

## Graduate Admissions Portfolio Guide

The portfolio gives the admissions committee a sense of each applicant's aesthetic sensibility and intellectual curiosity. Through the works themselves and in the inquiry or argument framed by their presentation, applicants should use the portfolio to exhibit their potential to develop original design proposals. Documentation of CAD drafting skills or technical coursework is not appropriate unless it demonstrates design thinking.

Preference is given to individual work. If group work is included, individual roles and contributions are to be noted.

All text, drawings, photographs, or other images presented in the portfolio are to be authored by the applicant. If other sources are used for any reason, they must be properly attributed.

<b>Size and format</b>	<b>Image preparation</b>	<b>Layout guidelines</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Submit portfolios digitally in PDF format</li><li>• The maximum file size is 32 MB</li><li>• Both pages and spreads (side-by-side pages) are acceptable</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Use a raster-based image editing program, such as Adobe Photoshop, for editing jpegs, tiffs, or photographic image. Be sure images are at a resolution that allows the admissions committee to zoom in (e.g., 150 dpi or higher)</li><li>• Use a vector-based graphics program, such as Adobe Illustrator, for digital drawing files</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Set up a template with margins, guides, and gutters to ensure consistency</li><li>• Use text to provide context for work and to help readers navigate the document</li><li>• Keep the design (color, type, formatting) simple; the focus should be on the work</li></ul>

### Applicants with architecture backgrounds

Portfolios should contain individual design work, preferably studio work completed in an academic setting. Samples of professional work, such as construction drawings or renderings, are not to be included unless the applicant had a significant role in the design process. In such a case, the applicant's role must be clearly explained.

### Applicants with non-architecture backgrounds

Portfolios may contain any visual, design, or creative works, such as paintings, collages, graphic design, woodworking, freehand drawings, sketches, photographs, sculpture, jewelry making, and so on.

The admissions committee prefers to see original creative work that represents the applicant's visual, spatial, conceptual and/or design abilities; applicants without formal architecture training are not expected to include any architecture-related work.

If concerned about having content to include, consider participating in an architecture workshop or summer program (like our TryArch and YArch programs), enrolling in an art or design class, or exploring options at a local arts center.