

What is architecture?

What is studying architecture like?

What to consider when looking for a course?

What skills are required?

How long does it take?

Tips for preparing a portfolio

ARCHITECTURE

Dr Samuel Austin

Director of Architecture, Newcastle University

samuel.austin@ncl.ac.uk

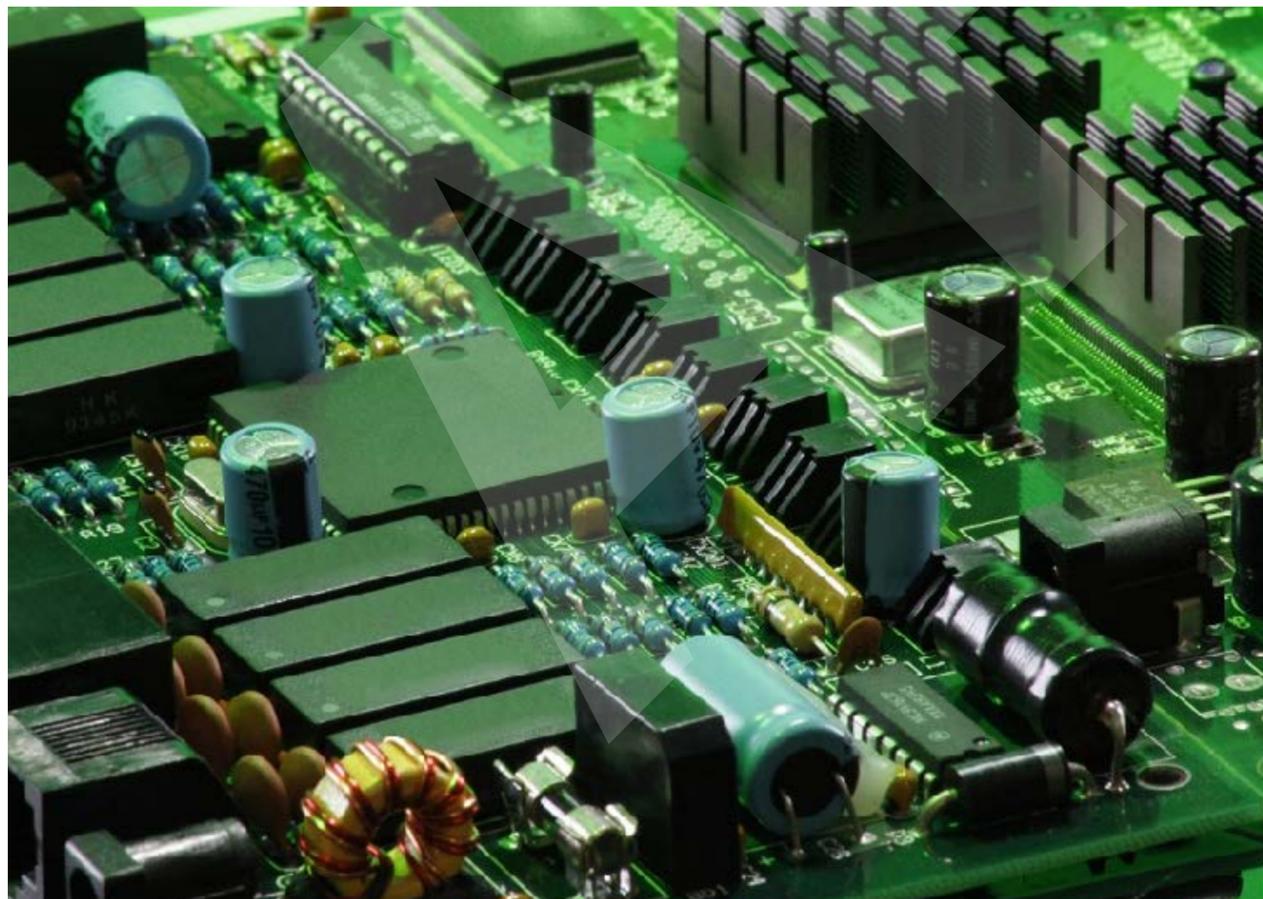
What is architecture?

