

## Guidance for Applicants to Architecture Master of Architectural Studies

(1 year full time study)

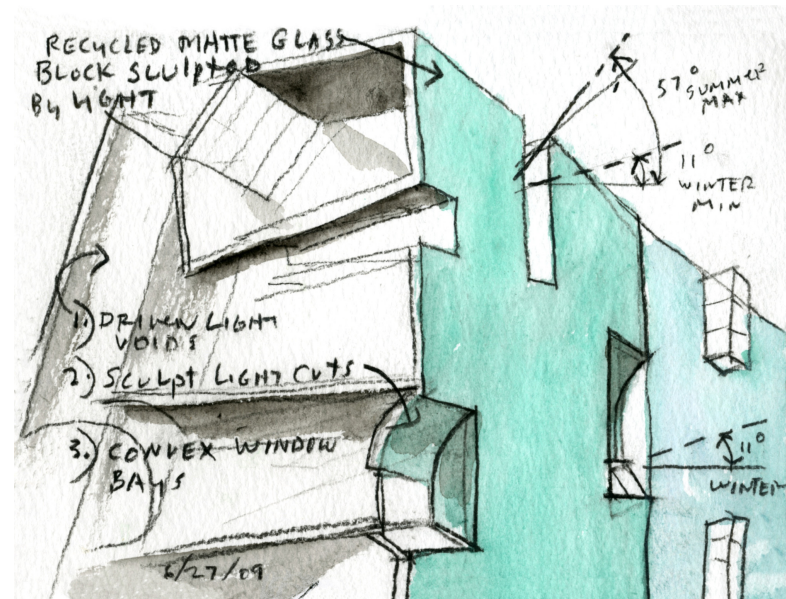
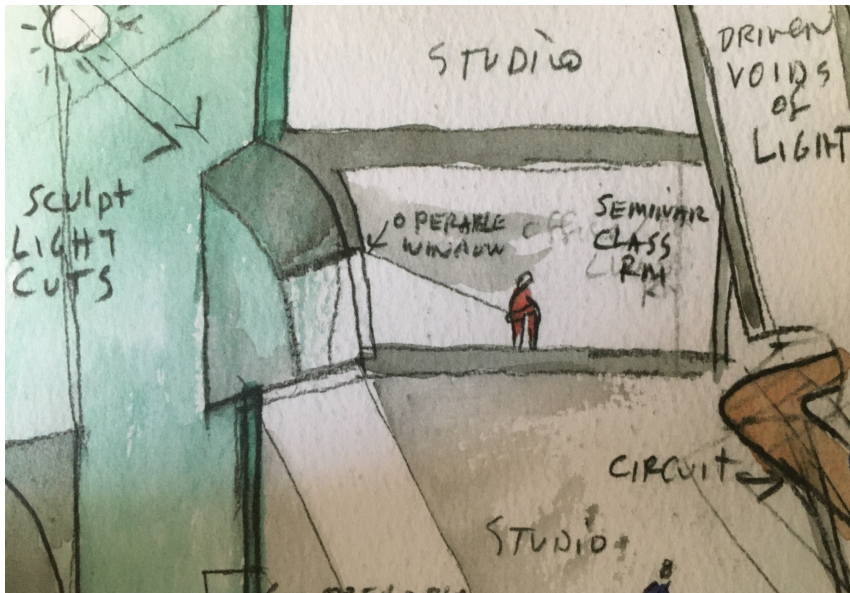


Image: Concept sketch for Reid Building, The Glasgow School of Art, 2009  
Watercolour on charcoal on paper, courtesy of the architect, Steven Holl

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### **APPLICATION**

An application to the Mackintosh School of Architecture consists of an online application and a portfolio of supporting visual material.

Applications for the Master in Architectural Studies are made directly to the school via the Registry Department at Glasgow School of Art using the [online application forms](#) available on the website.

