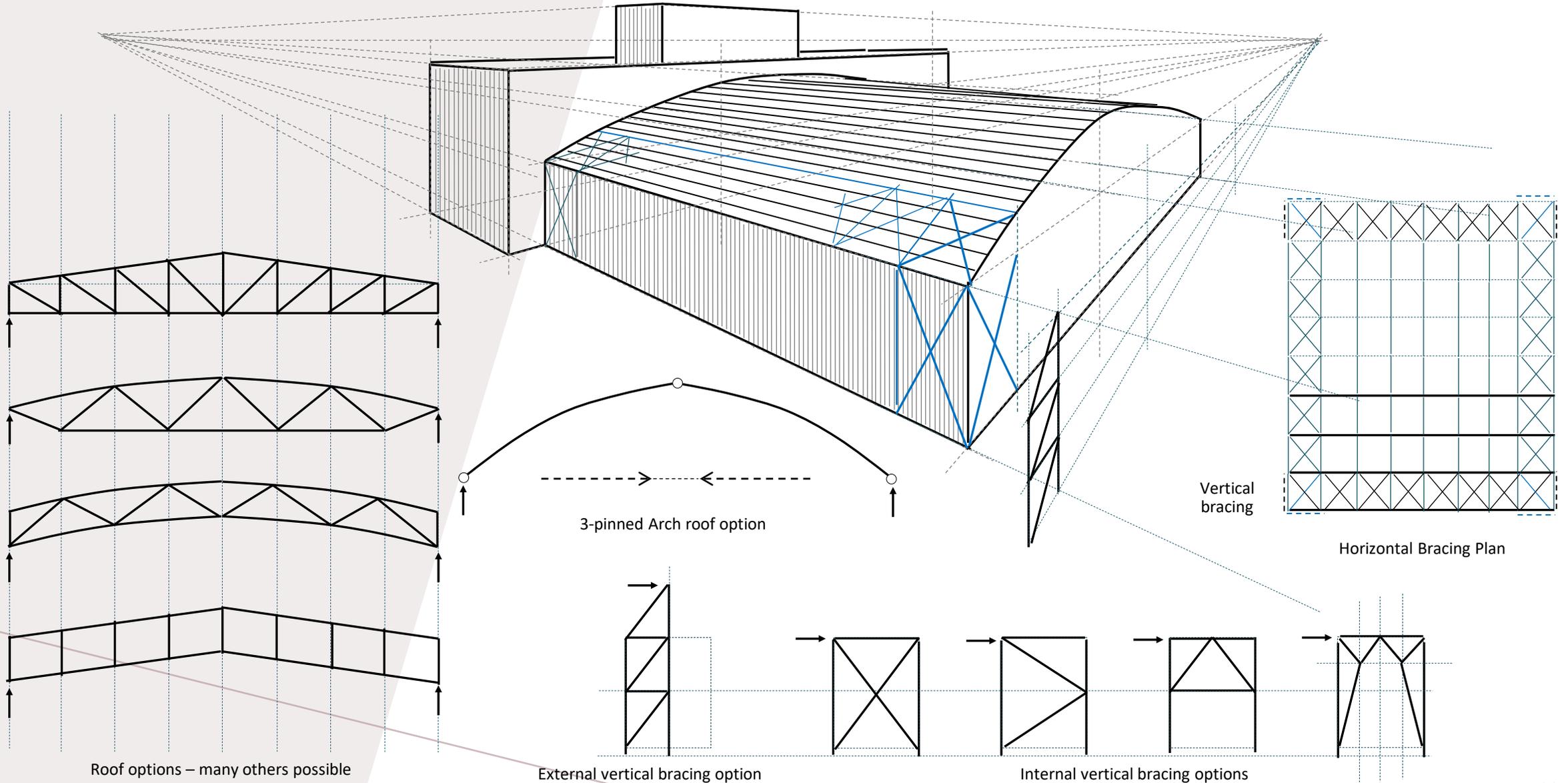


First Floor Plan  
All dimensions are in millimetres



Section A - A  
All dimensions are in millimetres

# 2 Leisure Pool and Facilities Project



Roof options – many others possible

External vertical bracing option

Internal vertical bracing options

## 2 Importance of Group work and PBL

- Students engage in group work which leads to subject-specific knowledge and helps develop inter-personal skills
- Further skills developed are **critical thinking, problem solving, teamwork** and **communication** as these are among the graduate skills most valued by employers
- Group interaction is based on gained experience from **PBL** activities encouraging creativity and good time management

HOW ?

