Presentation Title: Utopian Phalansteries: Designing a course
for architectural literacy

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Abstract

This paper will describe the development of a new EAP course for current Year 1
Architecture students at HKU that will become one module of the English in the Discipline
course for Year 2 architecture students in the four year curriculum. The course aims to
provide opportunities to enhance students' linguistic range specifically in their approach
to architectural literacy. Architecture students are more used to expressing their work in
drawings and models but they need to justify these verbally, and there is a body of
reading they are expected to engage with, to help articulate their own design concepts
and to reference well-known architectural work. They also need to produce short written
texts for their portfolios. The course has been developed in response to these demands,
specifically reading long critical texts, analyzing genre-specific features of architectural
writing, and dealing with impromptu answers to the unexpected questions typical of the
design studio. In this presentation we will explain the theoretical framework underpinning
our course, and provide examples of the way this has been implemented.

Biodata

Peter Voller has taught in England, Italy, Japan and Hong Kong. He is co-ordinator of
self-access language learning in CAES and organises language advising services in the
HKU Language Resource Centre. He teaches MA courses in applied linguistics, EAP
courses for architecture undergraduates and a broadening course in queer literature and
history. His main research interests are autonomous learning, language advising, queer
theory and architectural discourse.

Liz Samson taught in Iran before coming to HKU. Currently, she co-ordinates English
Enhancement courses for the Faculty of Architecture and also teaches on a range of other
courses. She is involved in teaching on the Centre's MA and PDipES programmes and has
collaborated on the setting up of a pronunciation and speech website for Chinese
learners of English.