MACKINTOSH SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE
THE GLASGOW SCHOOL OF ART

Guidance for Applicants to Architecture
Bachelor of Architecture with Honours   BArch (hons)
Exemption from Part 1 of RIBA/ARB Examination in Architecture.

Applications to the BArch program are made through UCAS: www.ucas.com

Institution Name: GSA
Institution Code: G43
UCAS Code: K100

Applications can be made until deadline on:
31 January 2024
(28 June 2024 for non-UK applications)

Supporting Material
After submitting the UCAS application, GSA registry will invite you to upload your Supporting Materials. Registry will confirm receipt of your UCAS application, issue a username + password and invite to you to upload your Digital Portfolio and Portfolio Statement to our **GSA Apply** website portal.

This can be done at any point after the application is submitted until deadline on:
7 February 2024
(28 June 2024 for non-UK applications)

You should receive an email from Registry at least 4 working days after submitting your UCAS application. If you do not receive this, or experience any issues uploading material, please contact registry quoting your UCAS Personal ID on registry@gsa.ac.uk as soon as possible.

Guidance on Supporting Material

Portfolio Statement   500 words max

Similar, but not the same as your UCAS personal statement, we would encourage you to use the opportunity to tailor this text to describe your specific motivations for studying architecture and why you would like to pursue this at the Mackintosh School of Architecture. Elaborate on your knowledge and interest in Architecture and any experiences relevant to this chosen path. You can give context to the work you have submitted within your portfolio, with additional details of any themes you were exploring and what you learnt from the process.

Image: Tutorials in progress.
Grace and Clarke Fyfe Gallery Bourdon Building

Guidance on Supporting Material

Digital Portfolio   10 images or PDF of 10 pages

The digital portfolio can be uploaded as 10 separate images or combined in a PDF of 10 images. Each of your allowed 10 images can be constructed as a sheet which groups several, related images together and can include some descriptive text. Both finished pieces and work in progress can be included and a variety of mediums is acceptable and to be encouraged.

This may include, but is not in any way limited to, the following types of work:

- Observational Drawings
- Sketch books + Design journals
- 3D visualisations
- Models + other forms of 3D work (eg sculpture, jewellery etc)
- Technical drawings
- Printmaking + Textiles

Individual images should not exceed 2MB and a PDF should be a maximum of 50MB.

Image: Digital Portfolio Submission, 2023.
Courtesy of Dara Petrie

Assessment

Our undergraduate staff then assess your:

- Academic Status
- UCAS Statement
- Portfolio Statement
- Digital Portfolio

Assessment Criteria

We are interested to know about you, your interests, your motivations to study Architecture and why specifically you would like to study with us. As such your application will be assessed against the following criteria:

- **Commitment to the study of architecture**
- **Engagement with creativity**
- **Engagement with design processes**
- **Ability to analyse and explore ideas**

Each criteria is assessed on the following 7 point scale:

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

This will give an overall score for your application. Further guidance on what evidence can be used to demonstrate the 4 criteria is given below, along with examples from successful portfolio submissions.

Image: Digital Portfolio Submission, 2023. Courtesy of Mabel Sangster

Commitment to the study of Architecture:
We would like you to expand on your interest in studying architecture and demonstrate how you have researched the subject. Evidence of how you have tested or explored your interests can be included in your portfolio statement and should also be conveyed through the drawings and work you choose to include in your portfolio.

Engagement with Creativity
The portfolio should be varied, personal and interesting. Drawing skills and your ability to represent 3-dimensional form are of particular interest to us. These can be demonstrated in a variety of ways including free hand drawings, painting, computer work, photography, model making, print making, woodwork or textiles.

Engagement with Design Processes
This can be evidenced through a selection of pages from design journals or sketch books to describe the development, or your thought process, when producing pieces of work or design projects.

Ability to analyse and explore ideas
We are interested in the ideas behind your work: What was the initial starting point? How was it explored and developed? What decisions determined the finished piece of work? This can be done graphically or through a short description that relates a group of images to each other and explains their relationship.