'the art or practice of designing and constructing buildings'



'the complex or carefully designed structure of something'

Oxford Dictionary



What is architecture?



Firmness, commodity & delight

Vitruvius, 1st century BC

What is architecture?

'the architecture of a building, a group of buildings, a city, a garden... is [...] its conceptual organisation, its intellectual structure.'

Simon Unwin



What is architecture?

*'Architecture is always designing
by considering the next larger
context:
a chair in a room, a room in a
house, a house in an environment,
an environment in a city plan'*

Eliel Saarinen



What is architecture?

*'Architecture is:
Science, Technology, Geography,
Typography, Anthropology,
Sociology, Art, History.'*

Renzo Piano



What is architecture?

*'Architecture is:
Science, Technology, Geography,
Typography, Anthropology,
Sociology, Art, History.'*

Renzo Piano

*We might go on to add that
Architecture is also:
Language, Law, Science,
Economics, Politics, Music
and much, much more ...*



What is studying architecture like?

Different from anything you've done before! (And courses are designed to take account of that.)



What is studying architecture like?

Traditionally studio-based.



What is studying architecture like?

Collaborative and cross-disciplinary

Lots of creative problem solving



What is studying architecture like?

Not as methodical as design and technology subjects — it's more of an open-end process of development, testing out ideas through models and drawings...



What is studying architecture like?

Using a wide range of skills — making, writing, presenting, researching, team-working...



What is studying architecture like?

Often quite 'hands-on'.



What is studying architecture like?

Study visits to engage with and understand different places and architectures

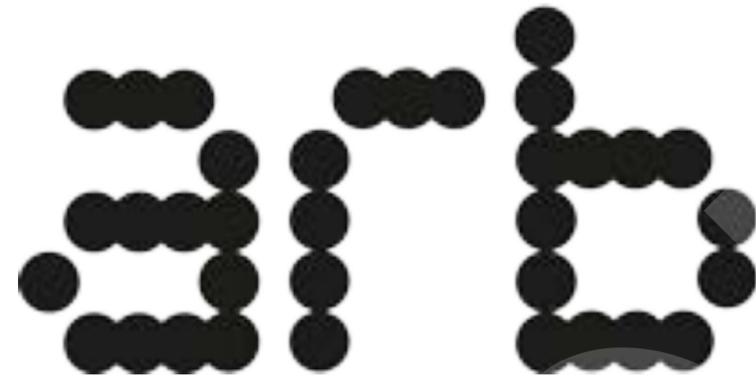
Involves time and can be challenging...

It's what you make of it...



What to consider when looking for a course?

Accreditation



Architects
Registration
Board



RIBA

What to consider when looking for a course?

Course ethos — how is it taught?



What to consider when looking for a course?

Course ethos — how is it taught?



What to consider when looking for a course?

Design work — will tell you a lot about what the School prioritises



What to consider when looking for a course?

Workshop and printing facilities

Support for material costs

Studio space



What to consider when looking for a course?

Studio culture



What to consider when looking for a course?

