

**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

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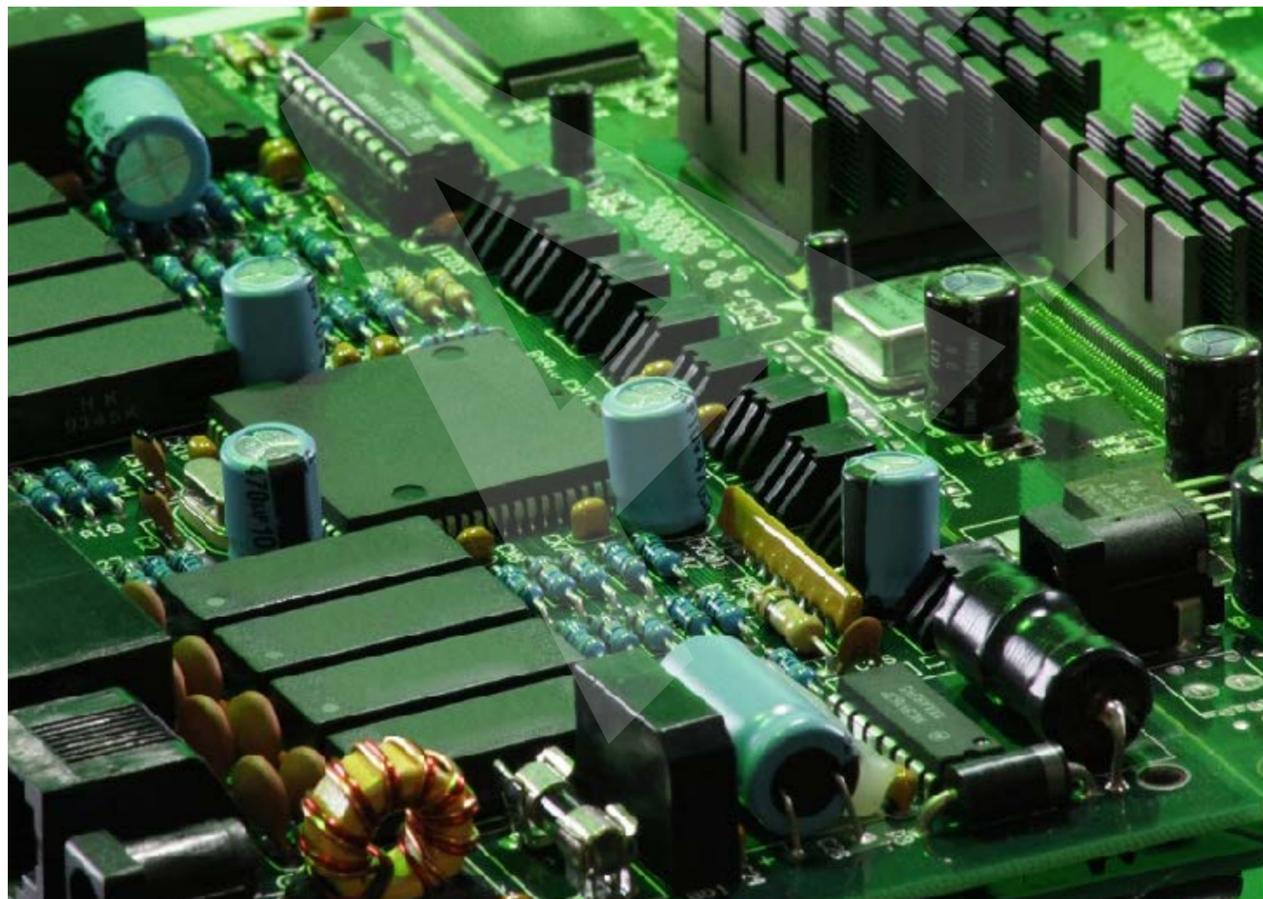
# What is architecture?

*'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



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*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

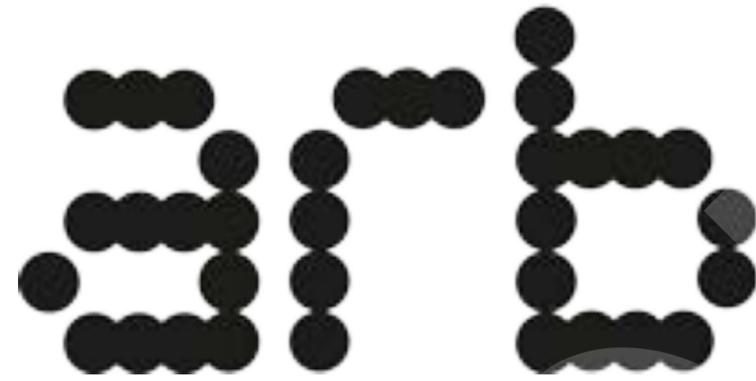
Involves time and can be challenging...

