The field of Creative Industries represents an innovative paradigm for our contemporary knowledge-based society, closely associated with recent trends in cultural activities, digital technologies, and sustainable urban development.

The University of Saint Joseph is a leading international university in China’s Special Administrative Region (SAR) of Macau, where the creative and cultural industries are acknowledged as a strategic area for the development of a vibrant and pioneering cluster of businesses and entrepreneurs. Created in 2012, the new Faculty of Creative Industries integrates some of the most successful programs of our university, ranging from the most traditional subsectors of the Creative Industries, such as Design, Architecture, and Communication & Media, to new fields of study that increasingly converge on the creative domain, such as Information Systems and Environment & Urban Development.

Some of our programs, such as Architecture, are unique within the higher education system of Macau, but above all, the integration of each these areas within the same faculty provides a unique multidisciplinary community in which students have access to exceptional education opportunities and a work environment that allows them to extend their abilities to the utmost.

With our community of students and academic staff, sited within the exponentially growing entertainment and business environment of Macau, USJ is rapidly becoming a leading university in the field of Creative Industries in East Asia.
As the first and only architecture program in Macau, the USJ curriculum adheres to international standards while remaining relevant to our specific location in the world. Grounded on a concern for sustainability and energy efficiency, the curriculum addresses four primary themes: high-density housing; heritage management and conservation; experimental material fabrication; the iconography of casino and resort architecture. Of course, none of these themes are treated uncritically. Our task is not to replicate the existing situation, but to speculate on alternatives, to project other futures for Macau, one of the most exciting and unique urban environments in the world today. Beyond instructing students in the history of the discipline and its accumulated techniques, the university provides space and time for reflection and experimentation – a platform from which to postulate alternatives, to develop unprecedented solutions to current problems, and responses to as-yet unknown ones. This puts us in the paradoxical position of preparing students to do things that have never been done before.

Architectural design is based first and foremost on generosity. To design generously means that an architect should always attempt to increase options, open possibilities, acknowledge diversity, and enfranchise the broadest constituency. While celebrating individuality, architecture must also encourage collectivity, providing spaces and symbols that encourage social coherence. The architect has a fundamental obligation to society, to the environment, and ultimately to history. Architecture is always made for others, and has a profound role to play in defining existing communities as well as in setting directions for their future. The task of the architect is to understand the multiple demands – legal, economic, cultural, climatic – placed on any project and then synthesize them into a result that is functionally successful, aesthetically pleasing, and environmentally responsible. The USJ architecture program emphasizes ethics as well as expertise, requiring students to constantly evaluate the consequences of their work on the built environment and the natural world. Our graduates will be good designers, but also good citizens. They possess the requisite skill and vision to contribute to the future shape of the city in which they live, for the benefit of all its citizens.
PULSE PAVILION (2013)

Designed and built by University of St Joseph architecture students (Luis Antunes, Miguel Augusto, Anna Baturkina, Chan Wai Hou, Chris Chang, Kelvin Cheang, James Cheung, Benny Chu, Rolan Franco, Gabriel Marques, Ronald Lam, Nestor San Valentín, Rico Tam, Francisco Tam Silveirinha, Sophia Yuen) led by guest professors Kristof Crolla and Dannes Kok, the Pulse Pavilion was a temporary structure located at Plaza Sai Van, adjacent to Macau Tower, from 1–10 June 2013. An inhabitable sculpture, it was a parametrically generated organic lattice structure created from split bamboo rods, interwoven with fabric panels, and featuring an interactive LED lighting system. In addition to a range of spectacular pre-programmed light shows, the bamboo lattice is lined with motion sensors that cause the LED lights to change in color and intensity as people move around and through the pavilion. The students designed the pavilion using an array of digital and physical models. For the actual construction, they were assisted by local Macau craftsmen with expertise in bamboo structures. As a combination of advanced parametric software techniques with traditional construction methods and materials, the pavilion is intended to reinvigorate and extend the local building culture. At the same time, it responds to the local casino culture of iconic architectural forms and dynamic lighting effects that define Macau’s contemporary visual identity.

