

BA Hons Architecture

Task, portfolio and interview preparation

If you are a University of Greenwich **BA (Hons) Architecture** applicant who we have invited to an interview, the information below is designed to guide you as you complete the Architecture Tasks, assemble and submit your portfolio, and also prepare for your interview.

Interview tips

- Prepare by thinking of possible questions that you may have for your interviewer(s).
- Have a look at the [course webpage](#) where you'll find information about modules, course structure and more and do also have a look at the [School of Design webpage](#).
- Revisit your application personal statement as your interviewer(s) may ask you questions about something you've referenced in your personal statement.
- Think about what your portfolio says about you and your practice - the interview should be seen as your opportunity to discuss the portfolio and display your skills and talents.

Why do we ask for a portfolio?

We ask students to attend with a portfolio of their work. Most UK schools offering programmes in art, architecture, landscape architecture and design do this. Please do not worry about the right sort of portfolio or the right type of work to include. At the University of Greenwich our definition of a portfolio is wide ranging. We are looking for any evidence of your artistic, design, creative, craft and technical interests as well as your reflective skills.

Portfolio Requirements

A portfolio is a body of work that conveys your creativity, imagination, skills, ideas and intelligence. It could be argued that it is the thought process made visible. The portfolio may be communicated through sketches, drawings, photography, animation, craft, 3D work and text. Generally, a portfolio will include the evolution of a piece of work and its resolution, whilst some may be unfinished. There is not a universal type of portfolio and they come in many shapes and sizes. The most important aspect of the portfolio is how you use it to demonstrate your energy, enthusiasm, interests and thought process. Architecture could be considered as a material practice that works in and among the world of things.

Architecture evolves in and from the maelstrom of images and ideas. The architect Michael Speaks has coined the phrase 'design intelligence' which is the thoughtful application of skills and ideas to design works. As potential architects, you will need to communicate your ideas to others, and this generally involves the translation of drawings into buildings or some other manifestation. Architecture is a construct that exists within many different contexts - therefore an understanding of culture and its influence is important. At the University of Greenwich, a portfolio is required for all applicants invited for interview.

The interview should be the opportunity to add to the portfolio with a conversation. In the interview a broad range of skills, care and talent should be evident within the portfolio.

Things you might include in your portfolio, but are not limited to:

Drawings

It is important that you show sketches and other drawings. The hand and eye are quick intelligent editing systems. Make sure you include hand-drawn and/or painted work.

Photography

The mechanical eye is an important tool in architecture. It is not merely used for recording but as a means of seeing.

Making

Consider including 3D-made things such as models, metalwork, woodwork, books/zines or even clothing.

Design Technology and/or 3D design

It is important that your portfolio does not just consist of this kind of work. Your aptitude for freehand and observational drawings is an important component of your studies.

Disciplinary Skills

This will depend on the specific course you are applying for: work that shows some potential for developing your chosen area, even if this is purely in sketch or conceptual form.