# 2 Importance of Group work and PBL



HOW ?

**Working as a team with a common goal and a deadline**

Group interaction is based on PBL activities encouraging creativity and good time management

# 2 Importance of Group work and PBL



3D Printed 'A' frame bridge over water to be constructed on site in 4.5 days



Pouring and striking concrete 'A frame' and decks



HOW?



Foundation shuttering being installed after being set out



Reinforcement installation



Foundations cast and installing 'A' frame and decks



## Residential field trips involving Group work

## 2 Importance of Group work and PBL



**Group work**

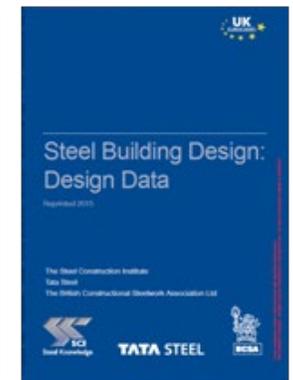
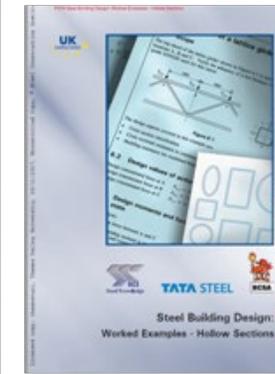
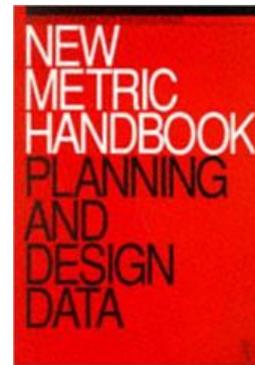
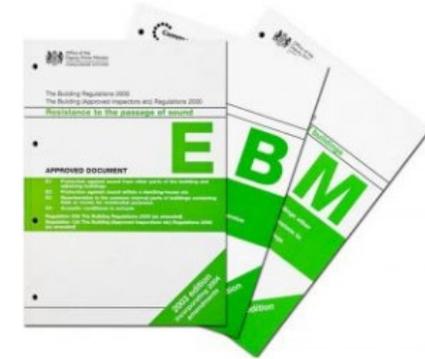
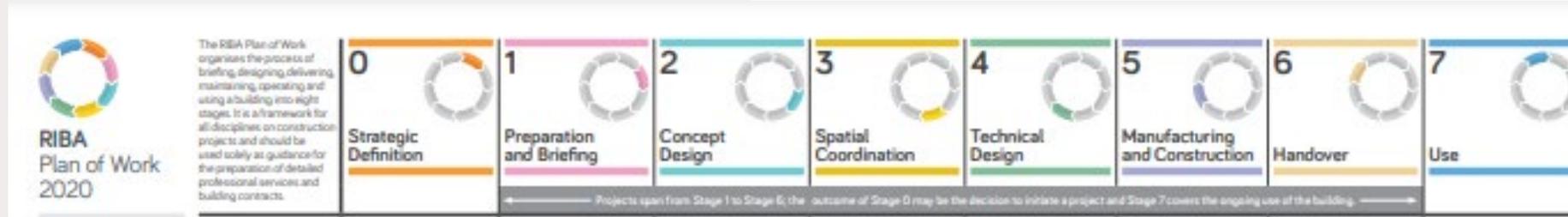


**HOW ?**

Group interaction is based on gained experience from PBL activities encouraging creativity and good time management