BLOOM PAVILION (2014)

Designed and built by University of St Joseph undergraduate architecture students (Ka Fai Chao, Kokou Elea Mawua Defly, Jasmine Ao, Yana Stepanenko, Ian Kan Tam, Choi Peng Ma, Chon Kit Im, Ka U Ma, Claire Alexis May Jurado, Ka Wai Ng, Wai Kuan Lei, Man Tak Choi, David Spilka, U Leng Kam, Sophia Yuen) led by guest professors Jason Dembski and João Palla Martins, the Bloom Pavilion will stand on the Sai Van Lake waterfront during the 2014 “Multiplicity” exhibition.
BLOOM PAVILION

USJ ARCHITECTURE

MULTIPLICITY
The workshop was focused on design challenges in the Macau context of high-density and industrial heritage renovation. The first week of the workshop was a hands-on introduction to the use and reuse of natural and industrial materials, low-cost techniques and passive energy concepts. The students researched and applied reclaimed or waste materials in the design and production of artworks and products. The second week of the workshop was dedicated to designing and prototyping an architectural design feature made of waste materials to improve housing conditions in Macau’s subdivided apartments and Coloane’s shipyard community.
The USJ Architecture program was invited to participate in Tokyo Designers Week 2013, a prestigious gathering of designers and students from all across Asia. A group of six USJ students visited Japan to build a large installation comprising cardboard cubes, bamboo sculptures, Portuguese tiles, mirrors, and LED lights. It was a demonstration of many of the issues that architects in Macau must deal with: high-density housing, modular construction, iconic forms, and spectacular light shows. The students also toured some of the important works of architecture in Tokyo, attended exhibitions, and visited the offices of important Japanese architects.

A group of USJ students visited the 2013 Bi-City Biennale of Urbanism\Architecture (Shenzhen) to participate in the "Uneven Growth" workshop. Organized by Pedro Gadanho, MoMA’s Curator for Contemporary Architecture, this was part of a series of interdisciplinary workshops on six megacities: Hong Kong, Istanbul, Lagos, Mumbai, New York, and Rio de Janeiro. USJ students worked with architects from across the world on proposals for transforming rooftops into community spaces, integrating oyster production within recreational areas, floating neighborhoods, cohabitation, micro-housing, and the reinvention of typologies such as the shophouse.
In October 2012, a group of architecture students from Stuttgart University led by Prof. Franziska Ullman spent a week in Macau collaborating with USJ architecture students in an intensive design workshop. The theme was the design of an integrated resort for a site located on a new area of reclaimed land in Macau.

Organized by the University of St. Joseph, the Autonomous University of Lisbon, and the Institute of European Studies of Macau, in association with Jiangnan University, Milan Polytechnic, and University of Genoa, “Waterscapes” was an international design workshop on the topic of water and landscape, focused on the revitalization of the waterfront of Nam Van and Sai Van lakes in Macau.
In January 2013, USJ architecture students travelled to Japan at the invitation of the Japanese government. The group included students from other universities in Macau and Hong Kong. The students spent time touring Tokyo and experiencing Japanese culture. They also traveled to areas affected by the 2011 tsunami.

In February 2013, USJ architecture students travelled to the Philippines at the invitation of the Manuel Enverga University Foundation. The students visited important architectural sites and participated in anniversary events at the MSEUF College of Architecture and Fine Arts during the National Arts Month of the Philippines.
USJ will soon move into a new campus, which is currently under construction in the Ilha Verde district. Designed by renowned Japanese architect Koji Yagi and executed by local office MPS, the campus will be a showpiece of sustainable architecture. Based on sustainable building principles intended to minimize wastage and energy consumption, the campus technology comprises a mixture of passive systems (rainwater harvesting and recycling, ledger green strips and fins, roof gardens, low-transmission glazing) and active systems (solar panels, energy recovery in ventilation and chiller ducts, low-consumption LED lighting). It will be an inspiring location for the education of the next generation of Macau architects.
USJ architecture students have access to a wide range of material and equipment. In addition to the main design studio spaces, there is a workshop with a range of tools for building models and full-scale mockups. The university library holds a good selection of architecture and design books. New iMac computers are provided in the computer lab, each of which is installed with the essential software applications for 2D and 3D design, including Adobe Creative Suite, AutoCAD, and Rhino. The fabrication studio contains state-of-the-art equipment for model making and rapid prototyping, including an Epilog Fusion 32 laser cutter, a Roland GX-24 vinyl cutter, and a ProJet 160 3D printer. The IT support team is available to provide tutorials and technical support.
FULL-TIME AND PART-TIME TEACHING STAFF

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As the first and only architecture program in Macau, the USJ Architecture degree enables students to develop the creative abilities and technical skills necessary to become an effective and respected professional in Macau and the wider world. Addressing the full spectrum of relevant technological, urban, economic, environmental, social, theoretical, and historical issues, the curriculum emphasizes ethics as well as expertise, requiring students to constantly evaluate the consequences of their work on the built environment and the natural world. Topics range from contemporary digital design techniques to architectural heritage preservation, and the entire course is founded on an appreciation of the importance of sustainability and resource conservation. The course is taught by a mixture of local faculty members and visiting professors. All are internationally recognized professionals, thereby providing the opportunity to develop architectural skills in a global context.