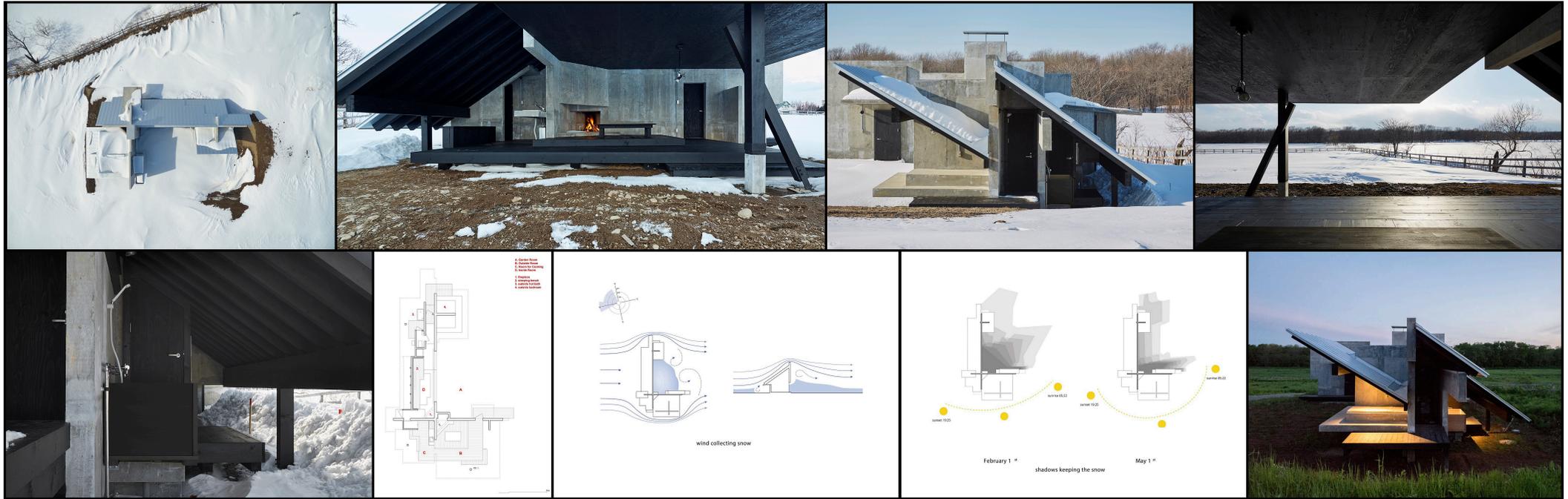
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BA (HONS) ARCHITECTURE – ARCHITECTURE TASKS

You **MUST** complete the architecture tasks **ahead of your interview**, and ensure you have your answers with you on the day of the interview. Your answers to the tasks will form the basis of the conversation at your interview, and will allow you to show your understanding of the discipline.

See below for details of the Architecture Tasks.



Inverted House - Memu Meadows, Taiki-cho, Hokkaido, Japan. 2015-16. 140m²

Architects; **Students from Oslo School of Architecture and Design (AHO) + Kengo Kuma & Associates**
 Structural Engineer; Oak Structural Design Office. Construction; Takahashi Construction Company
 Photographs; Shinkenchiku Sha + Martin Holtkamp

ArchDaily - <https://www.archdaily.com/792872/inverted-house-the-oslo-school-of-architecture-and-design-plus-kengo-kuma-and-associates>

The Architectural Review - <https://www.architectural-review.com/awards/ar-house/inside-outing-inverted-house-japan-by-oslo-school-of-architecture-and-design-kengo-kuma>

‘Inverted House subverts conventional ideas about houses by embracing rather than sheltering from the elements. The heavy wooden front door, framed by a wall of weather-beaten concrete, swings open. It does not, however, reveal the inside of a home – instead it simply leads from one outdoor space to another. Crossing the ‘threshold’ of Inverted House is an abstract experience that perhaps best sums up the essence of the experimental structure, which excels at surprising and subverting in equal measure.’ *The Architectural Review*

'The structure, completed in January 2016, transcends conventional notions – both physically and conceptually – that a home should have four walls and a roof, created to keep the natural elements outside and protect its inhabitants inside. Instead, Inverted House – surrounded by lush green farmland in summer and deep snow in winter – not only embraces its environment but invites it to take centre stage... The end result is a house that is more 'out' than 'in'. An angular puzzle of interlocked layers, tilted roofs and raised platforms, it unfolds to reveal a network of outdoor spaces... 'So instead of wrapping a box in various insulating materials, we basically opened the house, inside-out. From the rough cross-wall, the bone of the house, the spaces extend indefinitely.' The Architectural Review

Task 1 - Write 300+ words on the implications and opportunities of inverting a house

Study the Inverted House. What are the implications of inside becoming outside and outside becoming inside? Of inverting the expected environmental parameters of a house? Study the diagrams showing how the house entraps shadows, embraces the cold and protects snow from melting. Think about your home. What if you started removing walls from your home? Where do you need a ceiling and where not? What if your front door led from outside to outside? What if...

Task 2 - Invert your home and draw a plan of your 'Inverted House'

Start with your thoughts from Task 1. Focus on the implications of inverting your home. This is not about drawing a perfect plan but is about thinking where shade and shadow are at different times of the year. How does light move through your inverted house over a day? A year? Diagram light and shadow, where is warmth and where is cold? Where is sheltered and where is not? Think about turning notions of a home inside out and upside down. Enjoy your task, there are no rules...