Image: CoLab Exhibition Stage 1, 2023. Grace and Clarke Fyfe Gallery, Bourdon Building
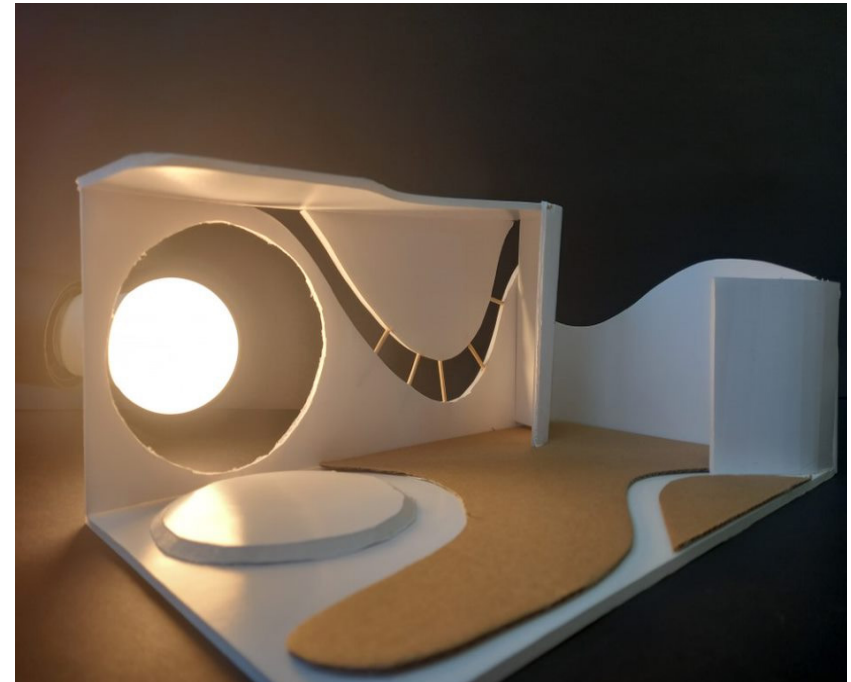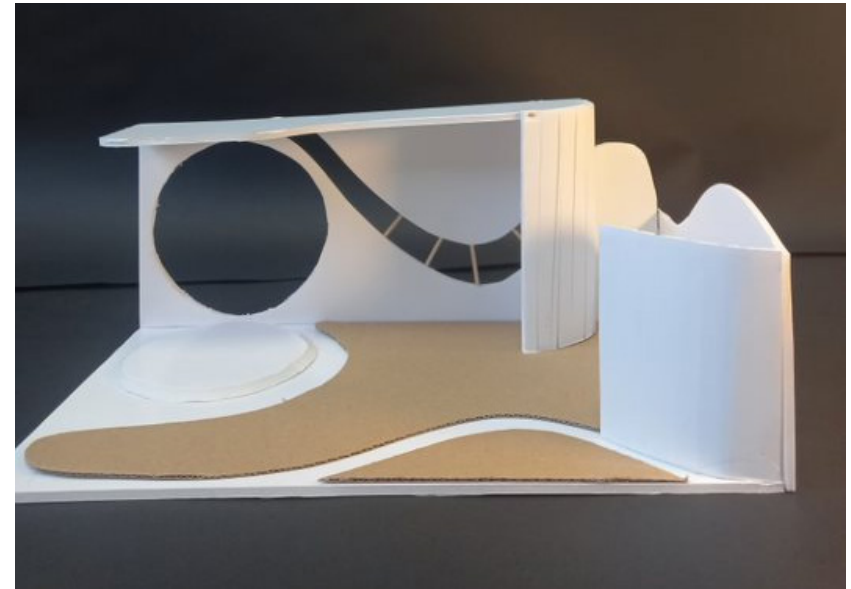
What happens next?

The Mackintosh School of Architecture will evaluate all the applications, process these and return them to our Registry Department who liaise directly with UCAS.

You will receive a formal offer (conditional or unconditional) or rejection from UCAS directly. We aim to process results as soon as possible once applications have been received but all results will be returned to UCAS no later than the 22nd May. Decisions for applications submitted past the stated deadlines may be processed through UCAS until 17th July.

If you have any queries at all, the architecture admissions team will be happy to help you. We can be contacted through our designated applicant email: architectureadmissions@gsa.ac.uk

The following pages include recent portfolio examples. Examples from successful portfolio submissions are included for guidance only and every applicant is unique and their work is personal to them. Your own interests and experiences will influence what work you choose to upload.

You may also find GSA's Source Materials zine a helpful resource when constructing your portfolio.

Image: Digital Portfolio Submission, 2023.
Courtesy of Dylan Sangster

CULLODEN VISITOR CENTRE.