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?

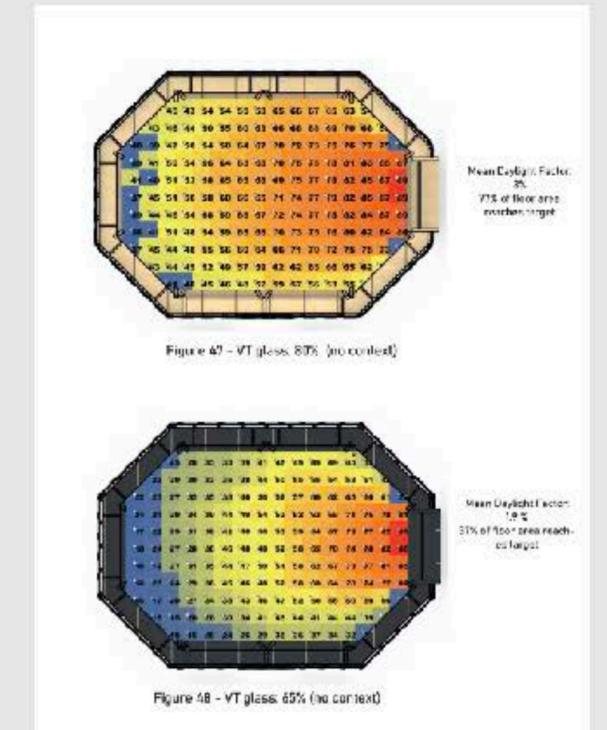
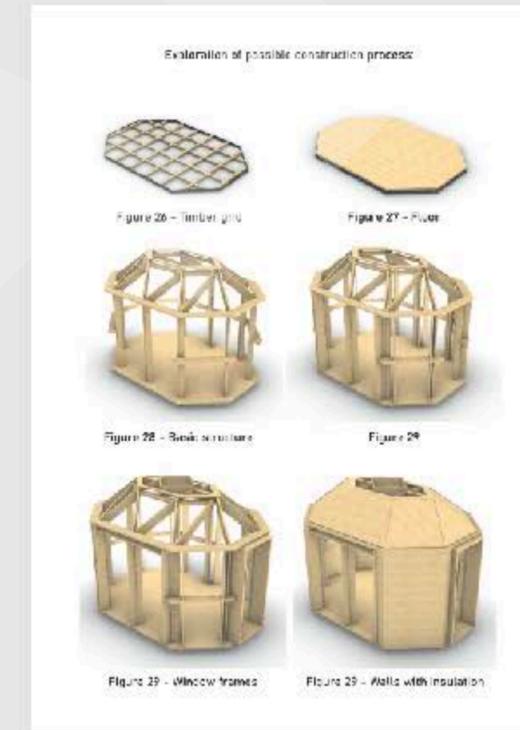
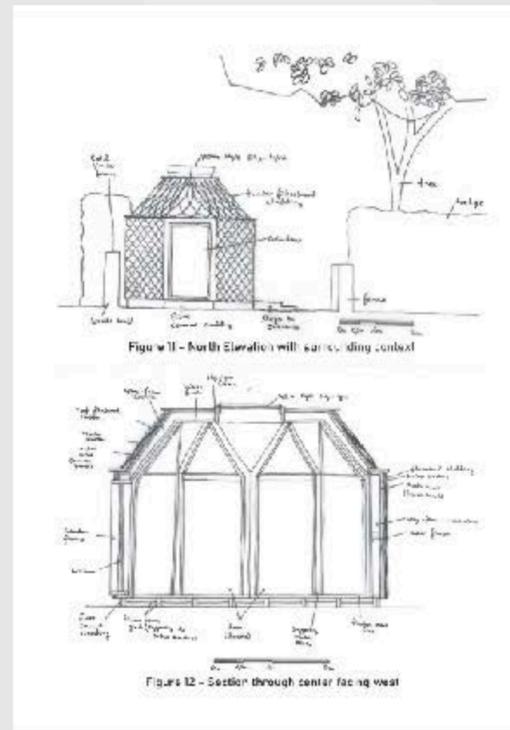
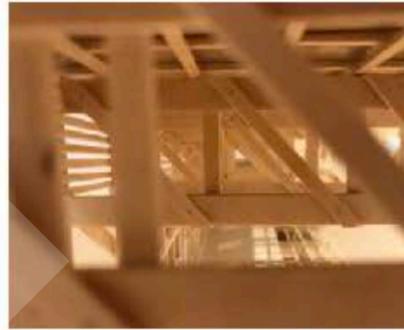
Studio culture....