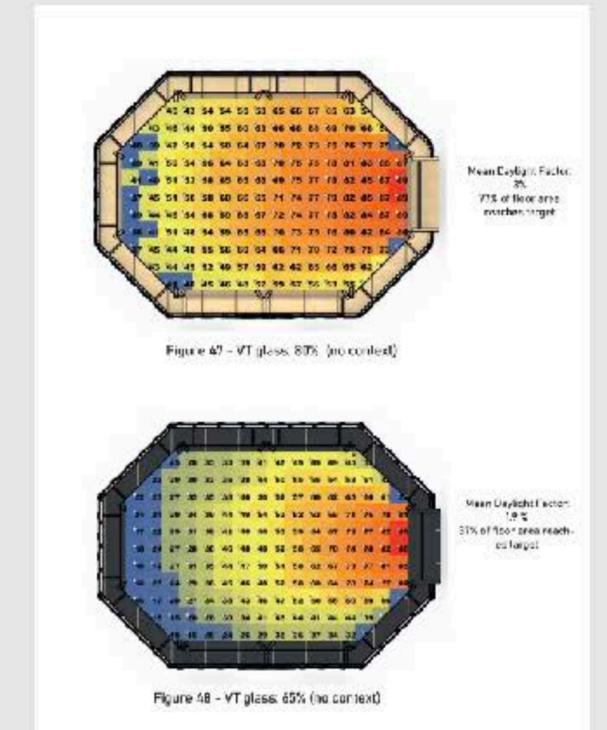
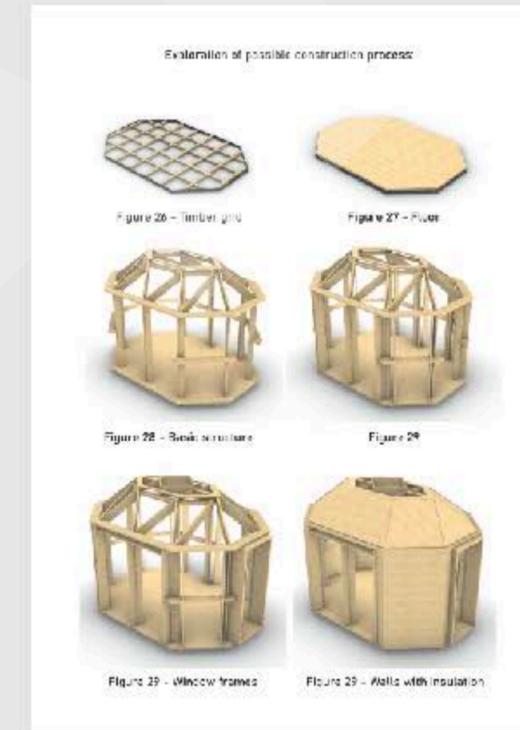
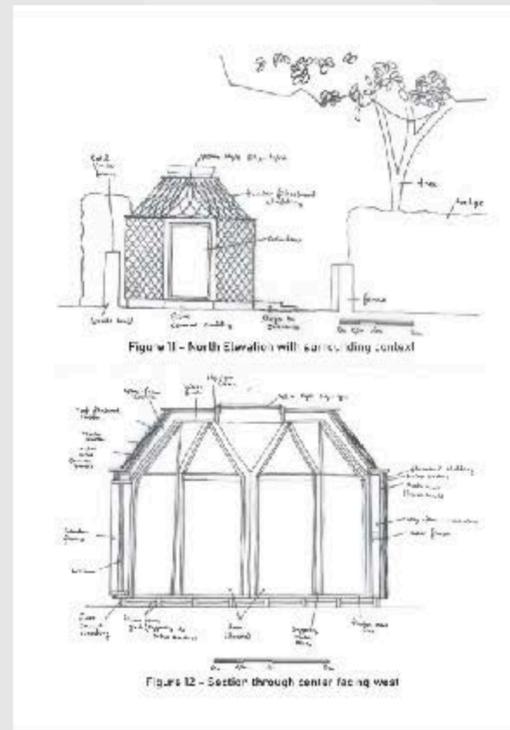
Studio culture....

It's really important to visit and take a look around



What skills are required?

You don't need A-Level Maths or Physics, but practical understanding is important



What skills are required?

An art or design subject is helpful, but not essential, as there will be time to develop drawing skills on the course



What skills are required?

An essay-based subject is helpful, as courses typically include several essays and written reports covering architectural theory, history, technology and practice

HONG KONG HISTORY WALK

THE TRANSITION OF POWER

From a former British colony to under Japanese occupation, to becoming a part of Beijing's 'one country, two systems' policy, Hong Kong's governance power has been constantly shifting. The transition of power not only occurred among countries but also between the branches of the 'Three Pillars Principle', including legislative, executive, and judiciary. This walk takes you to Central, the heart of Hong Kong where political and military buildings gathered since the early 1900s. Throughout the walk, you will explore the power transition in Hong Kong's complex history and see a variety of historical and modern architecture associated with the governance power that blend different cultures.