**Residential field trips involving Group work**

# 3 Using industry standards communication methods

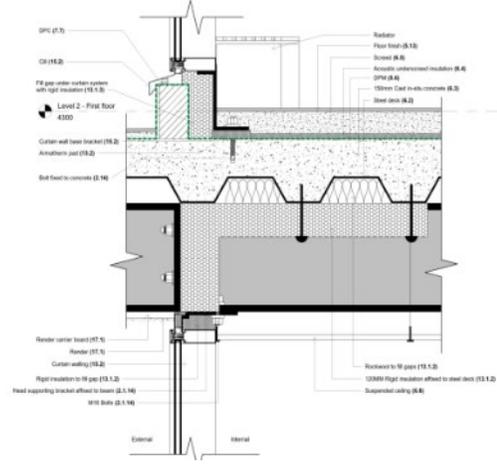
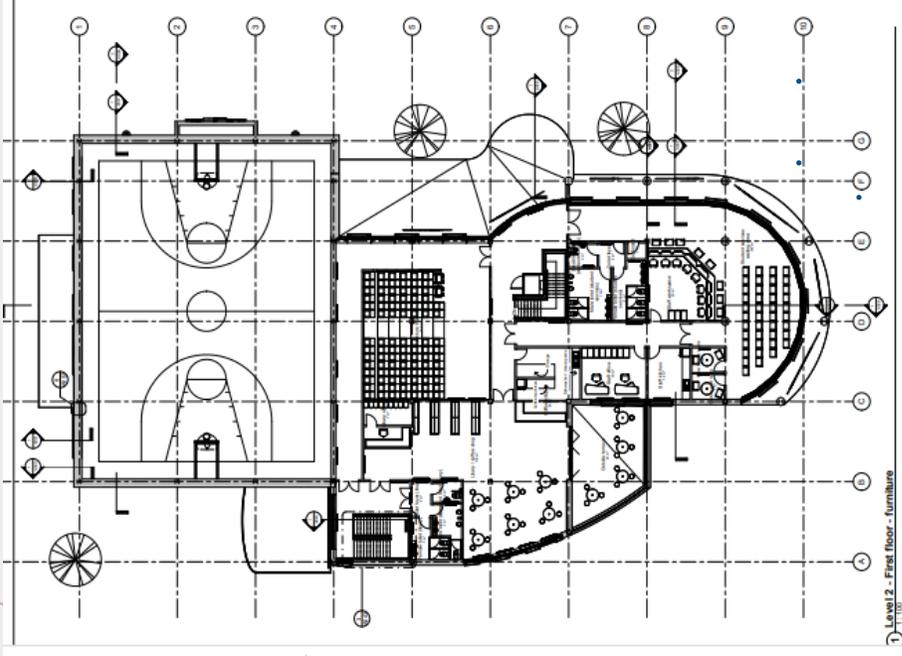
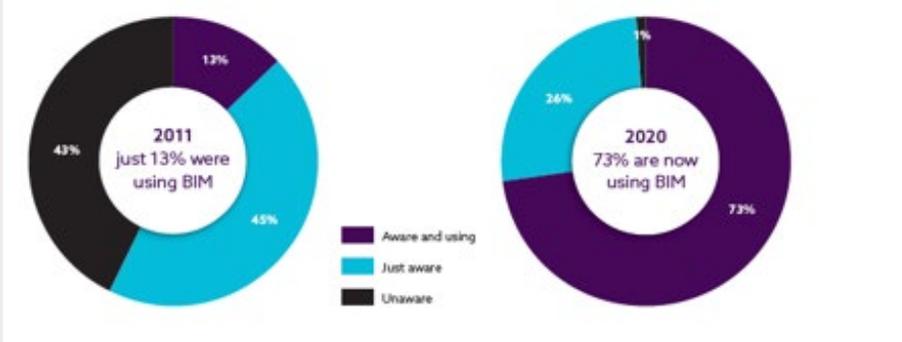


HOW?

- RIBA Plan of works
- Planning guidance and Building Regulations
- Metric handbook
- British Standards
- NBS



# 3 Using industry standards communication methods



HOW?