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

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**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 their urban areas from the use of ordinary wood in the pillars and beams in their buildings, the temple was built with the white timber of the Chinese variety of the tree, which is known as 'Man Mo wood'. The temple was built in the early 19th century, and its architecture reflects the traditional Chinese style.



**TAI KWUN**  
Architect: Liang & Moore, Berlin  
Design Architect: Parrot | 1920; renovated in 2012

Tai Kwun is one of the largest District Museums in an old building, retaining its historic buildings from the former British colonial era, Central Magistracy, and Victoria Prison. This complex also incorporates Hong Kong's first collection of public and historical works, including the first public library, the first public museum, and the first public library in Hong Kong. The former Central Magistracy on the other hand has been a central library since it played a fundamental role in the development of Hong Kong's judicial system. Through seeing the historical records in the main library of the complex, we can explore the evolution of the judicial system in Hong Kong since the 19th century.



**GOVERNMENT HOUSE**  
Architect: Charles George Clarke | 1852

As the official residence of the British governor during the colonial period, the Government House is located on the hillside near the Central Government Office. The architecture of the house was mostly drawn from the Italian Baroque style, with its many of the architectural elements derived from a classical Roman style, including the massive columns and being remodelled by local designers as the British Military by adding historical elements. The building was renovated and carried out by the Chief Executive of Hong Kong after the handover in 1997. The house turned into a central library Japanese reinterpreted them, which is a symbol of continuity and power even though the Hong Kong government has never had the right to make independent decisions to replace the building.



**THE COURT OF FINAL APPEAL BUILDING**  
Architect: Sir James Wright & Partners Ltd | 1992

The Court of Final Appeal is the supreme court of the judicial system. Throughout the walk, we approach and understand the role of the judicial system of power and control behind the rule of law. The building is a prime example of the design of the judicial system, with its grand and ordered columns along the sides of a court. Above the entrance, the entrance is the central part of a 27-metre high 'Thebes' column on the top of the classical facade, symbolizing the role of the judicial system. Although the image of the building has changed in material form over the 19th century, the building still reflects the concept of the judicial system and the building itself can always be reflected through the occasional building which is decorated by granite and surrounded with the brick columns.



**CENTRAL GOVERNMENT COMPLEX**  
Architect: Bruce Yung | 1981

As the headquarters of Hong Kong's government, people generally believe the complex, where the legislative and executive branches of the government, the Office of the Chief Executive, the Legislative Council, and the Court of Final Appeal. The complex is a symbol of the government's power and authority. The building was designed by Bruce Yung, who also designed the Court of Final Appeal. The building is a prime example of the design of the judicial system, with its grand and ordered columns along the sides of a court. Above the entrance, the entrance is the central part of a 27-metre high 'Thebes' column on the top of the classical facade, symbolizing the role of the judicial system. Although the image of the building has changed in material form over the 19th century, the building still reflects the concept of the judicial system and the building itself can always be reflected through the occasional building which is decorated by granite and surrounded with the brick columns.