GENERAL ROUTE

START: Man Mo Temple (1882) → Tai Kwun → Government House → Court of Final Appeal → Central Government Complex → END

ATTRACTIONS

- 1 Man Mo Temple
- 2 Tai Kwun
- 3 Government House
- 4 Court of Final Appeal
- 5 Central Government Complex

ESTIMATED TIME

2.5 hour

© 2015 Sze Chun Architects
China Travel & Tour | Studio No. 0077112

MAN MO TEMPLE
Architect Unknown | 1817

Man Mo Temple enshrines the Gods of Deities and Martial, who are central to public and religious activities. Since the Chinese exclude these urban, urban sites and instead of ordinary wood in the pillars and beams in the temple, the deities are made of stone. In the early period, the Chinese were accustomed to wooden pillars and beams, but the Chinese rulers made Man Mo Temple. The temple used to be a private property but was taken over by the British in 1841. The temple was used by the British for the military power of Man Mo Temple was carried on, with the acquisition of the Colonial government, making it become one of the major places in the early colonial Chinese society.

TAI KWUN
Architect Unknown & Mission, Britain
Design Architect, Powell | 1920, renovated in 2012

Tai Kwun is one of the largest District Museums in an colonial destination including its historic buildings from the former British, Chinese, Indian, Central Government, and Victoria Prison. This complex also incorporated Hong Kong's law collection, justice, and education records, making it the most possible official site during the colonial period. Victoria Prison built with red brick and white stone, which still in existence, and the first Prison in Hong Kong. The former Central Magistracy on the other hand has been a central site, which once played a fundamental role in the development of Hong Kong's judicial system. Through seeing the interior area, you can see the history of the complex, the main temple is the monument of the 15th century and the gate tower is the previous site in Hong Kong over the past 100 years.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE
Architect Charles George Gwynn | 1852

As the official residence of the British governor during the colonial period, the Government House is located up on the hillside near the Central Government Office. The architecture of the house was only shown from the location but also its history of colonization. The house was built from a classical Revival style, which is a mixture of classical and modern styles and being remodelled by British designers as the house was being used by the British. The house was carried out by the Chief Executive of Hong Kong after the handover in 1997, the house turned into a central lobby Japanese residential style, which is a mixture of classical and modern styles through the Hong Kong government. The house was the site to make independent decisions to support the British.

THE COURT OF FINAL APPEAL BUILDING
Architect Sir Owen Williams & Partners Ltd | 1982

The Court of Final Appeal is the supreme court of the judicial system. Throughout the walk, the architecture and the design of the building symbolize of power and control behind the rule of law. The building is a mixture of classical and modern styles, which is a mixture of classical and modern styles. The building is a mixture of classical and modern styles, which is a mixture of classical and modern styles. The building is a mixture of classical and modern styles, which is a mixture of classical and modern styles.

CENTRAL GOVERNMENT COMPLEX
Architect Bruce Yung | 1981

As the headquarters of Hong Kong's government, power generally resides in the complex, where the legislative and executive branches are. The complex includes the Office of the Chief Executive, the Legislative Council Complex, and the Central Government Offices. The complex is a mixture of classical and modern styles, which is a mixture of classical and modern styles. The building is a mixture of classical and modern styles, which is a mixture of classical and modern styles.

What skills are required?

A combination of subjects you enjoy, bridging across arts, humanities and sciences.

There's no ideal mix — architects each have strengths in different areas, and there are many different kinds of role in practice...