In the winter, seen at a distance this large building almost merges into the rough pasture of Culloden Moor - even though it's built in a very sharp and modern way.
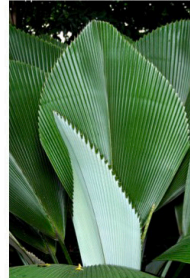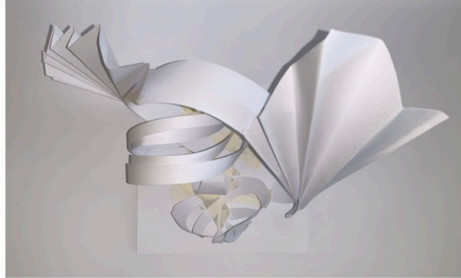
Image: Digital Portfolio Submission, 2023.
Courtesy of Alice Kemsley

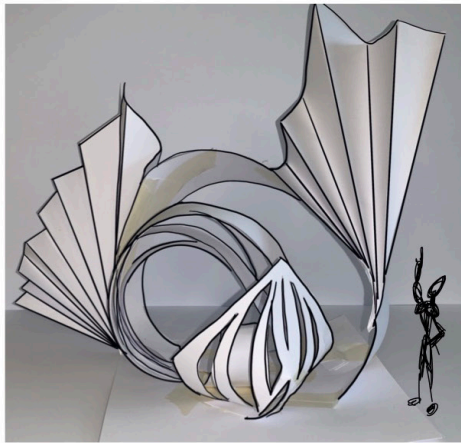**Guidance for Applicants to Architecture BArch (hons)**

CONCEPT ONE

This pavilion is an amalgamation of shapes inspired by a variation of leaves.
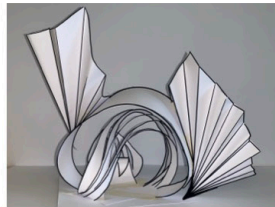
Inspired by the leaves of Monstera plants.

Inspired by the evergreen Joey Palm plant also known as an Umbrella Leaf Palm for its broad leaves.

Using watercolour to explore colours and possible finishes of materials.
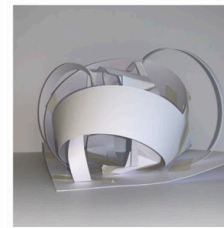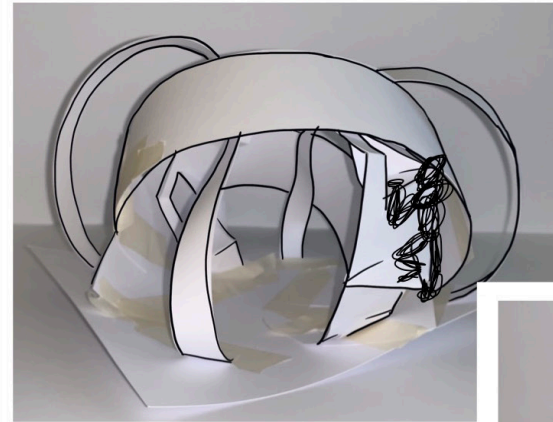
Pen + Pencil Sketch
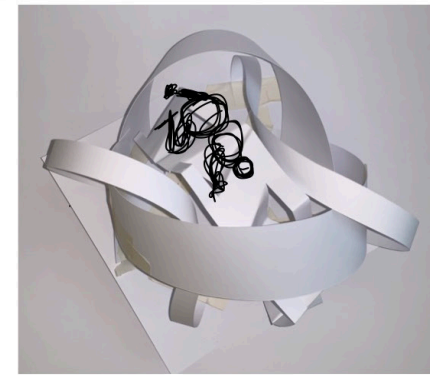
Water colour

CONCEPT TWO
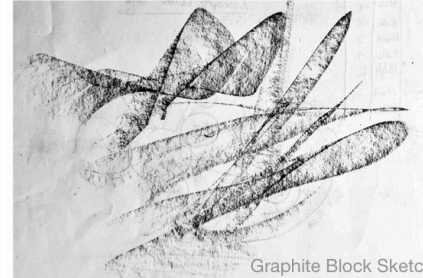
Graphite Block Sketch
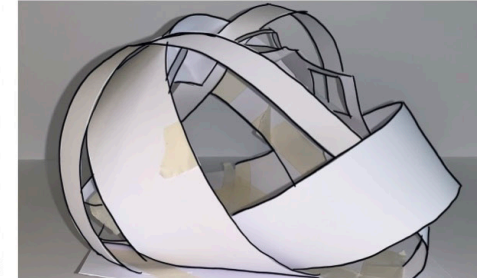
This pavilion recreates the interwoven twigs of bird nests.

The centre bridge is inspired by thorny vines designed with folds to allow people to play and climb on.

HNC - Nature Inspired Pavilion Paper Model to Co-exist Alongside Chair Gallery Project.

