

# Guidance for Applicants to Architecture Diploma in Architecture

*Exemption from Part II of RIBA/ARB Examination in Architecture*



Image: Concept sketch for Reid Building, The Glasgow School of Art, 2009  
Watercolour on charcoal on paper, courtesy of the architect, Steven Holl

# Guidance for Applicants to Architecture Diploma in Architecture

## **APPLICATION**

An application to the Mackintosh School of Architecture consists of an online application and accompanying portfolio of supporting visual material.

Applications to the Diploma in Architecture (DipArch) are made directly to the school via GSA Registry at Glasgow School of Art using the [online application forms](#) available on the website.

DipArch is also available in a part-time mode.

The application form will ask for the following information;

- Personal Details
- Academic Qualifications
- Language qualifications (as appropriate)
- References
- Personal Statement

On receipt of your completed application, Registry will invite you to upload your Supporting Visual Materials (portfolio) via the Portfolio Upload site. Information about how to access the portfolio site and set your password will be sent by email. You should receive this around 4 working days after submitting your application. If you do not receive this, please contact registry.

[registry@gsa.ac.uk](mailto:registry@gsa.ac.uk)

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### **APPLICATION**

Once your portfolio has been uploaded, the Mackintosh School of Architecture will be issued with your completed application, review your academic qualifications, and assess the following:

- Your Personal Statement (online application form)
- Your References (online application form)
- Supporting Visual Material (uploaded portfolio of work)

Guidance on what should be demonstrated in your personal statement, references and uploaded portfolio, as well as the assessment criteria, are outlined on the following pages.



Image: Tutorials in progress in the Grace and Clarke Fyfe Podium Gallery, Bourdon Building, Mackintosh School of Architecture

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## **PERSONAL STATEMENT**

Your personal statement (500 to 700 words approx.) should support your application to the Mackintosh School of Architecture. It should give details of your experience to date, what your specific interests within the field of architecture are and how your studies and work in practice to date have influenced this. You may also want to talk about any extra-curricular activities that are relevant.

## **REFERENCES**

All applicants are asked to provide 2 references on headed paper;

- An academic reference
- A reference from practice. (If this is not relevant, a second academic reference should be provided)

## **SUPPORTING VISUAL MATERIAL**

Work included in your portfolio should aim to achieve a balance that accurately describes your existing skills and interests. We would recommend that you include at least one completed project as part of your portfolio. Portfolios may include, but are not limited to, the following types of work;

- Completed projects at undergraduate level
- Projects from your time in practice
- Extra-curricular work
- Sketch books/ Design journals Observational Drawings
- 3D visualisation 3D work
- Technical drawings
- Photographic studies

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The Mackintosh School of Architecture will assess your full application against the following:

### **Assessment Criteria**

- Evidence of a personal interest in the subject of architecture
- Evidence of learning undertaken to date in the wider context of the profession
- Design work at an appropriate level of complexity and resolution
- Integration of structure, materials and environmental conditions.
- Skills Range- 3D modelling, observational skills, portfolio format etc

Each criteria is assessed on the following 7 point scale;

- 1\_ Unsatisfactory evidence of required ability
- 2\_ Very limited evidence of required ability
- 3\_ Limited evidence of required ability
- 4\_ Satisfactory evidence of required ability
- 5\_ Good evidence of required ability
- 6\_ Very good evidence of required ability
- 7\_ Excellent evidence of required ability

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### WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

The Mackintosh School of Architecture evaluates all applications before returning decisions to the Registry Department who liaise directly with you.

You will receive a formal offer (conditional or unconditional) or rejection from registry and you should receive this within the advertised timeframe (gate) associated with your application date.

If you have any queries at all about the information contained in this document, the Architecture admissions team will be happy to help you. We can be contacted through our designated applicant email: [architectureadmissions@gsa.ac.uk](mailto:architectureadmissions@gsa.ac.uk)

If you experience any issues uploading your portfolio or using your password please email [registry@gsa.ac.uk](mailto:registry@gsa.ac.uk) as soon as possible.

Examples of work undertaken by students on the Diploma course can be found on our 2021 Graduate Showcase.

[Examples of Diploma year 1 \(MSA stage 4\)](#)

[Examples of Diploma year 2 \(MSA stage 5\)](#)

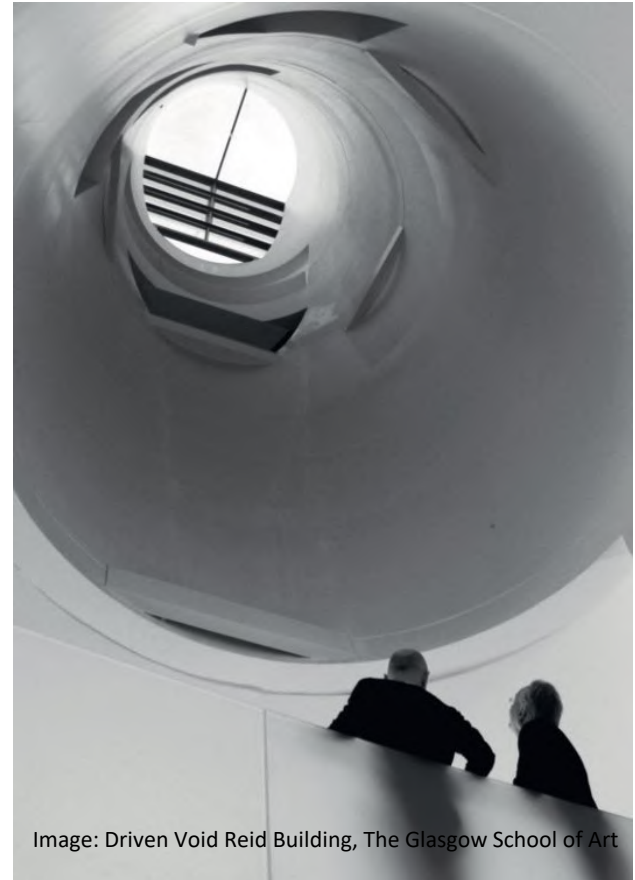


Image: Driven Void Reid Building, The Glasgow School of Art