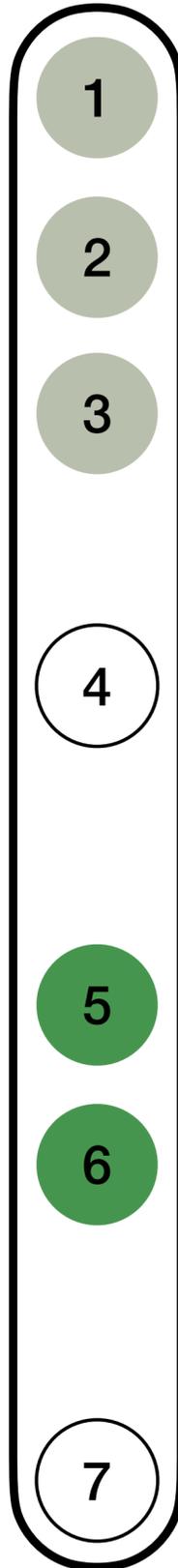


How long does it take?

Yes, it usually takes at least 7 years to become fully qualified...

At least 3 of those years will be in practice allowing you to earn a graduate wage and potentially save towards further study.

There are also apprenticeship routes now available.



**BA or BSc in Architecture
(RIBA Part I)**

Year(s) in Practice

**Master of Architecture
(RIBA Part II)**

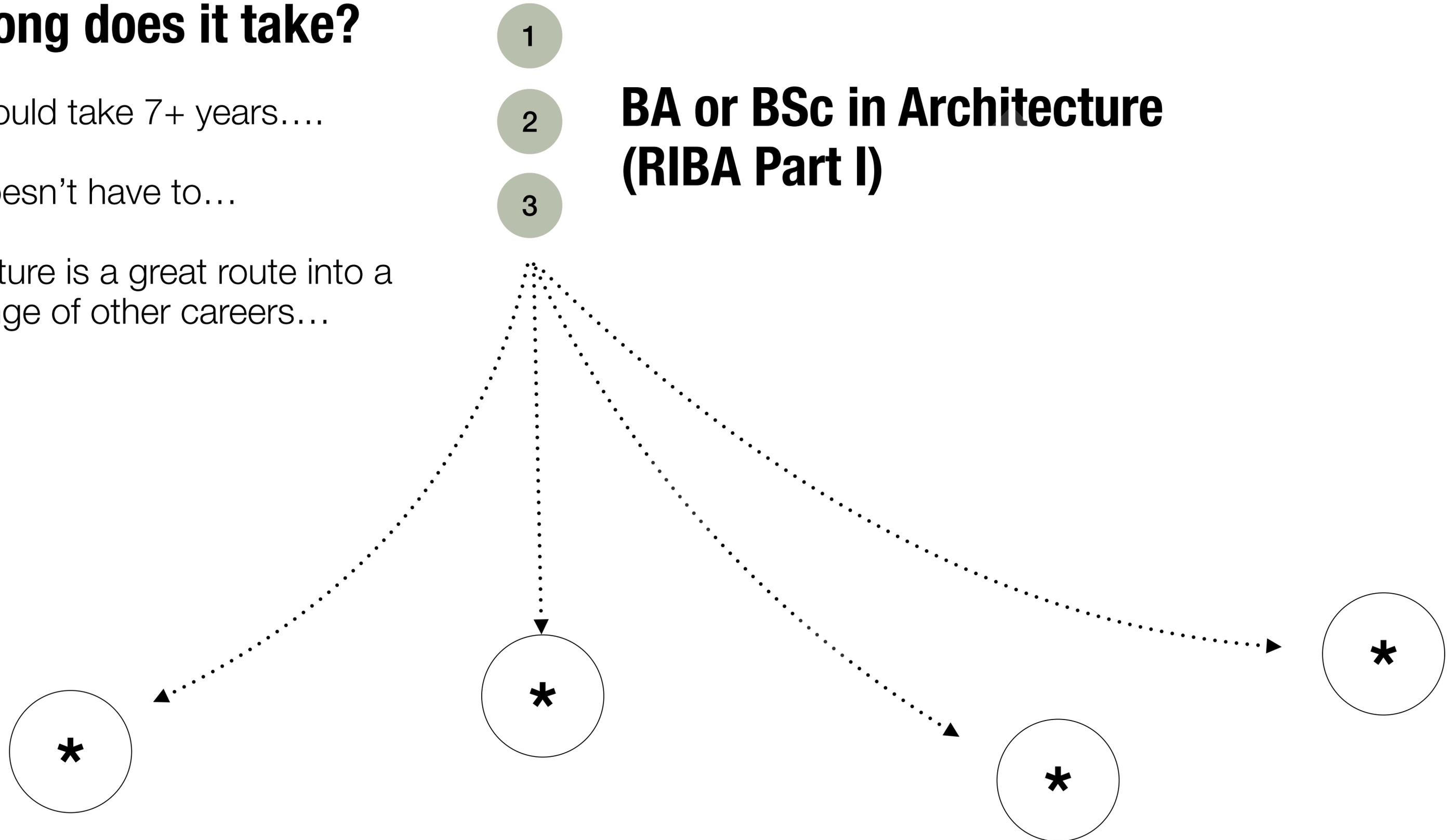
**Diploma
(RIBA Part III)**

How long does it take?

Yes, it could take 7+ years....

But it doesn't have to...

Architecture is a great route into a wide range of other careers...



1

2

3

**BA or BSc in Architecture
(RIBA Part I)**

*

*

*

*

