

# BA Hons Urban Design

## Task, portfolio and interview preparation

---

If you are a University of Greenwich **BA (Hons) Urban Design** applicant and have been invited to **interview** for a place on the Course, the information below is designed to help you assemble a **portfolio** of work.

### Portfolio Requirements

A portfolio is a body of work that showcases your approach and skills through ideas, making, experimentation, testing, creativity, imagination, technical skills and your understanding of visual culture and communication.

Do not worry about the right sort of portfolio or the right type of work to include. At the University of Greenwich our definition of a portfolio is wide ranging. We're looking for any evidence of your artistic, creative, craft and technical interests as well as your reflective skills. We are a creative art and design-based course, so any form of artwork is welcome. If you've not recently studied any art or design subject, the portfolio may be composed from work developed independently, such as sketch books, sculpture, pottery, paintings, prints, drawings.

### Top tips

- Organise your work. For instance, you may want to organise it by subject, theme, time or skill.
- For small drawings and images, mount your work neatly - thick white paper is best - pay particular attention to the composition of the page and the presentation of your work. For larger drawings they may take up the full page.
- Label your work clearly, neatly and consistently. For example, use 12pt Helvetica for all labelling: Say what it is, when you did it, what your involvement was (for instance, it might be coursework; something you have made at home; photographs you have developed and printed or a film or animation you have made).

### Portfolio content

- We are a creative art and design-based course, so any form of artwork is welcome. If you've not recently studied any art subject, this could be work from an evening class you have taken: sculpture, pottery, paintings, prints, drawings - all are suitable.
- Drawings - freehand or technical (it is generally best not to draw from photographs). Sketches are sometimes more interesting than finished work, so put in some of both.

- Photographs you have taken - best if organised by a titled theme.
- Computer work - e.g. CAD, graphics, illustration, film, animation and 3D modelling.
- Sketchbooks showing your working methodology, sketches and reflection are a must.
- Any evidence of the craft skills you have: e.g. woodworking; metalworking; textiles etc.
- Anything you've made or designed - one student brought in parts of a musical instrument she had redesigned and made. It showed skills with tools, a feel for materials and an ability to design in response to needs. We've had examples of building models, central heating systems, loudspeakers built from scratch, even vehicles students have modified or custom painted.
- Work related to projects in which you've been involved, either in their design, construction or use, such as buildings, gardens, etc.
- A report you did while on work placement.
- Any other written work you've done which demonstrates quality of thought, presentation and illustration.

Remember, we're interested in the BREADTH of skills and interests you have, and the work you complete during your spare time is also of great interest. Choose examples that show your RANGE of skills.

## Preparing for your interview

You'll find it useful to read about Landscape Architecture projects and practices. Some books by Greenwich lecturers that you may find useful include:

- [Basics Urban Design](#) by Ed Wall
- [Some Assembly Required](#) by Michael Sorkin
- [101 Things I Learned in Urban Design School](#) by Mathew Frederick

You may also wish to explore some projects, online and/or by visiting in person if local to you and if permitted under national/local Covid-19 regulations and/or advice. Some interesting contemporary projects include:

- [Detroit Future City](#), Detroit by Stoss
- [The High Line](#), New York City by Field Operations
- [Superkilen](#), Copenhagen by Topotek 1
- [Borneo Sporenberg](#), Amsterdam by West 8
- [Oystertecture](#), New York City by Scape

## Is there any other information I can look at before the interview?

You can view more information about our Urban Design degree by visiting the [course page](#), where you'll find information about modules, course structure and more. You can also visit our [student blog](#) which includes information about student work and events and do have a look at the [School of Design webpage](#).

Also, there are several recent books which feature work of Greenwich students - these include:

- [Basics Urban Design](#) (Bloomsbury)
- [The Landscapists: Redefining Landscape Relations \(AD/Wiley\)](#)