



# ARCHITECTURE



UCT  
school of  
architecture,  
planning &  
geomatics

[apg.uct.ac.za](http://apg.uct.ac.za)

# Bachelor of Architectural Studies

We value education, learning and knowledge; imagination & creativity; open-mindedness and diversity; perceptiveness & perseverance.

At UCT, the Bachelor of Architectural Studies undergraduate degree (BAS) is a foundation programme in the design of buildings and the urban and landscape environments around them.

This professionally accredited degree provides the necessary ability in design, theory, technology and communication to proceed to a wide range of graduate professional programmes in Architecture, Landscape Architecture, Urban Design, and City and Regional Planning.

The studio-based model of the curriculum is underpinned by the objective to produce internationally competitive graduates with a capacity for critical engagement with context and change. The BAS programme welcomes qualifying students from different backgrounds and nationalities. This academically stimulating diversity remains on an upward trajectory as the UCT BAS programme strives to maintain its position as one of the leading design schools in the continent.



The degree has stature in its own right for entry into the job market in architectural and other design and planning offices, interior design, landscape architecture, property development and in the building industry and can lead to professional registration as a senior architectural technician.

In the introductory year the programme involves familiarisation with precedent, elementary design exercises and later the design of more sophisticated places, sites, buildings and complexes. Other major areas of study are building technology

(construction, environmental control, structures, etc.), representation (manual and digital), communication (written and verbal) and history and theory of architecture and related disciplines.

Studio programmes absorb half of student time and energy, and many support courses or projects are closely linked. All students are given a work space in their Design studios, where they are required to work during classes, and may elect to work after-hours. All students must provide their own books and drawing equipment. Students

should be prepared to have to purchase approximately R5000 worth of drawing equipment, materials and printing in the first year. Students in following years should budget for approximately R6500 per year for plan prints, photocopying, graphic and other materials.

For inquiries on how to apply, contact the School on 021 650 3705 and check the website: [www.apg.uct.ac.za](http://www.apg.uct.ac.za)

Your application package must include: your grades, a written motivation and a portfolio of work.

# Architects:



- design buildings
- design spaces inside and outside of buildings
- design parts of cities, neighbourhoods, small towns, human settlements, parks, public places, etc.
- design interiors  
practice graphic design
- design furniture/crockery/cutlery
- manage projects
- are required to work in the interests of the client and society at large
- are able to envision a more positive future
- are OPTIMISTIC
- are able to solve problems creatively
- are able to bring together a range of disparate factors to provide a singular solution



student work in  
the architecture  
programmes at  
the School





Typical teaching and learning scenarios: Lecturers discussing students work with them. Work in the studio spaces.

Field trips to small towns around the Western Cape, and Architectural tours of the country and continent are also part of the Architectural student's experience.

Many of the projects set for students are on real sites around the city. Organized site visits are part of this process.



# Teaching and learning



Pin-up presentations, with immediate and individual feedback and discussions are an everyday part of the student experience

The BAS is a professional degree leading to registration with the South African Council for the Architectural Profession as a 'Senior Architectural Technologist'

The BAS is a foundation degree leading to application for Honours degrees in Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Planning (applications to these is by portfolio and good undergrad academic results). The BAS is a good foundation course for future application to the Master of Urban Design on completion of a design-based Honours degree.

Design and Theory Studio is the basis of the course

along with Technology which is the second core course. Other support subjects such as History and Theory of Architecture, Representation, Structures, Environment & Services, Management Practice and Law

The BAS is an intensive course requiring lots of dedication, time and input;

it is a popular course - we THEREFORE recommend you apply to lots of universities and universities of technology Most teaching occurs through discussion and one on one teaching.

Students are required to produce drawings and models throughout the course; Students learn how to present their ideas and proposals verbally AND visually;

Design projects include:

Buildings

Urban Design

Landscape designs / interventions

Conceptual projects

Furniture

Competitions

# The BAS leads to other degrees in the School



## **Bachelor**

Bachelor of  
Architectural Studies

## **Honours**

BAS Honours  
Bachelor of Arch  
Studies Hons

BCP Honours  
Bachelor of City  
Planning Hons

BLA Honours  
Bachelor of  
Landscape Arch Hons

## **Masters**

MArch Prof  
Master of Architecture  
(Professional)

MArch  
Master of Architecture  
(Research)

MCRP  
Master of City and  
Regional Planning

MLA  
Master of Landscape  
Architecture

MUD  
Master of Urban  
Design

MPhil  
Master of Philosophy  
in Architecture

MPhil CBE  
Conservation of the  
Built Environment

## **PhD**

PhD  
Doctor of Philosophy

# Life in the programme



Group projects are one of the ways student learn to put ideas together. The crafting of Architecture, and the making of things is part of this process too.



