

SUMMER 2024 WEEKS 1-3



Connecting Tracks and Architectural Landmarks: Liverpool's Heritage Explored (5 credit module)

IEEL038

| Credit Value* | Delivery | Contact Hours Per module | Self-Directed Hours Per module | Total Hours Per module |
|------------------------|-----------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 5 UoL credit, 2.5 ECTS | On-campus | 12-16 | 34-38 | 50 |

*this module is awaiting final approval

Module Leader: Dr Junjie Xi

Dr Junjie Xi is a senior lecturer in architectural design and humanities at the University of Liverpool. She was previously a Postdoctoral researcher for the China Railway Group Limited and the School of Architecture at Tsinghua University. She continues her research in railway development and has completed a new book with Dr Paco Mejias Villatoro – *China's Railway Transformation: History, Culture Changes and Urban Development*, which was published by Routledge in December 2022. Through research in infrastructure, she developed a focus on the informal settlements in Bangladesh, aiming to provide a better sanitation system for the future. She is also keen on reactivating Liverpool's railway heritage through research by design and filming. Her two favourite railway-related films are *Brief Encounter* (1945) and *Last Train Home* (2009).

Module Description

This module will provide students with in-depth knowledge of Liverpool's rich railway heritage. As broadly well-known, the Liverpool and Manchester Railway (opened in 1830) ran from Crown Street to Liverpool Street in Castlefield in Manchester and was the first inter-city passenger railway in the world. It is important to learn from the legacy of the railway heritage to understand better our identity and culture today. During this summer school, the students will be introduced

to the history of the railway in Liverpool by visiting existing sites and museums and talking to local volunteers. Beyond that, we will discuss the possibilities of how to re-activate Liverpool's railway heritage by using design solutions and urban design strategies.

This module is designed to give an understanding of core debates in the current situation of the railway heritage in Liverpool, guided by stories with time for site visits and discussions. During this learning experience, students are expected to engage with some key questions and develop their own opinions. We will consider questions such as why the important railway heritage has been largely neglected today. What are the approaches the railway heritage could be actively interwoven with the local community and society in the dynamic process of urban evolution? How do we seek ways to re-activate Liverpool's railway heritage?

Key areas of study will include urban design, creative thinking and community engagement. These concepts will be interactively and practically explored through case studies, site visits and field trips. The students will gain knowledge to understand better that the physical railway heritage is not just a source of architectural heritage but a bridge through which one investigates ways of engaging the public and local communities and a lifeline connecting the past, presenting to the future towards sustainable, equitable, and active urban evolution.

Module Aims:

- To develop confidence in understanding and communicating complex ideas in written and/or spoken language.
- To develop skills in research and collaborative learning.
- To provide students with an in-depth introduction to the history of Liverpool's railway heritage, with a particular focus on contemporary issues and how architectural and urban design methods can be applied to re-activate the heritage that we have today.

Content

The module syllabus will cover knowledge from history, architectural thinking, urban design and policy. These concepts will be illustrated with case studies and engaging with the site visits to enable students to understand the issues in the questions.

Module Structure

The module will be delivered over a three-week period in six two-hour sessions (four hours per week, total of 12 hours of teaching time).

Four sessions will consist of lecture-style sessions interspersed with case study material to enable group discussions. The Module Leader will introduce and teach the core ideas and concepts for the session before engaging the students in collaborative learning time as smaller groups. Students will be expected to participate fully and actively throughout the sessions, undertaking prior reading and research where necessary to enable them to have adequate

knowledge and examples to enable them to participate during the teaching time.

In addition, we will arrange one session as a site visit by train from Edge Hill Station (Liverpool) to Manchester Oxford Road and visit the Science and Industry Museum there. It is expected that students will spend 38 study hours outside of the classroom contact hours on activities, including assigned reading, an optional reading of areas of personal interest, homework tasks, online research and preparation for assessment. Students should be aware that to benefit from the face-to-face classroom sessions fully, the preparation work assigned should have been done prior to the lecture.

Teaching Methods

The teaching approach will include the following:

Taught sessions

Small group working

Group discussions

Site visits

Study trip

Use of multimedia and interactive materials

Use of case studies

Open reviews

Assessment:

Written assessment:

One SWOT analysis report of the site visits (500 words) will be submitted at session four (week Two)- 50% of the final grade.