Tips for preparing a portfolio

It doesn't have to be about buildings — play to your strengths and use the materials you already have; make it personal



Tips for preparing a portfolio

Can include photography, sculpture, drawing, painting, prints, product design, graphical work, technical drawings, poetry etc....

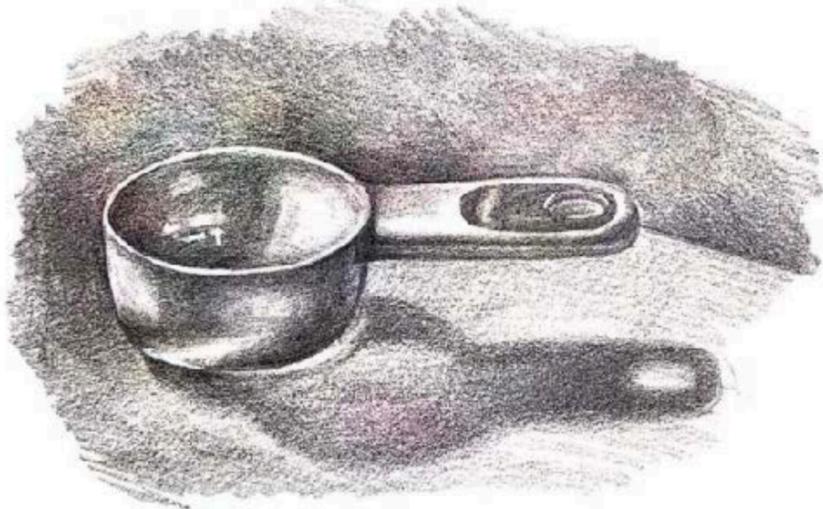
...anything that shows architectural awareness — interest in colour, space, composition, form, making

...and skills in observation, judgement, precision, care, focus, enquiry...



Tips for preparing a portfolio

Try to include a range of media and skills



Tips for preparing a portfolio

Be selective — choose your best work and give each piece enough space to shine.