Multi-modal learning: Students build models, make sculptures, build furniture, make drawings and work between modes of presentation.





Teaching with discussion is an integral part of the process in the Design Studio.

Most teaching and learning happens in the STUDIOS where each student has a workspace.

Students regularly work late into the night in the Studios.

The studio pedagogy is incremental to the way we teach Architecture and allows for a dynamic interactive learning experience.



# Life in Centlivres



This School is a venue for public events, that attract students and public from both within and outside campus



The "archi-building", or as it is officially known, Centlivres, sits at the south end of University Avenue on Upper Campus



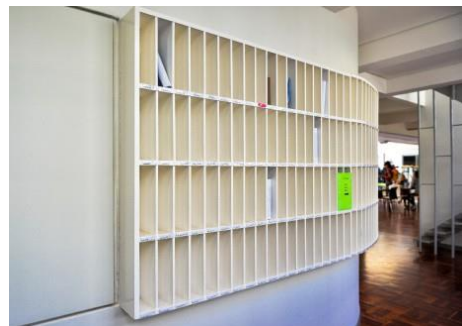


The “archi-building” is privileged to have its own library: the Built-Environment Library



Students make regular use of the Workshop

Students are not just numbers here. Each student has their own mailbox and everyone knows one another



# BAS

## How to apply

SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS will have been selected on TWO things:

1. The submitted and evaluated portfolio which includes drawing work, creative exercises and a written motivation.
2. Academic results

The evaluation of the BAS application is made up 100% of both the academic results and the portfolio evaluation. Both are equally important for the application evaluation process. Applications submitted without the portfolio will be considered incomplete and will therefore not be evaluated.

Applicants are required to complete the NBTs

Applicants are ranked, the highest ranking applicants are successful.

*The cohort is representative of students from diverse backgrounds and cultures with a passion for Architecture.*

As the portfolio counts for 50% of the application grade it is VERY important. Applicants who apply without submitting a portfolio are not considered. BAS portfolio requirements can be found:

<https://ebe.uct.ac.za/sites/default/files/media/documents/bas-portfolio-2026.pdf>

Many successful applicants have in the past never done art formally.

SUMMARY OF PORTFOLIO REQUIREMENTS:

- A written motivation
- Two drawing exercises
- Four design exercises
- Supplementary work (optional)
- Rough work / "brainstorming" / design process drawings (well presented and organized)
- Your latest school or tertiary institution grades
- the link to the BAS Application Form" can be found here <https://ebe.uct.ac.za/apply-ebe/apply>

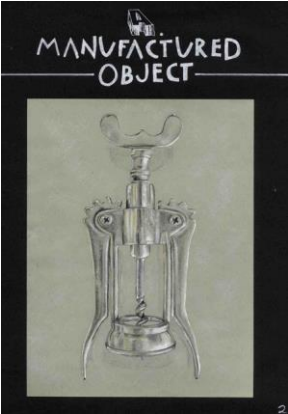


# Portfolio Requirements



## A. DRAWING

1. Choose a manufactured object: e.g. an object of any size and in any condition (new or in a state of decay). Draw the object as you see it. **DO NOT DRAW THE OBJECT FROM A PHOTOGRAPH.** Make an effort to show the special quality of the object, e.g. its roughness or its smooth softness, manufactured property, etc. You can use any technique to draw it. Use A4 paper (210 x 297mm – the size of this sheet).



Examples of drawings of a manufactured objects drawn by a successful applicant to the BAS Programme.

ALWAYS Include some of your preliminary work with each exercise, such as in the example above.

