



CPD Course | School of Architecture, Planning and Geomatics

Introduction to Design Computing

In person at UCT, 2 - 6 February 2026



UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN
IYUNIVESITHI YASEKAPA • UNIVERSITEIT VAN KAAPSTAD

SPES BONA

Course Overview



Introduction to Design Computing in a fast-paced one-week course which introduces the basics of digital drawing relevant to spatial design practices. The primary focus of this course is a series of workshops that introduce the basic tools in 2D and 3D design and draughting software (AutoCAD, Photoshop, Illustrator, SketchUp and InDesign). Each workshop builds on the tools from the previous workshop, developing a digital “workflow” from conceptual hand drawing to 2D drafted technical drawings and 2D and 3D digital renders. Students are actively involved during the workshops, will practice using digital drawing tools and apply these skills to draught and render a small landscape architectural design. plan.

Course Topics

Introduction to Design Computing introduces the basic software used by designers in architecture and landscape architecture.

- 2D drafting in AutoCAD for technical drawings, including how to trace an existing drawing and print the resulting drawing;
- Image manipulation and layout tools; how to work with resolution in Adobe packages including Illustrator, Photoshop and InDesign; and working between these packages and AutoCAD;
- Basic Introductory 3D modelling using SketchUp/Format to create architectural elements, incorporating AutoCAD drawings.

Course Format

The course takes the form of fast-paced digital drawing workshops under the guidance of the course presenter. Each workshop focuses on an aspect of digital drawing software, and builds from one workshop from the next, developing a portfolio of digital drawing work.

This course will take place in person in a computer lab on upper campus which will include access to all the software required to complete the course.

Course Presenter



Ruth Manda is a freelance landscape architect based in Johannesburg with over seven years of experience working on a range of local and international projects, from public open spaces to large-scale master plans. Her work has honed her 2D and 3D design and draughting abilities, and cultivated an efficient workflow oriented toward clear, purposeful outcomes.

She is also a researcher at Rural Futurisms, a multidisciplinary, community-based non-profit organisation exploring rural materialities, spatial design, and perspectives on climate change and climate justice in Southern Africa.

In addition to her professional and research work, Ruth is an active member of the Institute for Landscape Architecture in South Africa (ILASA), where she currently serves as Chair of the Gauteng region.

Who Should Attend?

This course has been designed as an intense introduction for:

- Post-graduate students from a non-design based degree who are applying for entry into to design based degrees such as the Master of Urban Design (MUD).
- Applicants to other spatial and design courses and degrees (Architecture, City and Regional Planning, Civil Engineering etc.) who would like to learn skills that would help them make the most of their studies
- Professionals (including those mid / later career) who would like to develop skills in an area they have not been exposed to or may be required in their current work context
- Other practitioners, contractors or interested parties who interface with design professionals who would like to develop an understanding of a facet of built environment design through personal experience

Course Details

Name	Introduction to Design Computing
Dates	Course dates: 2 - 6 February 2026
Venue	In person at UCT
CPD points	This course is registered with ECSA and SACAP for the award of CPD points
Fees	Standard fee: R10 600 Student fee: R8 500*
Required equipment	Access to computer labs will be granted for the duration of the course. A personal laptop is not required to attend this course.
Catering	Please note teas and lunches are not included in the course fees. Due to the timing of the course in the university vacation, most campus catering facilities are closed so attendees should bring a packed lunch.

*Refers to students registered for 2025

Course Assessment

Complete attendance of the entire course and successful completion of the full set of assignments will lead to the awarding of a certificate of completion. Where students are using the course as a prerequisite for entry into the MUD programme, completion and the awarding of the certificate does not guarantee entry to these programmes.

Registration

Registration and Cancellation

- [Register for this course](#)
- Registration covers attendance of all sessions of the workshop and course materials.
- Accommodation is not included in the cost of the course.
- **Registrations close on 23 January 2026.** Confirmation of acceptance will be sent on receipt of a registration form.
- **Cancellations must be received in writing by 23 January 2026. The full course fee will be charged if you have not cancelled your registration and do not arrive for the course.**
- For more information on application and registration procedures, please visit our website: www.cpd.uct.ac.za

Certificates and CPD Points

Complete attendance of the entire course and successful completion of the full set of assignments will lead to the awarding of a certificate of completion. Where students are using the course as a prerequisite for entry into the MUD, completion and the awarding of the certificate does not guarantee entry to these programmes.

The course is registered with the Engineering Council of South Africa and the Cape Institute for Architecture, and is accredited for the award of CPD points, which are required for continuing professional registration. The ECSA course code is UCTIDC26

CPD participants can also request a formal university transcript, which will show this course as part of a Professional Development Career.

Contact details

For more information or details on CPD courses, visit our website or contact us.

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