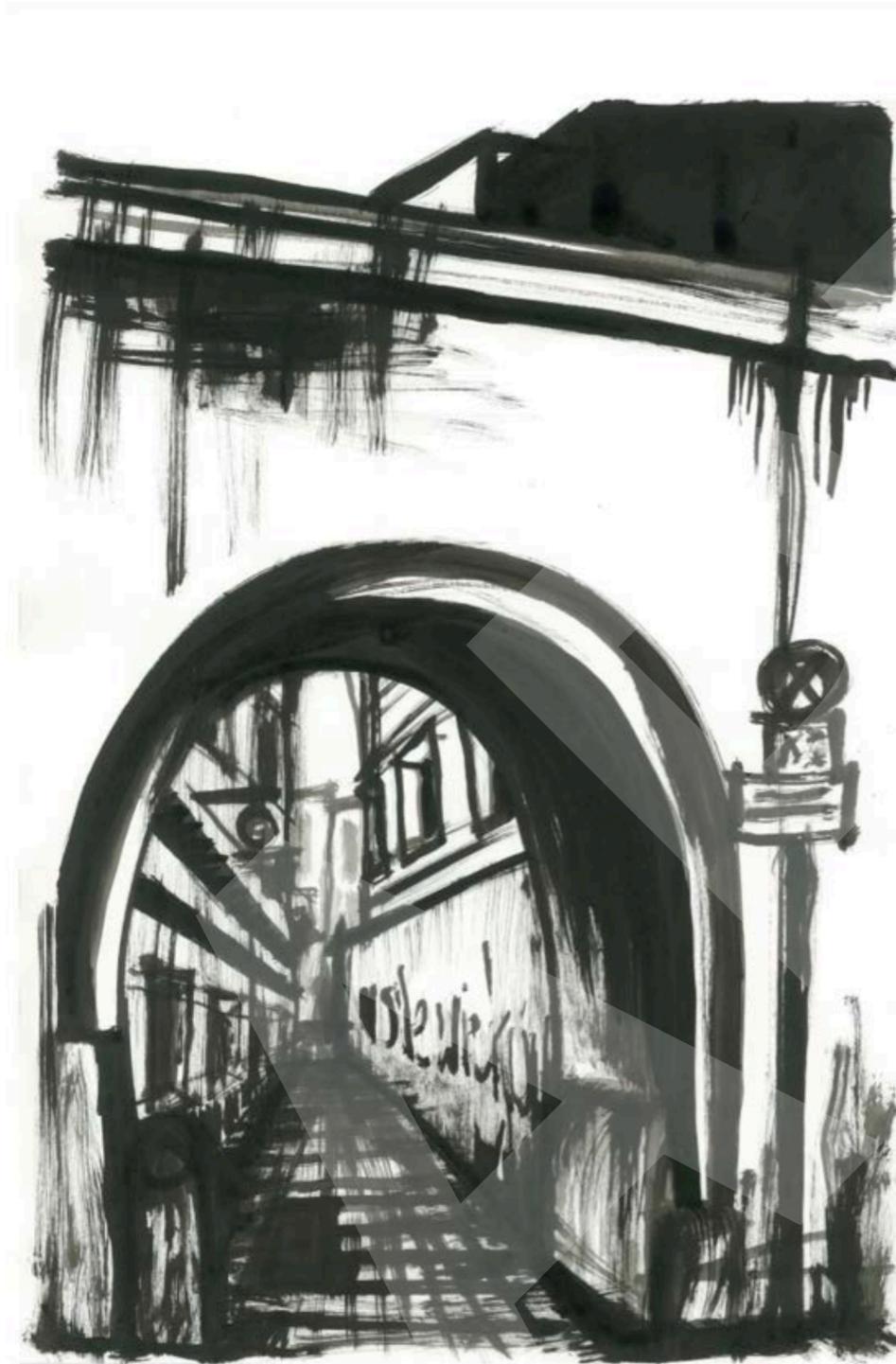
Usually one image per page is best, unless you want to show how something was developed, or what it looks like from different angles.