Computer Software, Analysis and Drawing tools

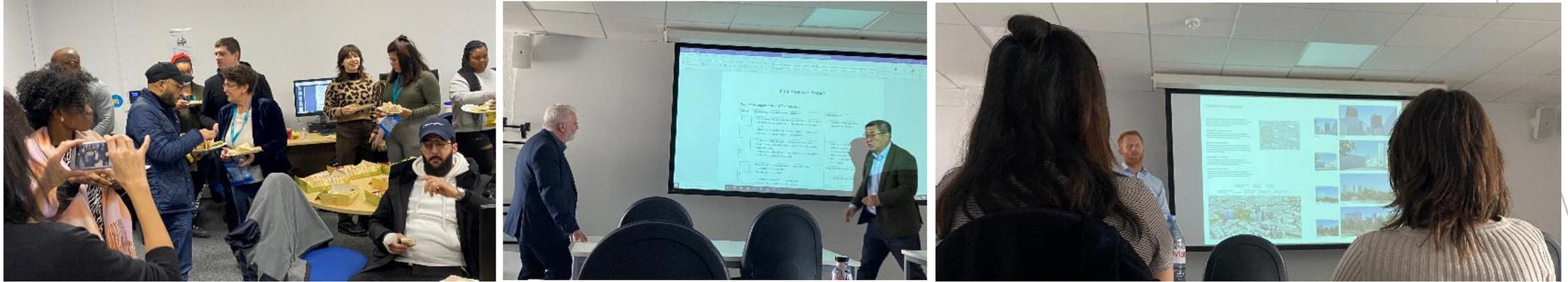
# 4 Visiting building sites, completed buildings and exhibitions



HOW?

Reinforcing curriculum elements by visiting **real** examples

# 5 Liaising with industry practitioners

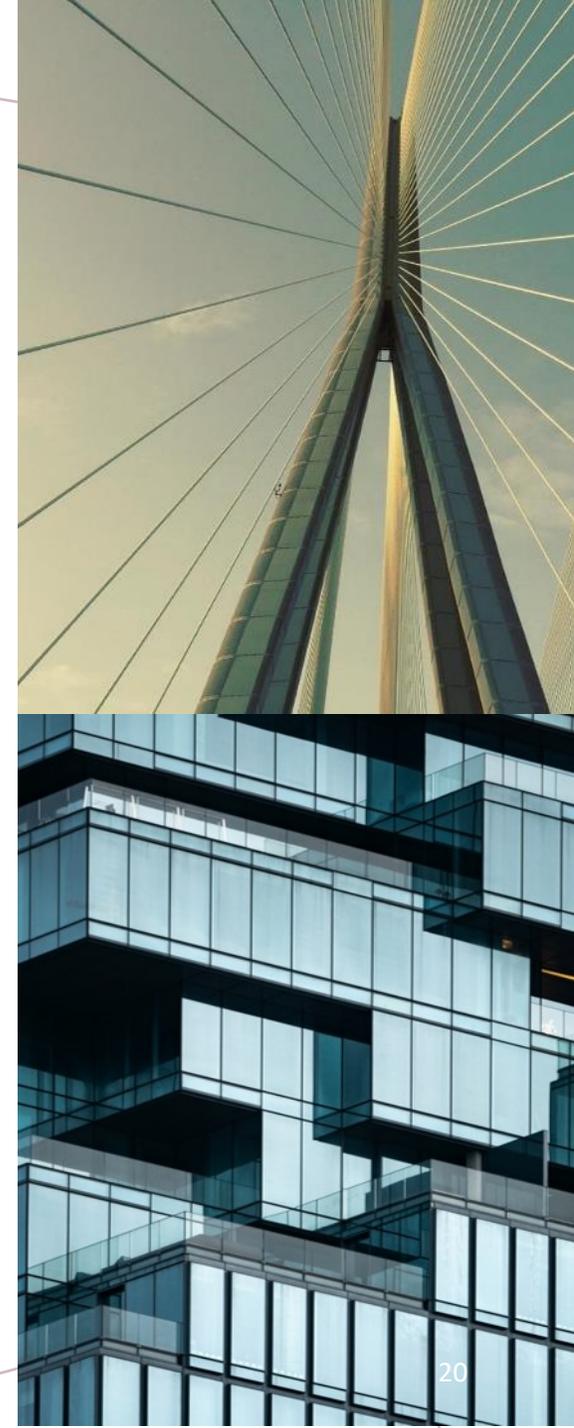


- Introducing construction practitioners to students through industry events
- Calling practitioners to the University as guest lecturers
- Work Shadowing / organising internships
  - *aiming to provide students with an insight into the world of **work***

HOW?

# Conclusions

- Industry's changing expectations must be accounted for to develop graduate **skills** needed by **industry**.
- **PBL** in the form of realistic group projects supported by industry **motivates** students, **improves** learning, and **encourages** engagement with work related activities which **enhance** and **improve** graduate **employability**
- Project based learning skills support the UWL ethos as a '**career university**'



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