

ARCHITECTURE & INTERIOR ARCHITECTURE

BA honours degrees from the School of Architecture

Architecture

BA (Hons)

Interior Architecture

BA (Hons)

ARCHITECTURE AT BROOKES

The School of Architecture provides an exciting and stimulating place to learn, putting the design studio at its heart. As a result, our graduates are creative, motivated and highly regarded by the profession and industry. The annual survey of the top 100 practices conducted by the Architects' Journal consistently ranks us as one of the top five best architecture schools in the UK. We have an outstanding reputation for the quality of our teaching and our research is of international standing.

The School of Architecture at Brookes is one of the oldest and best known in the UK. We have a reputation for academic excellence and taking an innovative approach to design. Our BA (Hons) Architecture course is accredited by the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) and the Architects Registration Board (ARB).

The School offers an open and diverse approach to design with tutors who lead the field in their practice, teaching and research. Expertise, professional knowledge and research within the

department's postgraduate school informs and feeds into the activities of the undergraduate courses. The School leads the way in several specialist areas of knowledge such as development and post-emergency design, sustainability, cultural theory, and urban design.

In addition, there is a very active student society within the School. OxArch organises lectures, workshops, film screenings and social events. If you want a course that brings out your creative best, this is the one for you.

Employment prospects

The **School of Architecture** has an excellent employment record for its graduates who are well regarded by the profession. BA Architecture graduates have recently found year out placements at well known UK practices such as Rogers Stirk Harbour and Partners, Grimshaw Architects and Make Architects as well as up and coming practices at home and abroad such as raumlaborberlin.

In addition to following careers as practising architects and interior architects, some of our graduates also choose to follow careers in related professions such as exhibition design, set design, three dimensional visualisation, academic research, project management and architectural journalism.



The New Forest Tree House Study Centre designed by Architecture student Samantha Sherwood

BUILT ENVIRONMENT FOUNDATION

If you don't meet our formal entry requirements, or if you didn't do as well at A-level as you had expected, there is no need to give up hope. This Foundation programme could be just what you are looking for, as successful completion will guarantee you a place on one of the related degree courses in the Faculty.

Equally, if you want to return to study after working for a while, but lack confidence, this programme is designed to bring you up to speed. If you are an overseas student, or if your first language is not English, you will also find this programme ideally suited to your needs as it will introduce you to our way of learning. In addition, you will find an excellent range of English language courses on offer at Brookes.

Whatever your background, the Foundation programme will give you a good introduction to university life, widen your horizons and open up a host of exciting career and life opportunities.

Qualifications

We are looking for students who show they have the potential to benefit from a university education. Your personal statement is your chance to convince us of your enthusiasm for study. Showing us that you have a passion and commitment to embark on degree-level study is taken in conjunction with your existing qualifications. You should also indicate which degree you hope to progress onto.

You will need at least one (preferably two) A-level at D or above grade and in any subject, or a BTEC qualification or vocational A-level, plus GCSE Maths and English at grade C. If you are unsure whether you have the qualifications to start, contact us for a chat.

Progression to a BA or BSc

Successful completion of the Foundation course can lead you on to one of the related degree courses in the Faculty.

Our courses include:

- Architecture BA
- City and Regional Planning BA
- Construction Project Management BSc
- Interior Architecture BA
- Quantity Surveying and Commercial Management BSc
- Real Estate Management BSc.

All of the courses will have specific progression rules which will be highlighted to you during your induction programme. We will also provide you with advice and guidance on how you can meet the progression rules.

Why choose Oxford Brookes?

When asked what they value about their Brookes experience, most students are agreed on one thing – the quality of our staff. They help us to deliver courses that are centred around the needs of our students.

You will find that our staff will be on your side from the start, and prepared to work with you to bring out the best in you. Our aim is to prepare you thoroughly for undergraduate study.

While studying varying aspects of the built environment, you will also be able to gain a wide range of skills, including communication skills, such as writing, group working and the ability to make presentations, and learning how to use computers and access library facilities. Academic staff from our School of Architecture, Department of Planning and Department of Real Estate and Construction will all take an active role in ensuring the Foundation programme brings out the best in you.



Open day visitors, 2011

ARCHITECTURE BA (HONS)

Accredited by the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) and the Architects Registration Board (ARB). This accreditation gives exemption from RIBA Part I, the first of three parts required for registration as an architect in the UK.

