



# National University of Sciences and Technology

## School of Art, Design and Architecture

### ARCH-161 – Language of Architecture I

<b>Credit Hours:</b>	3(3-0)	<b>Semester:</b>	Fall
<b>Instructor:</b>			
<b>Research Assistant:</b>		<b>Office:</b>	
<b>Email:</b>		<b>Extension:</b>	
<b>Website:</b>			
<b>Pre-requisites:</b>	None		
<b>Course Description:</b>	<p>The purpose of the course is to introduce the student to the scope and vocabulary of architecture. The student is expected to develop an understanding of the phenomenon of form in general and to identify the specificities of architectural form and its distinctions from other forms in nature and the human world at different scales and levels of space. These specificities and distinctions include perceptual values related with the corporeal, spatial and surface characteristics; use of principles of visual organization; use of structural principles and systems, and architecture's functional program.</p> <p>“Just because there is a word does not mean there is a pure essence to match it,” - John Summerson from “The Classical Language of Architecture” in explaining the complexity of achieving purity in architecture.</p> <p>How can one express both the emotional and the experiential through the articulation of language; the technical and the mathematical on a linear level and the transcendental on a spiritual level. Writers have for centuries struggled with this question. In theater or drama, words are building blocks that actors enhance with movements, pauses, expressions, thereby building and releasing tension.</p> <p>Although initially viewed as inanimate silent objects—buildings ultimately serve the same function through their architectural linguistics. Through the blending of his vocabulary, the architect creates a story in space. All human cultures through the ages have controlled empty space by enclosing it through the manipulation of materials. As a matter of fact, just as language pervades every aspect of the human world, so does architecture. Human life constantly builds and modifies human arrangement of space; from pre-historic hunter-gatherer communities to crowded, modern environments.</p> <p>This course introduces students to the exploration of the vocabulary and syntax of architecture thereby encouraging creative and analytical thought. The course focuses on the investigations of space, structure and visual composition by considering the entire scope of the discipline and the profession. Students explore the abstract,</p>		

spatial, social/cultural, environmental and tectonic concepts that affect the built environment.