



OVERVIEW

External and internal transfer students applying to the Bachelor of Science Architecture program (architecture major) are **required to submit a portfolio**.

Your portfolio should be a personal narrative, describing your work and interests by demonstrating the ways in which you think creatively and critically through design.

The portfolio:

- serves in helping the School of Architecture to assess your potential within a studio-based curriculum
- allows you to share how you work through and think through creative problems
- demonstrates the tools and media you use (drawings, diagrams, sketches, models, etc.)
- includes a selection of academic or creative work developed on your own
- should represent an arc of your thinking, from idea to final project

HOW THE PORTFOLIO IS EVALUATED

For transfer applicants to the Bachelor of Science Architecture program, the portfolio is weighed more heavily in the admission decision-making process compared to first year applicants. While transfer applicants are not expected to demonstrate formal architectural skills or techniques, your portfolio should communicate your ability to succeed in a studio-based curriculum.

SUBMITTING THE PORTFOLIO

External transfer applicants submit portfolios through the Common Application via Slideroom. Details for how to submit your portfolio are included on the Office of Undergraduate Admission's website - <https://admission.virginia.edu/admission/instructions>

Internal transfer applicants submit portfolios through the link provided on the School of Architecture's website - <https://www.arch.virginia.edu/apply/undergraduate-admissions>

WHAT TO INCLUDE

Applicants are not expected to demonstrate architectural skills or techniques.

Develop your portfolio featuring a range of work completed for courses or other creative activities such as drawing, painting, graphic design, set design, sculpture, computer graphics, animation, furniture design, industrial design, fiber or textile arts, or other media pertaining to art, design, materiality, and craft.

We are interested in how you synthesize ideas through drawing and other media – it is less important to be photorealistic. Works included can be abstract, gestural and/or exploratory.

FORMAT + SUPPORTING TEXT

Consider that the design of the portfolio is your design statement. Let it express your personal aesthetics in a clear, concise, and thoughtful layout that is legible.



[FORMAT / SIZE / EXTENTS]

The work sample must be compiled as a PDF file of no more than 10 pages total.

We value the quality of the work over the quantity of the work. Do not attempt to include a totality of your work or too many pieces in your portfolio. Rather, use only your best pieces. A 3-page portfolio of good work is preferable over 10 pages of mediocre work. In addition to limiting the number of projects, avoid attempting to present everything you did on a single project. Instead, be selective in presenting the strongest aspects of your project that showcase concept, development, and refinement. High quality of images is important; we recommend scanning hand drawings and paintings, and take photographs of 3D work against a neutral background with good lighting and clear focus. Images are best used in (close to) full page size.

The portfolio must be:

- No larger than **10 pages**
- Designed and formatted for on-screen viewing; Portfolio will not be printed for review
- **PDF** format
- Formatted to horizontal (or landscape format)

[CAPTIONS / ANNOTATIONS]

For each project or piece included in your portfolio, include a concise caption describing:

- Title/Name of the work
- Year and/or semester that the project was completed (as applicable)
- The work's context, intent, process, and technique. 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/effort).

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)*

ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

- Be mindful of demonstrating creativity as a form of critical thinking and not simply something that appears 'artistic.'
- Avoid photographs of landscapes and/or travel as examples of your creative work. You may include photography but consider the subject matter as a design statement and show us how you employ the media creatively and experimentally.
- Do not overpack pages with images and text that are too small to read. Control the visual hierarchy on the page for readability. Limit layouts that reduce the reader's need to have to scroll excessively across a page.
- Balance 2-dimensional graphics with photographs and imagery of models, prototypes, or 3-dimensional works (both finished and study/process models) where possible.
- Be succinct and straightforward in your text descriptions.