Architects are creative people who use this skill to anticipate and meet the needs and aspirations of a world that is changing technologically, culturally and physically. These needs range from fundamental issues such as shelter to the resolution of complex or large-scale projects that affect many different interest groups. Whatever the challenge each project sets, an architectural designer must provide the inspiration to generate a solution and think in three-dimensional space to communicate their proposal to others.

Architecture is a creative and fulfilling profession that is also challenging and requires a broad range of skills and knowledge. It requires invention, practical skill and technological expertise. An architect must be able to think spatially and communicate their ideas to others verbally and visually. An architectural project involves the skilful management of people, time and resources.

Architects work with clients, contractors, government bodies and specialists such as engineers, to design all aspects of our built environment from very detailed fragments to large-scale urban interventions. They can be involved from the very beginning of a project when it is just the germ of an idea and can see it through both design and construction, even continuing to be involved after it is occupied.

The quality of the design of the built environment affects everyone and the challenge for architects is to respond in a creative and generous way to improve the places where people live and work.

small model making. The workshop is equipped with more specialised equipment for more complex model making or construction, and specialised printing facilities are also available within the department.

Complementing this design studio activity are lectures, seminars, field trips, workshops and presentations. Assessment methods vary for each module but generally comprise different forms of coursework such as project work, presentations, reports, essays, group work and practical assignments.

In year one you will learn the fundamentals of architectural design including designing three-dimensionally, in context, to scale and developing an architectural brief. Design skills are supported by the parallel teaching of representational techniques such as architectural drawing and model making. You will also be introduced to architectural history and theory, the principles of technology, and learn about the architect's role in society.



COURSE MODULES

Year 1

We encourage you to bring your own individual skills and knowledge to bear in your design work. We believe in adopting an integrated approach to design, balancing the need for creativity and flair with technological knowledge and expertise.

Design forms the core of the course and you will be given the opportunity to develop your creativity from the beginning of the course. Design takes place in the design studio which is where you will be based for much of the time. Individual and group design tutorials, reviews, presentations and workshops take place in the studio. The studios are also used for design work, drawing both digitally and by hand, and

YEAR 1 MODULES

- Introduction to Architectural Design 1
- Introduction to Architectural Design 2
- Architectural Representation
- Architecture and Society
- Introduction to Architectural History
- Introductory Technology

Year 2

In years two and three, you will be asked to express a preference for which vertical design unit to join. In a unit, students in years two and three are taught together and pursue an area of study set by their unit tutors, although the design of projects is tailored to the different needs of years two and three.

In year two, design projects will increase in complexity to those tackled in year one. For example, the nature or sequence of spaces and complexity of the brief or context will increase. As in year one, representational techniques are taught in parallel to design, with Digital Culture in year two. The precedents of technology are taught, as are issues in History and Theory and a cultural context module about cities, culture and society.

Year 3

In year three, design projects increase in complexity once more, building upon the knowledge gained in the previous two years. You will be asked to change to a different vertical unit to broaden your understanding of different approaches to architectural design. The practice of technology is taught in year three and this involves an increasingly thorough integration of it into your design work than in previous years. You will be asked to choose an area of interest to you and write a dissertation on that subject. There is also a module called Preparation for Practice that will provide a grounding in professional knowledge.

After you graduate

Students wishing to go into architectural practice will need to gain practical experience, usually by spending a year working in an architectural firm. They will then go on to complete a two-year Diploma in Architecture. During the diploma year, students may specialise or opt for postgraduate research. Careers then open up in any aspect of architecture, which is a diverse and dynamic profession.

YEAR 2 AND 3 MODULES

- Technology and Precedent
- Architectural Design 1
- Architectural Design 2
- Digital Culture
- Cities, Culture and Society
- Issues in Architectural History and Theory
- Architectural Design 3
- Advanced Technology
- Preparation for Practice
- Architectural Design 4
- Dissertation

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

GCSE Mathematics, English and a physical science at grade C or above.

Recruitment is based on a portfolio submitted in one of three ways: interview, group assessment or USB/CD submission. Please see the portfolio guidance section for more about preparing a portfolio.

Please also see the University's general entry requirements and standard English language requirements.

TYPICAL OFFERS

- 3 A-levels grades AAB, or equivalent from 2 A-levels plus 2 AS-levels (we strongly recommend that one of the subjects is Art or Design or Design and Technology)
- equivalent grades in vocational A-levels
- International Baccalaureate 32 points minimum
- Advanced Diploma at grade B, including A-level at grade A
- Foundation Course in Art & Design with Distinction/Merit
and:
- a portfolio (eg sketches, freehand/technical drawings, life drawings, 3D models, paintings, photographs) and normally an interview.



