

# Portsmouth School of Architecture (ARCH)

## Continuing Professional Development Courses (CPD)

### Design Classical

The Portsmouth School of Architecture presents its award-winning course in the elements of classical design and how to design in the classical idiom, for CPD credits.



Left image by Niall Bird; middle and right images by Khalid Saleh

Most architectural practitioners today, educated in the Modernist tradition, think of designing in the classical idiom as merely a matter of juggling motifs, whereas in fact, it is a disciplined and sophisticated design language, whose fundamental principal is a system of proportional relationships (and if you think that sounds like Le Corbusier and ‘the Modular’ ...you are right).

In this drawing based course, you will be set graphic exercises to learn by doing the elements of the classical language, the proportional ratios which determine their appearance, and how to compose with them to make coherent, rational and harmonious classical designs, when a client asks for them.

Portsmouth students and practitioners who have already taken this course affirm that it provides a new (and rare) architectural skill which is interestingly marketable, or just satisfies curiosity about this ancient design language, (the ‘mother tongue’ of western architecture), whose disciplines underlie nearly every aspect of our historical built environment, (including much of the modern; Corbusier, Mies van der Rohe and Alvar Aalto). As it is recommended that the drawing exercises are done using CAD, the course has also proven to be a terrifically effective means of honing even the most experienced CAD users’ mouse skills, owing to the strict disciplines regarding mass and proportion, and also the representation of complex decorative details which the classical language in practice entails.

If you would like find out more about this course please contact Martin Andrews in the Project Office:

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Peter Hodson was educated at the schools of architecture of the University of Virginia and Cornell, and at Kings College Cambridge. From 1971 to 2009, he devised and taught the History of Architecture course at Portsmouth School of Architecture and continues in semi-retirement, to teach the classical course to its students.

Mr Hodson has also taught his classical course at the Royal College of Art, the Prince of Wales Institute of Architecture and (since 1994) as a summer course for the Virginia Commonwealth University’s School of the Arts Department of Interior Design, for both VCU students and as an American Institute of Architects (AIA) recognised CPD course for Virginia

architectural offices.

In 2007, Mr Hodson received the prestigious Arthur Ross Award for Excellence in Architectural Education, sharing the awards platform with Robert A M Stern from the New York based Institute of Classical Architecture.