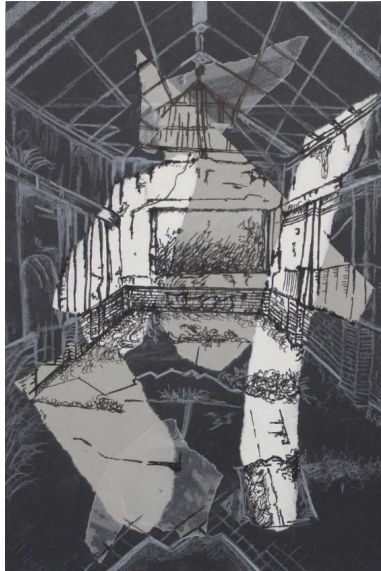*Image: Digital Portfolio Submission, 2023.*
Courtesy of Haaris Leung

RYCHALLICH

A ruined bothy on the slopes of Craiggowrie, above Loch Garten.

Made with the wood and stone cleared from the fields around it.

Image: Digital Portfolio Submission, 2023.
Courtesy of Alice Kemsley
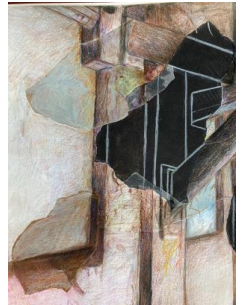
The Decay of Regeneration: Art Project

This selection of work was a unit in which I tried to show, the difference in wealth across the city of Glasgow and highlight the sense of decay and ruin throughout my work.
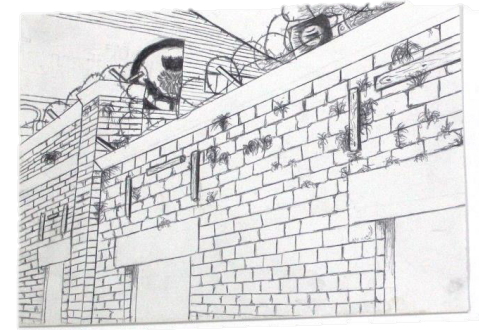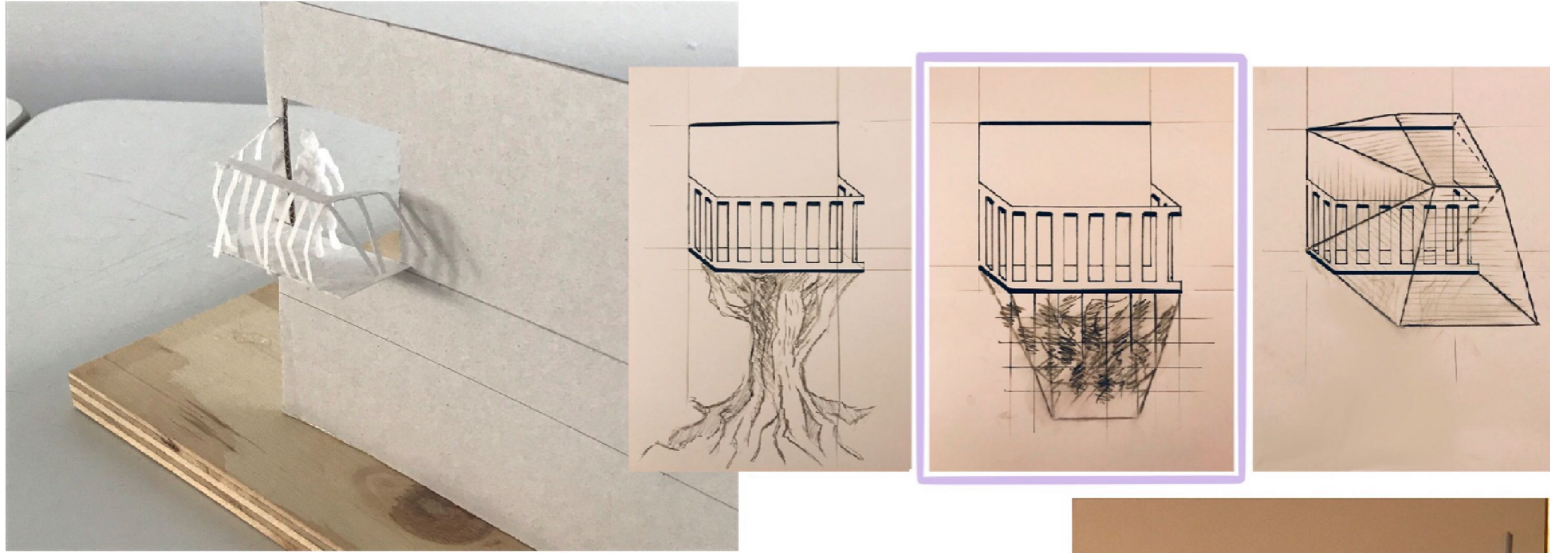

Mixed Media, A3

Pen and Pencil, A5

Tonal Pencil, A5

Watercolour, A5

Pen, A5

Image: Digital Portfolio Submission, 2023.
Courtesy of Calum Aitken

Between Plants and People - initial models and planning

The brief was to design a balcony to suit the needs of both a plant and human client.