The application form will ask for the following information;

- Personal Details
- Academic Qualifications
- Language qualifications (as appropriate)
- References
- Personal Statement.
- Choice of Pathway



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### **PROGRAMME**

The Masters in Architectural Studies 1 year (3 semester) programme combines individual specialist study, through a series of pathways, with the opportunity to share knowledge and experience with fellow students in a cross disciplinary context.

We are uniquely positioned within a wider community of artists and designers at the Glasgow School of Art and this allows our students the opportunity to make connections both academically and socially.

Our physical shared studio provides a permanent workplace for all students which provides peer support and learning throughout the duration of the programme.

**PATHWAYS** The current pathways on offer are as follows:

- Urban Design
- Creative Urban Practices
- Urban Building
- Digital Creativity
- Energy and Environmental Studies
- History and Theory of the City
- Zero-Energy Mass Customised Housing

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### **APPLICATION**

On receipt of your completed application, registry will invite you to upload your Supporting Visual Materials via the Portfolio Upload site. Information about how to access the portfolio site and set your password will be sent by email. You should receive this around 4 working days after submitting your application. If you do not receive this, please contact registry.

[registry@gsa.ac.uk](mailto:registry@gsa.ac.uk)

Once your portfolio has been uploaded, the Mackintosh School of Architecture will be issued with your complete application which will be assessed on the following criteria:

- Your Personal Statement (online application form)
- Your References (online application form)
- Supporting Visual Material (uploaded portfolio of work)

Each criteria is assessed on a 7 point graded scale as follows;

- 1\_Unsatisfactory evidence of required ability
- 2\_Very limited evidence of required ability
- 3\_Limited evidence of required ability
- 4\_Satisfactory evidence of required ability
- 5\_Good evidence of required ability
- 6\_Very good evidence of required ability
- 7\_Excellent evidence of required ability

Guidance on what evidence should be demonstrated for each criteria is given on the following pages

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### **PERSONAL STATEMENT**

Your personal statement (500 to 700 words approx.) should support your application to the Mackintosh School of Architecture and demonstrate your knowledge and interest in your chosen pathway. It should also give details of your experience to date, together with your architectural intentions, to establish the relevance of this to your chosen pathway.

Your statement should demonstrate evidence of;

- **Your motivation**
- **Your awareness of the course you are applying to here at MSA and the city of Glasgow**
- **Reasons for choosing MSA**

### **Your motivation:**

We are interested to know what your specific interests within the field of architecture are and how your studies and work in practice to date have influenced this. You may want to talk about any extra-curricular activities that are relevant.

### **Your awareness of the course and the city:**

We would like to know what research you have undertaken about the course and why you think studying here in Glasgow and as part of Glasgow School of Art would suit you.

### **Reasons for choosing MSA:**

We want to know why you think the Mackintosh School of Architecture aligns with your aspirations for this next stage of your academic development.

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### REFERENCES

All applicants are asked to provide 2 references on headed paper;

- An academic reference
- A reference from practice.  
(If this is not relevant, a second academic reference should be provided)