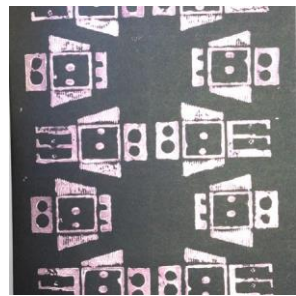
## B. DESIGN

2. Draw a portrait of an elderly person in his or her favourite place – this should be a real person that you know, and a real place. Use any drawing technique and A4 size paper. Again, draw by direct observation – NOT FROM A PHOTOGRAPH. The portrait may extend to the whole body of the person you are drawing (not just the face). DO NOT NEGLECT THE CONTEXT – you are being asked to draw a person, and a place.

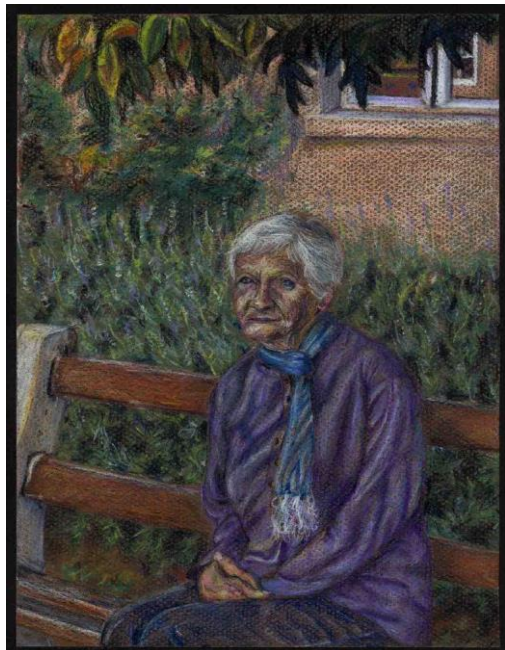
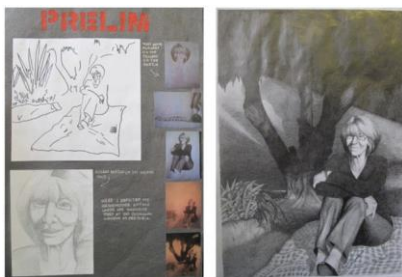


3. Make a design for a pattern, which could be used - for example – in the printing of fabric. The pattern should be based on the repetition or manipulation of the manufactured object you selected for drawing exercise A1. Use A4 paper and any technique.

Examples of patterns generated from the drawings of the manufactured objects drawn by the applicant who drew the corkscrew as her object, and the applicant who drew the sharpener (shown earlier). Please note the abstraction of the objects into lines and shapes, and then the designed way in which they're put together to make a totally new pattern.

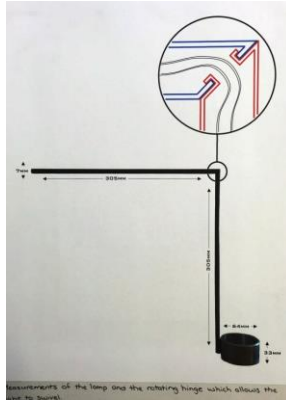


Right and Below: Examples of the "Portraits of an Elderly person in their favourite place" drawn by successful applicants to the BAS Programme (showing preliminary work as well).

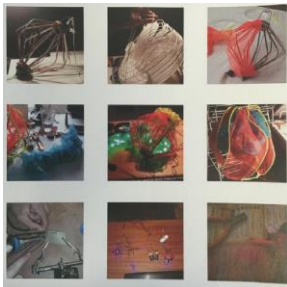
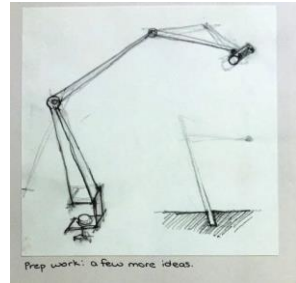


## B. DESIGN

4. Design and make a freestanding light/lamp. Think about the effect of your lamp/light in creating light and shadow. Explain your thought processes about light and shadow and what inspired the light. Include photographs of you in the process of designing and making the lamp. Include photographs of the finished product illustrating the light/lamp when it is lit up. Include all your rough work and design drawings illustrating the light/lamp when it is lit up. Include all your rough work and design drawings.