# 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...

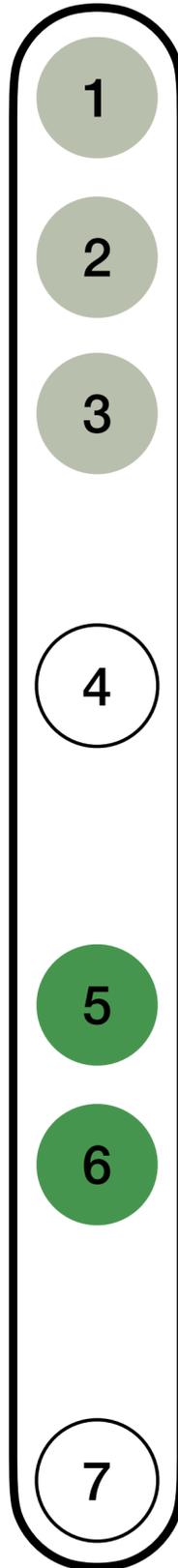


# How long does it take?

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)**

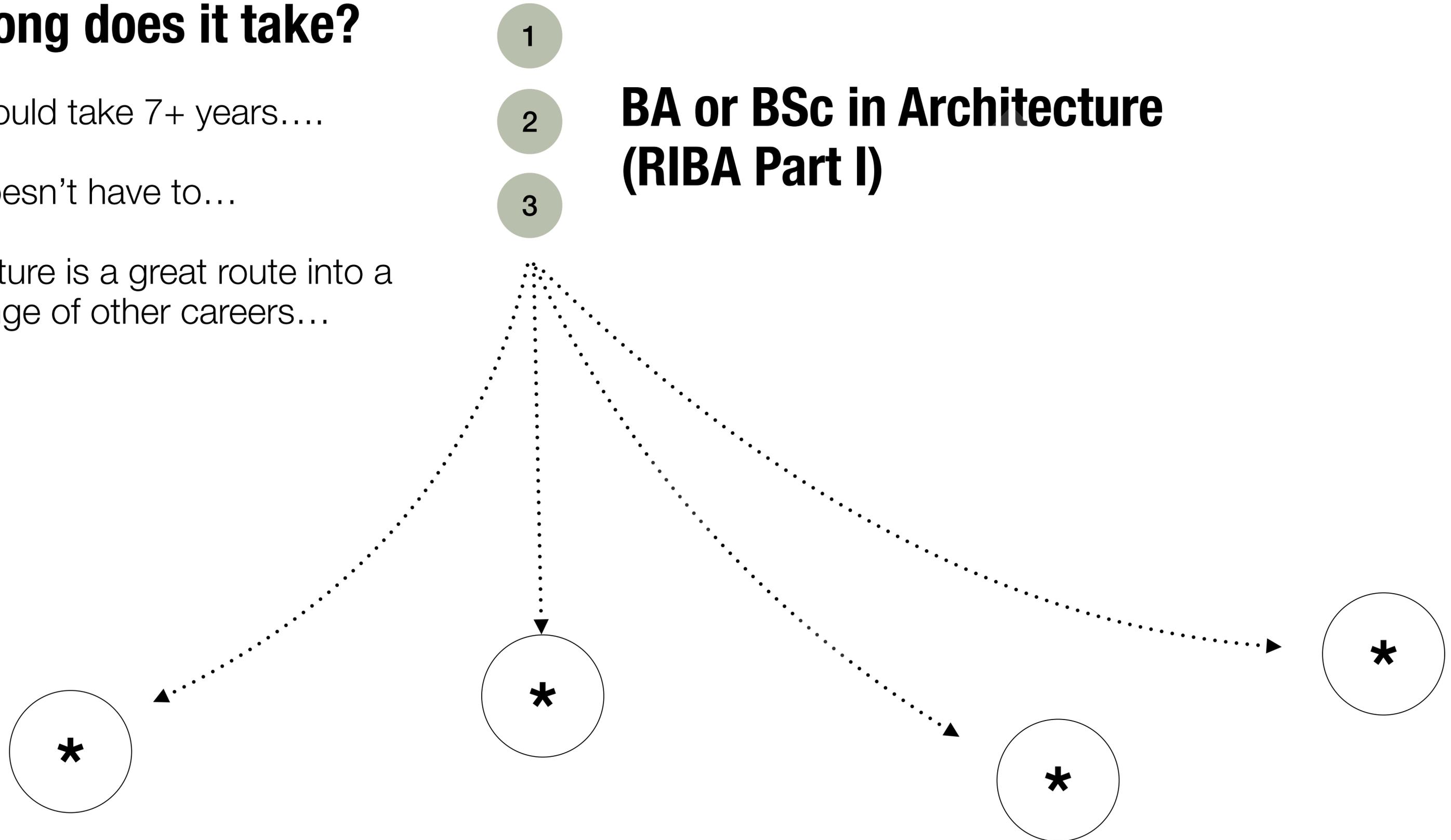
**Diploma  
(RIBA Part III)**

# 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...



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2

3

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

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# 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....

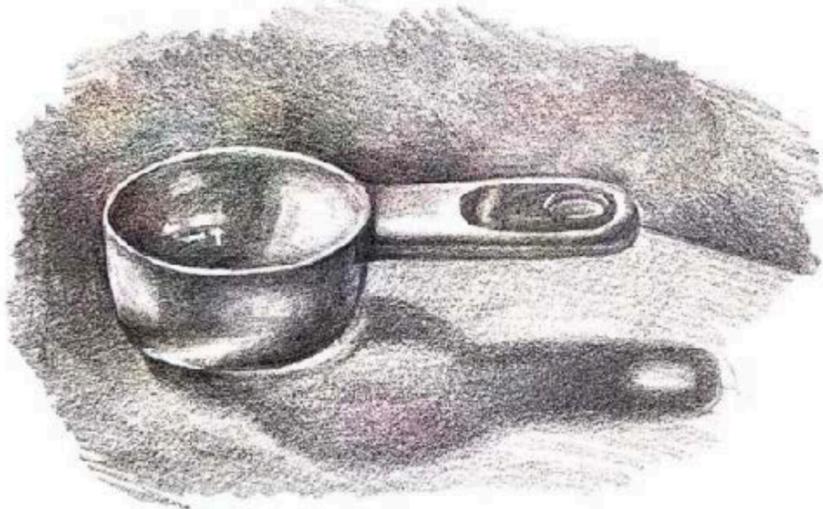
...anything that shows architectural awareness — interest in colour, space, composition, form, making