Presentation:

Part Two:

In order to answer the question of how to reactivate Liverpool's railway heritage, the students will be asked to present in groups (3 students per group) an illustrated poster (A3) comprising 200-300 words - 50% of the final grade.

Standard University policies apply with regard to late submission of assessments.

Course Structure

The indicative schedule is as follows:

Session One:

An introduction – Liverpool's Lost Railway Heritage.

The first session will begin with some introductory information about the module, including the aims and assessment method. The focus of the lecture will be introducing the history and context of Liverpool's existing railway heritage. We will present some research findings from stakeholder interviews to the students.

Student activity: Group discussions and feedback. The students will have an opportunity to

work in small groups before sharing their thoughts with the broader class.

Session Two:

Site visits (walking tour)

The site visit will be arranged by Junjie Xi and presented by Trevor Skempton (Urban Design Consultant to Liverpool City Council, 2003–2009). We will visit Crown Street Park, Edge Hill Railway Station, the Loop Line, and the Wapping Tunnel exit, which effectively offers an informative background to Liverpool's railway heritage. The tour will start from Crown Street Park and finish at the Arch of China Town.

Student activity: sketching, taking photographs and informal discussions.

Session Three:

Learning from the case studies

In this lecture we will present some case studies globally to show contemporary practices of how to re-use the railway heritage from an urban design perspective. For example, the high line in New York, Jingzhang railway park (2020) and the adaptive reuse of redundant Southwark railway arches (2022).

Student activity: Group discussions and feedback. The students will have an opportunity to work in small groups before sharing their thoughts with the broader class.

Session Four:

Implementing architectural strategy and urban design solution

This lecture will introduce the basic theory of urban design and explain what an architectural strategy can be to address the issues identified in Session 1 and Session 2. We will invite a guest lecturer in planning expertise from the University to present the talk. The second part of the assessment will be further explained in this session.

Student activity: Group discussions and feedback.

Session Five:

Study trip (walking tour & train)

Students will take the train to **from Edge Hill Railway Station to Manchester Oxford Road** In this session, we will follow the historical route and observe the journey. Led by the module leader, the students will visit the Science and Industry Museum in Manchester together followed by a walking tour. It is a 20 minutes' walk from the station to the Museum.

Student activity: note-taking and informal discussions.

Session Six:

Presenting the design to stakeholders and communities

We will arrange a poster presentation session and invite reviewers from the School of Architecture, Department of Geography and Planning at the University. We will also invite external reviewers from local communities, such as the Merseyside Civic Society. The students will have the opportunity to present their ideas in groups to the reviewers.

Learning Outcomes:

| Learning outcome | Assessment component which assesses this learning outcome |
|--|---|
| Understand and communicate complex ideas in written and spoken language | SWOT analysis and poster presentation |
| Research a topic and work to present ideas in academic suitable style, including the appropriate use of reference and source material. | SWOT analysis and poster presentation |
| Demonstrate a general understanding of the history of Liverpool's railway heritage, with a particular focus on how architectural and urban design methods can be applied to re-activate the heritage that we have today. | SWOT analysis and poster presentation |

Skills:

Key skills that will be developed:

| Skill | How this skill is developed | Mode of assessment |
|----------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| Collaboration and Teamwork | Group Discussion, Activities in Class and Case Studies | Poster presentation |
| Communication skills | Group Discussion and Debate, Activities in Class, Assessed Presentation and Written Assignment | SWOT analysis and poster presentation |
| Problem-solving | Students will be given an opportunity to identify the problems and propose solutions through case studies and brainstorming. | SWOT analysis and poster presentation |
| Time Management | Self-directed Learning, Assessed Assignments, Analysis and Evaluation of Sources, Critical Reflection of Theoretical Frameworks, Historiographical Theories and Contemporary Debates | SWOT analysis and poster presentation |
| Critical analysis and evaluation | Presentation during seminars and assessments | SWOT analysis and poster presentation |

Books, ebooks and websites:

The University Website at www.liv.ac.uk/library provides access to many relevant books and electronic books, as well as academic journals and databases.

Connelly Angela Michael Hebbert and Manchester Architecture Research Centre. 2011. Liverpool's Lost Railway Heritage.

Manchester: Manchester Architecture Research Centre University of Manchester.

Miles Pearson and Rebecca Underwood. 2004. Forgotten Infrastructure in a City System (Masters Thesis Design Report).