AN INTERVIEW WITH CHANTELLE HOLT

Studying Architecture BA (Hons)



Before you came to Brookes what did you study and where?

A-levels in Art, English, Psychology, Performance Studies, and Information and Communication Technology at Thomas Telford School of Technology.

What made you choose Brookes as a place to study?

The Academic Achievement Bursary and a great architectural reputation. The creative disposition of the course.

What do you think of the course now you're here?

Fantastic. The University is full of opportunities and challenges for those daring enough to seek them. The School of Architecture is exciting and forward thinking. The community in the studio is joyful and full of energy.

What are your plans for when you've completed your course, for work or further study?

Complete a placement year at a London practice and continue my architectural education.

What are the best bits of studying at Brookes?

The option of taking Independent Study modules. Last semester an independent study in architecture of film inspired me to apply for undergraduate research funding as part of a scheme set up at the Reinvention Centre for Undergraduate Research, in the School of Architecture. My entry was successful and awarded £2,000 to complete further research.

What advice do you have for others?

Be sure to take full advantage of the societies and communities at Brookes University. Joining the Brookes TV society, run from the media school, gave me an opportunity to flex my filming fingers by creating a piece for a local TV station. Conversely, if there is nothing that grabs your interest, take advantage of the enthusiastic student body and start up your own society. This year I was part of small group that set up an independent student newspaper. A whirlwind ride through fundraising, creating and designing, aided by Brookes' friendly staff and top notch facilities. Brookes is blooming with opportunities.

For more student profiles visit:

<http://architecture.brookes.ac.uk/media/profiles.html>



INTERIOR ARCHITECTURE BA (HONS)

Interior Architecture is an exciting new discipline and one of the best established programmes in the country. Interior Architecture at Oxford Brookes University is among the founding members of IE/Interior Educators – the UK’s leading association of academic excellence in this field of research.

The programme is taught within the School of Architecture (part of the Faculty of Technology, Design and environment) but the design and product design technology components are specific to interiors. You will be taught in purpose-designed studios by a dedicated team of staff in conjunction with visiting critics and lecturers from the world of practice. As a relatively new field we are looking to define the role and scope of interior architecture, experimenting with the available knowledge and where possible expanding it.

As a programme we believe that interior architecture cannot be seen as the creation of a series of ‘still lives’, but rather it gains meaning and significance through its occupation and use. This shift of focus from the ‘object’ of the architecture to the ‘subject’ of the occupant places a new emphasis on position, time, view and reaction that the project induces. It also questions conventional methods of representation.

As an Interior Architecture student, you will be expected to work in a group and individually, to express yourself using a variety of media, both digital and material, to develop and build a series of prototype details and to carry out a sustained level of research which develops into design propositions. Other elements of the programme such as history and theory, digital culture and preparation for practice draw on the expertise of the School of Architecture, giving you the opportunity to meet and discuss with students from the architecture programmes. These links will ensure you are part of the intensely vibrant and forward-thinking undergraduate programme.

The real strength of the School is the energy and enthusiasm of both the students and staff. This is maintained in a friendly but questioning atmosphere.

Accreditation

This is a professionally oriented programme that takes three academic years (six semesters) full-time to complete. A part-time route is also available. The programme offers a BA Hons in Interior Architecture (please note that it does not offer RIBA Part 1 in Architecture).

International links

Interior Architecture supports an active international student exchange programme. In recent years we have welcomed students from Paris, Rome and the Bauhaus at Weimar and we are planning a series of international links with compatible programmes abroad. To encourage the understanding of different cultures and practice of architecture and interior design, each year we offer a one-week field trip to an international city.

After you graduate

Students from the course have gone on to a variety of career paths, mainly into architectural or interior design practices. However we have also had graduates going into production design, stage design, event management and architectural journalism. Several students have chosen to continue their studies with master’s programmes or postgraduate programmes, including diploma in Architecture.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

GCSE Mathematics and English; and a physical science at grade C or above.

Recruitment is based on a portfolio submitted in one of three ways: interview, group assessment or USB/CD submission. Please see the portfolio guidance section for more about preparing a portfolio.

Please also see the University’s general entry requirements and standard English language requirements.