...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.



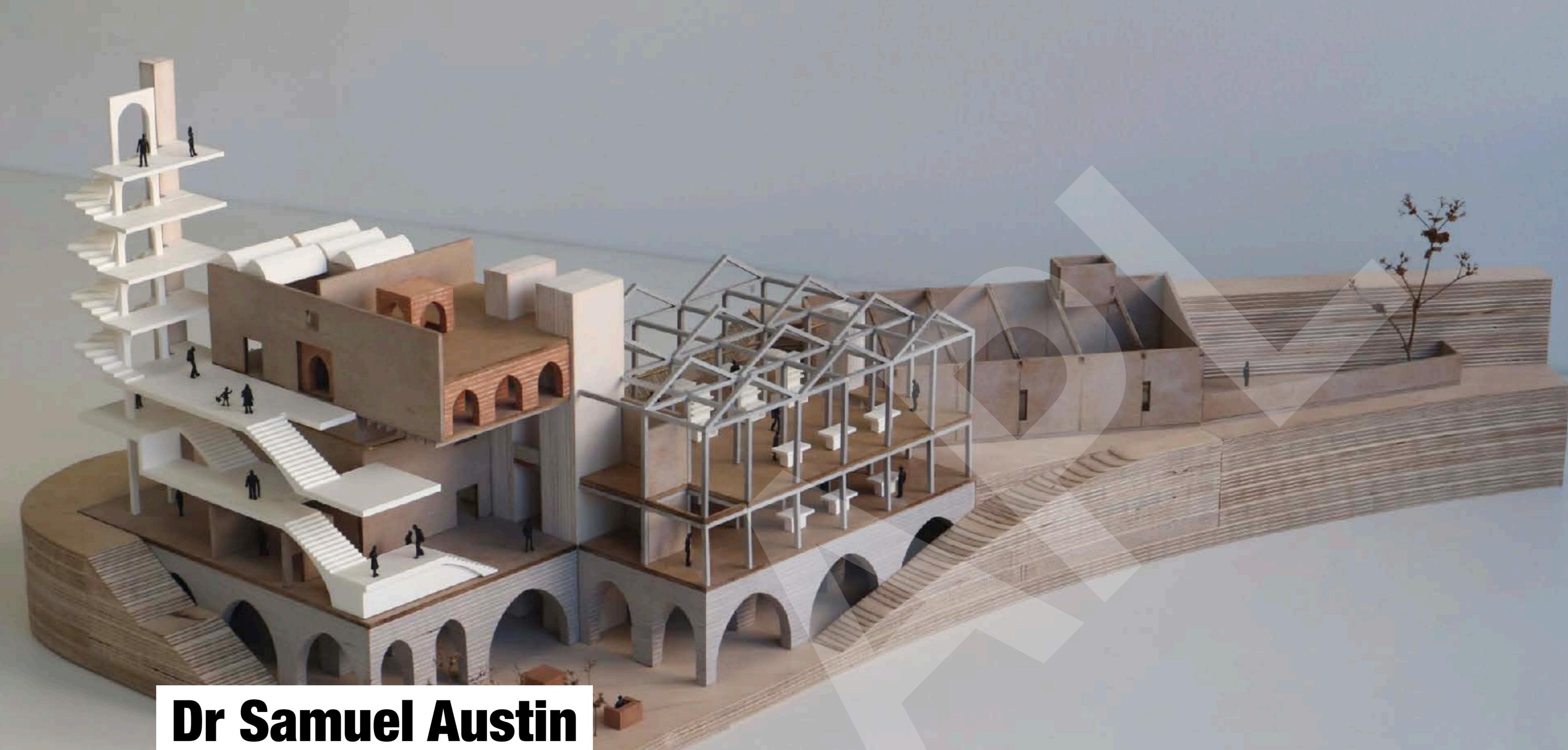
# Tips for preparing a portfolio

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.



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