Model No1

Model No2

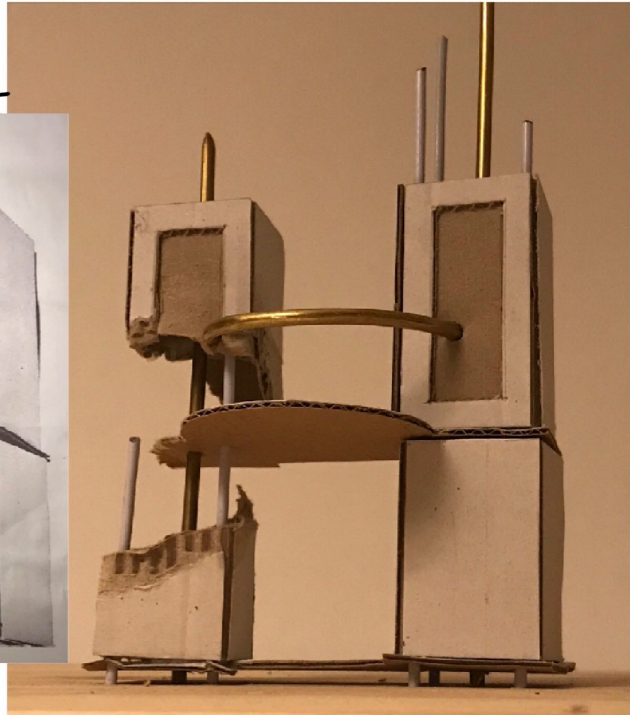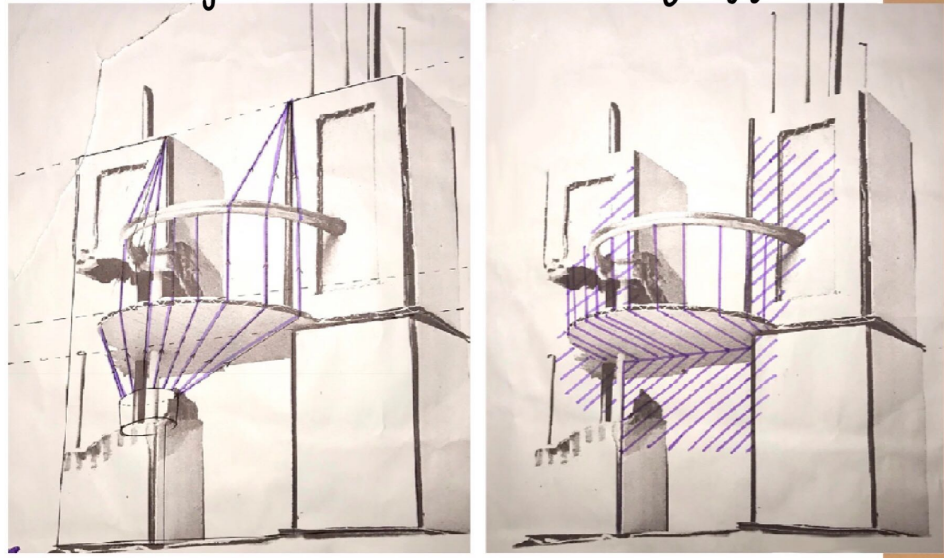Tracks for vine growth ————

Area covered by fully grown vine—

Image: Digital Portfolio Submission, 2023.
Courtesy of Elena Hornby

Frequently Asked Questions

How many images in the portfolio?
Each of your allowed 10 images can be constructed as a sheet which groups several images together and can include some descriptive text. Each "sheet" would be considered as one image. This can be helpful if you wish to show several related images for one project.

Can I include text in my portfolio?
Text and captions are useful but should be kept to a minimum. It could be a simple title for a completed piece of work or a description that relates a group of images to each other and explains their relationship or process undertaken.

Do I only include school-work in my portfolio?
We would encourage you show a variety of work, both self-initiated and projects undertaken at school or college. Use the facility on the portfolio website to give each sheet a title, or caption images, to put the work in context ie Art Higher Submission - Expressive.

Any additional questions about the course or portfolio content should be addressed to the architecture department: architectureadmissions@gsa.ac.uk

Thank you for your interest in our programme and we look forward to receiving your application.

Hazel Wallace - Admissions Co-ordinator
Mackintosh School of Architecture 2023