TYPICAL OFFERS

- 3 A-levels grades ABB, or equivalent from 2 A-levels plus 2 AS-levels (we strongly recommend that one of the subjects is Art or Design or Design and Technology)
- equivalent grades in vocational A-levels
- International Baccalaureate 32 points minimum
- Advanced Diploma at grade B, including A-level at grade A
- Foundation Course in Art & Design with Merit/Pass
and:
- a portfolio (eg sketches, freehand/technical drawings, life drawings, 3D models, paintings, photographs) and normally an interview.

COURSE CONTENT

YEAR 1 MODULES

- Introduction to Architectural Design 1
- Introduction to Architectural Design 2
- Architectural Representation
- Introductory Technology
- Architecture and Society
- Introduction to Architectural History and Theory

YEARS 2 MODULES

- Interior Architecture 1
- Interior Architecture 2
- Digital Culture
- Architectural Technology and Precedent
- Cities, Culture and Society
- Issues in Architectural History and Theory

YEARS 3 MODULES

- Design Practice
- Interior Practice 3
- Digital Culture
- Product Design
- Management, Practice and Law
- Dissertation

Acceptable modules

- Independent Study

Year 1

The first year is a shared studio-based year which is run jointly with first year students of Architecture. Design is taught through the formulation of architecture and interior design proposals, using conceptual and realistic projects, which will develop your critical perception and improve your communication techniques both graphically and verbally. This part of the programme aims to bring all students to a shared level of knowledge, understanding and skill in design.

Year 2

The second year of the course focuses on the development of a personal design approach and its application to interior architecture, and the development of a

critical approach to the histories and theories of spatial design. Projects will focus on the design of new public space and private interior space, and the re-use of existing building fabric.

Year 3

The third year of the course is designed to prepare you for practice by providing a realistic working scenario in which the students are able to have regular meetings with 'clients', experts and technical staff to draw inspiration and operative knowledge. In the second semester you will complete your final comprehensive design project and a dissertation on a subject of your choice.



INTERIOR ARCHITECTURE

WHAT'S BEEN SAID...



The range of teaching and learning techniques was laudable, with ample opportunity for both group interchange and development of individual skills. There was some very sophisticated spatial work being carried out by the first year students. The second year work was both exciting and intriguing in its ambition and its realisation. The new practice project in the third year was especially successful. The teaching team, still as enthusiastic and committed, should be commended on the emerging high quality of work across the three years of the course.

Angie Pascoe (London Metropolitan University)
External Examiner



For more student profiles visit:

<http://architecture.brookes.ac.uk/media/profiles.html>

PORTFOLIO GUIDANCE

Guidance Notes for Architecture (K100) and Interior Architecture (W250) Applications Assessment by Interview and/or Portfolio Assessment Day

The portfolio is an opportunity to demonstrate a sense of you as a visually creative person. We are eager to see a wide range in your creative ability. At Oxford Brookes University we value this and only consider students who have provided a portfolio. Therefore it is important your portfolio is as diverse as possible. Do not underestimate this competitive process and we ask for a portfolio that contains work illustrating your creativity rather than your technical ability.

Suggestions are as follows:

Two dimensional

- A mix of media, e.g.
- Free-hand drawing
- Observational drawing (sketches and drawings from reality not photographs)

- Sketch books (sketches from trips abroad and project ideas, etc)
- Life drawing (pencil, charcoal, etc)
- Collages/Montages/Mixed Media
- Work experience drawings
- Finished artworks

Three dimensional

- Scale models
- Material experimentation/sculpture
- Spatial installations
- Work experience models

Other

- Films
- Music
- Photography
- Website design
- Creative hobbies – textiles, metalwork, etc
- Precedent studies (research on artists and architects you find interesting)

Presenting your work

We would expect to see at least 15–20 pieces of work as a minimum. Feel free to include any kind of work you have done and we suggest a mix of both A-level and other personal work (non-A-level). The portfolio should be legible and in order.

We do not expect everyone to have everything – this is NOT a tick box exercise. However we are keen to see your point of view. What kind of architectures you find exciting. Show your passions, commitment and ambition as an individual to creative endeavour. Architecture is a challenging subject so show initiative. Surprise us.

We understand that some of your work may either have been submitted for A-level examinations or be too large for you to bring, in which case we ask for clear and focused photographs.



CONTACT INFORMATION

Undergraduate applications

For advice about undergraduate applications contact:
query@brookes.ac.uk
+44 (0) 1865 484848

International applications

For more information about applying as an International Student please visit:
www.brookes.ac.uk/international

More information

For more information about the School visit:
www.architecture.brookes.ac.uk

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School of Architecture

Oxford Brookes University
Headington Campus
Gipsy Lane
Oxford, UK
OX3 0BP

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