OVERVIEW

First year applicants have the option to submit a work sample. Your response to the design exercises described below will demonstrate the way you think creatively and critically through design.

Your submitted work:
- serves in helping the School of Architecture to assess your potential within a studio-based curriculum
- allows you to share how you work and think through creative problems
- demonstrates the tools and media you use (drawings, diagrams, sketches, models, etc.)
- may include a combination of two-dimensional, three-dimensional, and photographic creative work
- represents an arc of your thinking, from idea to final project

HOW THE WORK SAMPLES ARE EVALUATED

For first-year applicants, the work sample offers an opportunity to demonstrate your creative thinking and skills in a variety of media to the School of Architecture faculty. Strong work may elevate the admission decision for a borderline applicant; however, work of a lesser quality will not have a negative impact on an admission decision.

SUBMITTING THE WORK SAMPLES

First-year applicants submit the creative exercises through the Common Application via Slideroom. Details for how to submit your work are included on the Office of Undergraduate Admission's website - https://admission.virginia.edu/admission/instructions

2021 WORK SAMPLE: CREATIVE EXERCISES PROMPT

THEME: “SPACE WITHIN A SPACE”
Select one of the following three “Space within a Space” exercises and produce a translation/interpretation of your selected theme:

[EXERCISE 01] Translate the theme “Space within a Space” into a 2-dimensional composition through a drawing or painting. Approaches to consider:
- The translation should be abstract in nature.
- Consider how points, lines, planes, color, and patterns imply depth (foreground, middle ground, and background) and spatial layering in the 2-dimensional representation.
- Pay attention to the quality and craft in making.
- Photo document or scan the final version to be included in your work samples.
- Formulate a concise caption describing the intent, process, and technique.

[EXERCISE 02] Translate the theme “Space within a Space” into a 3-dimensional construct by cutting, scoring, and folding a single sheet of material. Approaches to consider:
- You may cut, score, and fold the material, but no material can be removed from the initial whole piece.
- Material should be rigid enough to hold its form when cut, scored, and folded, but not too stiff that it is difficult to work (i.e. heavy stock paper, card stock, museum board, or cardboard, etc.)
• Consider how the 3-dimensional construct creates a layering of spaces through simple operations.
• Pay attention to the quality and craft of construction.
• Document the final construct with three high quality photos against a neutral background: one overall view and two “interior” views of your choosing
• Formulate a concise caption describing the intent, process and technique.

[EXERCISE 03] Identify an example of the theme “Space within a Space” within an existing condition of your choosing (interior, exterior, landscape, still life, etc.) and document it photographically. Approaches to consider:
• You may include up to 3 photographs of different situations.
• Consider the overall composition and framing of the image.
• Consider the point of view, and depth of field, and focus.
• Pay attention to the effects of light and shadow.
• The images may be either abstract or present a recognizable subject.
• The images may be either BW or color (avoid the use of filters please).
• Formulate a concise caption describing the intent, process, and technique.

[BONUS EXERCISE] Your work sample may also include one additional example of something that you have previously created that you think best represents your abilities in design and artistic expression.

For this bonus work sample, include supporting text as follows:
• Title/Name of the work
• Year and/or semester that the project was completed (as applicable)
• Concise caption that explains the work’s context and purpose. Explain whether the project was academic (if so, include course number and instructor name), produced as part of a design camp, or was a personal undertaking. Also, indicate your contribution to the project (if it is a group, team or collaborative project/effect).

Examples:

- 10-minute sketch for AP Studio Art, Mr. Smith, 11th grade
- Photographic Essay titled “Public Spaces completed during personal travel to Barcelona
- Furniture design, completed during ABC design camp (part of 5-person design team, individual designer of chair legs)

[FORMAT + SUPPORTING TEXT]
The full work sample must be compiled as a PDF file of no more than 10 pages total. We recommend formatting the pages in landscape orientation, which is better suited to viewing on a computer monitor. High quality of images is important; we recommend to scan hand drawings and paintings, and take photographs of three-dimensional work against a neutral background with good lighting and clear focus. Images are best used in (close to) full page size. Each exercise should be accompanied by a concise caption describing the intent, process and technique.