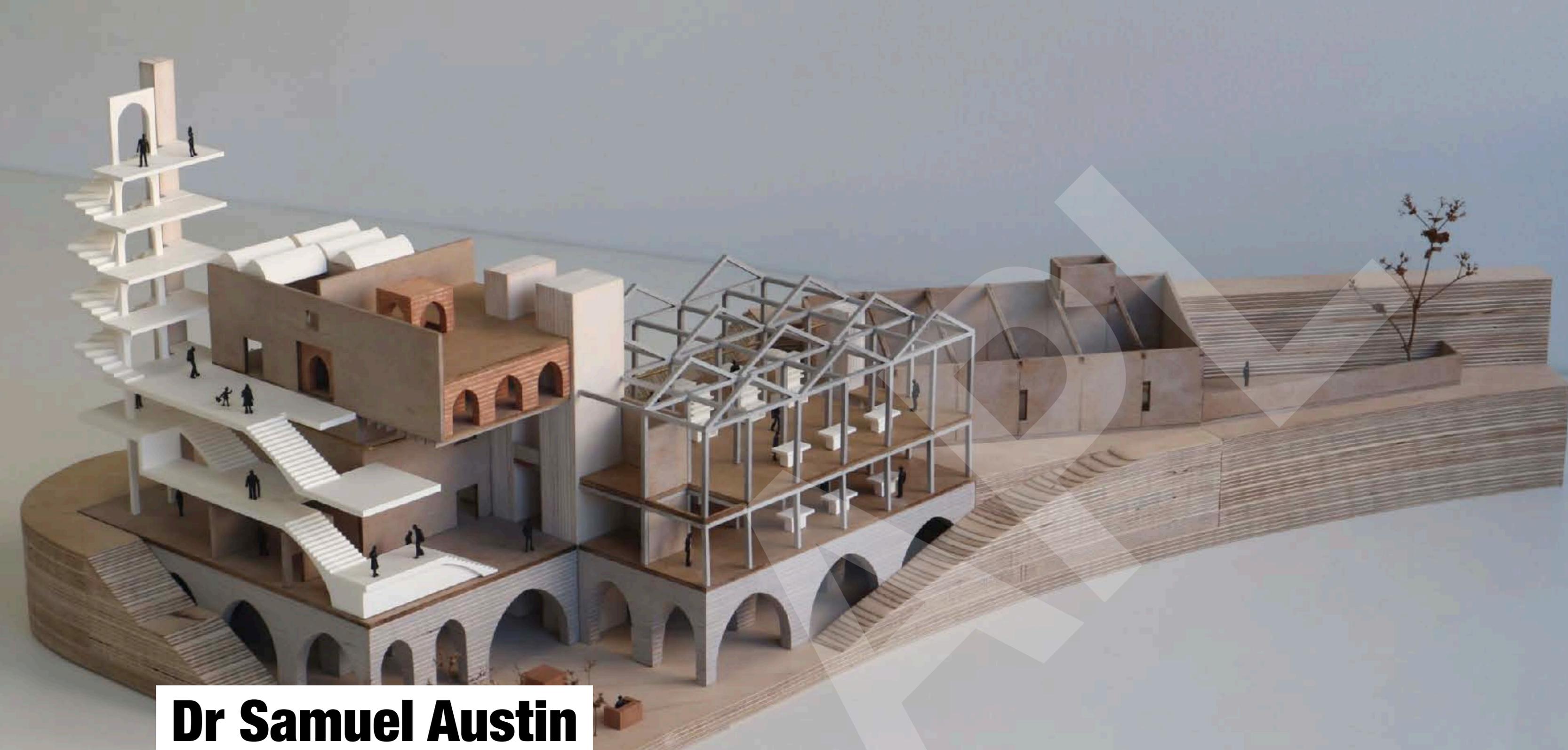
Tips for preparing a portfolio

Use the best of your school work, but also pieces done in your own time.

Include a brief explanation for each piece, explaining why you did it and what it means



The new photographs were taken in Wrocław and represent different residential buildings located in the same district. What I have found especially interesting is the contrast between newly-built and newly-renovated dwellings, and those with visible signs of the passing time. The natural consequence of this, is the variety of material structures depicted. The black and white colours increase the sense of depth in the photographs.



Dr Samuel Austin

Director of Architecture, Newcastle University

samuel.austin@ncl.ac.uk