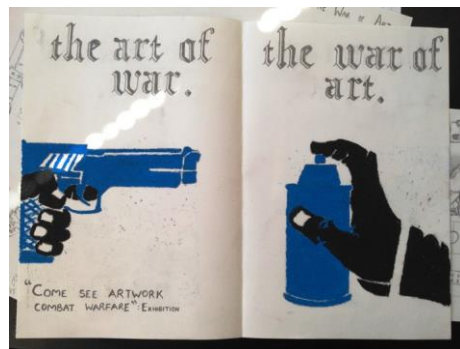
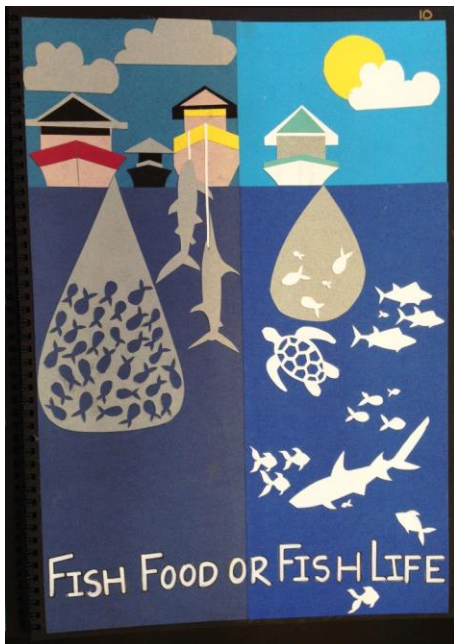
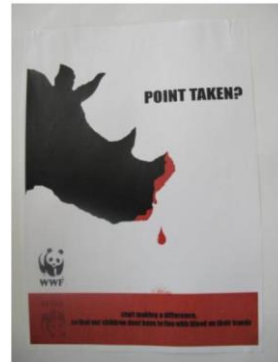
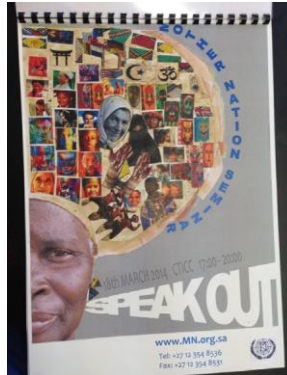
Example of a Lamp showing the drawings and the final made object.



Example of a light design, including rough sketches, pictures of the process of making it, and the final product.

## B. DESIGN

5. Design a poster advertising a significant event, exhibition or conference that reflects what you consider socially relevant. Carefully judge the information that needs to be communicated as well as the desired visual impact that you want to achieve. The poster must be on A3 paper (twice the size of this sheet - 420 x 297mm) and may be folded in half when sent in the post. Use any technique.



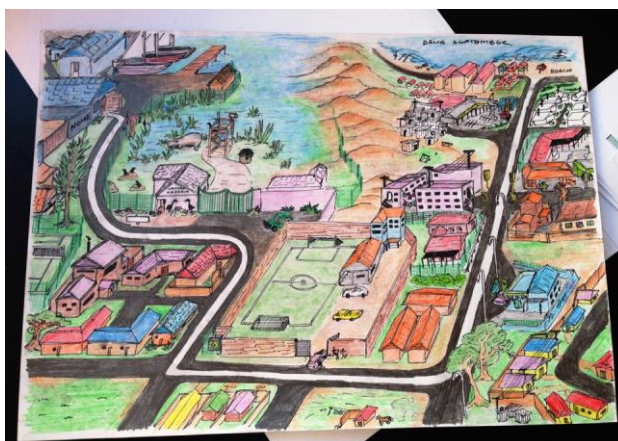
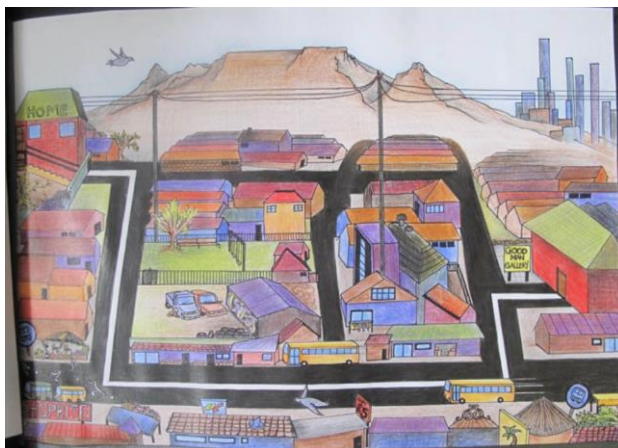
Some examples of posters drawn by a successful applicants to the programme.