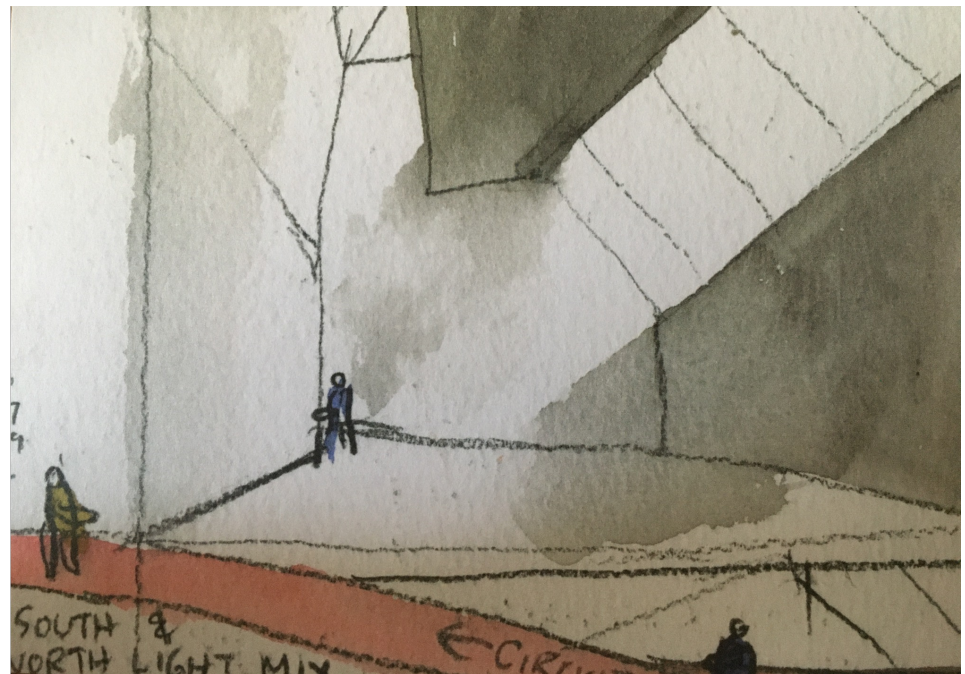


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### **SUPPORTING VISUAL MATERIAL**

Applicants are asked to upload supporting visual material in the form of a portfolio to accompany their application.

If you are applying for the History and Theory of the City pathway, two examples of academic writing and an outline research proposal should be submitted in lieu of a portfolio

If you experience any issues uploading your portfolio, using your password please email [registry@gsa.ac.uk](mailto:registry@gsa.ac.uk) as soon as possible.

### **Your portfolio should demonstrate the following**

- Your design and communication skills, and provide evidence of a range of design research, development and resolution through a variety of media.
- Evidence of awareness of the specialist pathway should be demonstrated.
- Self-explanatory evidence of design skill, technical knowledge, process and completed work
- Knowledge and experience of Architectural Technology is a mandatory component of a portfolio supporting an application to the Energy and Environment, Zero-energy Mass Customised Housing and Urban Building pathways but may also be included for other pathways.
- Where required, examples of academic writing, should be from degree level and demonstrate a knowledge of Architectural History and Theory, clarity in writing, formation of an argument support through research and appropriate referencing

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### **INVITATION TO INTERVIEW**

After your application has been assessed you may be invited to attend an interview. Interviews take place regularly between February and May and you will be offered a choice of times and dates.

The interview itself should last approximately 20 minutes and we programme a series of events around key interview dates to give you a better insight into the ethos, character and day-to-day operation of the school.

Full details of booking an interview slot will be issued by registry nearer the time.

### **INTERVIEW**

During the interview you will again be evaluated using the 7 point graded scale in each of the following criteria:

- Ability to discuss architecture + responsiveness to interview
- Skills Range- 3D work, technology, observational skills, portfolio format etc.
- Ability to discuss work and put it in context and articulate an architectural position
- Design work – at appropriate degree of complexity and resolution



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### **WHY DO WE INTERVIEW?**

The Mackintosh School of Architecture is one of the few institutions to have maintained an interview process for its Masters applicants. Whilst this means that you will not get an automatic offer from us as quickly as many other institutions, we understand that the decision in your choice of institution is an incredibly important one.

Our interview process is therefore as much about ensuring that you feel confident in your decision, that the Mackintosh School of Architecture will provide you with the kind of educational experience you are looking for, as it is for us to have the opportunity to ask you questions about your work and get to know you as a little bit better as a person.



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### **WHAT HAPPENS NEXT**

After your interview MSA will evaluate all the applications again, process these and return them to our Registry Department who liaise directly with you.

You will receive a formal offer (conditional or unconditional) or rejection from registry and you should receive this within the advertised timeframe associated with your application date.

If you have any queries at all about the information contained in this document, the architecture admissions team will be happy to help you. We can be contacted through our designated applicant email: [architectureadmissions@gsa.ac.uk](mailto:architectureadmissions@gsa.ac.uk)

Examples of work undertaken by students from the School of Architecture can be found on our [2022 Graduate Showcase](#).



Image: Driven Void Reid Building, The Glasgow School of Art