## B. DESIGN

6. Using drawings only (i.e. no words) and any graphic technique you like, draw for a friend how to go on a journey from your house to your favourite local place. Use one sheet of A4 paper for this.

### PLEASE NOTE:

*We are not asking for a map, or for directions. This exercise is about 2 things: showing us how keenly observant you are of the world around you; how imaginative you are about representing that environment. It is about representing an understanding of space. Please avoid using symbols (eg. MacDonalds or KFC), please avoid arrows, and please try to show more than just roads. The cities and towns we live in are made up of many interesting things: buildings, trees, mountains, the sea, people, markets, shops, houses, etc.*



Examples of drawings of a manufactured objects drawn by successful applicants to the BAS Programme.

# Submission

7. Include a **one page** written motivation in your portfolio giving your reasons for wanting to study in this programme.

## SUPPLEMENTARY WORK

You may also submit copies or photographs of any other creative work such as drawings, sketches, paintings, or made objects (e.g. ceramics, clothing, carpentry, jewellery, wirework, beadwork, etc.). Please do not submit copies of more than six such items. Do not submit any physical objects or bulky framed artwork.

## PLEASE NOTE

No physical work or items to be submitted – only digital files  
The size of portfolio should NOT exceed A3 (420 x 297mm).

Make sure that all items of your portfolio are clearly marked with your full name.  
While the selection committee takes every care review the electronic files, the University cannot be held responsible in any way for loss or damage to the files received.

FOR MORE INFORMATION  
PLEASE CONSULT THE  
FOLLOWING WEBSITES:

Applicants can apply online at  
<http://applyonline.uct.ac.za>

<https://ebe.uct.ac.za/apply-ebe/entrance-requirements>

<https://ebe.uct.ac.za/school-appg/bachelor-architectural-studies>

<https://ebe.uct.ac.za/departments-departmental-overview/architecture-and-planning>

<https://uct.ac.za/students/prospective-students/undergraduate-prospectus>

PLEASE NOTE ALL PORTFOLIOS MUST BE SUBMITTED DIGITALLY BY **31 JULY** TO:

[bas.portfolios@uct.ac.za](mailto:bas.portfolios@uct.ac.za)

or via WeTransfer if the file is too big for email: <https://wetransfer.com>

For further queries please call the BAS Administrator: Janine Tobin at the School of Architecture, Planning & Geomatics, 021 650 3705 email: [Janine.tobin@uct.ac.za](mailto:Janine.tobin@uct.ac.za)

# Selection



Selection process:

- a committee of 3 Lecturers portfolios are graded out of 50 and added to NSC results

- early offers are made based on preliminary matric results provided that matric scores are at the same level or higher

- early offers are made as soon as possible

- where there is equivalency, the committee will attempt to make selections based on establishing a diverse class which is essential to a rich studio learning experience for all

- the committee takes into account all post-secondary school activities and education, as long as it is clearly stated in the portfolio.

What the selection panel looks for:

## • **Motivation:**

This can be seen in the way in which you present your work as a whole, the degree of effort shown in the projects requested by the School - as well as in your written motivation.

## • **Design ability:**

Each piece of work is examined for its designed quality. Note that people with little experience in art or design are admitted where their work provides evidence of good observation, three dimensional awareness and careful consideration of the presentation of the portfolio, with good, hand-drawn lettering, careful paper selection, and careful organisation of the pages.

## • **Creative ability:**

This is an important factor. However, note that expertise in technical drawing or "painterly" ability alone is not highly considered. A sense of design or composition, an

ability to observe accurately, an imaginative approach to subject matter, the stamina not to leave loose ends - these are all looked for in the work.

## • **Academic ability:**

Strong portfolios often show work that is motivated by strong and original ideas. This is more relevant to some of the portfolio tasks than others.

## • **Initiative:**

What often separates some applicants from others is an indication of people exploring or recording something for themselves, working because they are interested - not because they have to. This means that sketch explorations are as useful as finished works. Although supplementary work from school art or Technikon courses is often received, evidence of this independent initiative does not necessarily lie there.

