

Note: if you have a question please ensure you have read this document thoroughly before emailing or calling!!

Interview

The admissions process to the Caribbean School of Architecture is virtually the same for all applicants (e.g., high school students (CXC/CAPE), college/university students, mature students, etc.) with one difference between local and overseas applicants. Based on the number of applicants that applied and the quality of applicants, a selected number of local persons are invited to an interview with the admissions committee. Due to obvious reasons such as time and distance, overseas applicants are not interviewed in person but may be interviewed via zoom meetings. Evaluation therefore focuses on a portfolio of CREATIVE WORK. As one of the selected overseas applicants you are required to submit a portfolio of your best creative works shortly after submitting an application and along with a personal statement and any letters of recommendation.

Why do I need a portfolio?

A creative portfolio is necessary as this allows the management of the school to assess your creative potential and demonstrate an ability learn the visual language of architecture. One's ability to draw is important but not exclusive as a student's ability to express themselves creatively, think critically and demonstrate an awareness of the field which allows the most capable students to be identified. The portfolio is especially necessary as the demand for the course is high.

What should my portfolio contain?

The CSA recommends the applicant should send a minimum of 10 pieces of the applicant's best creative (and to a less extent - technical work). You can include anything you feel best represents your creativity

Listed below is a wide variety (not limited to) as well as a guide of the number of pieces to send.

1. Various kinds of free hand drawings (showing a variety of subjects: buildings, landscapes, found objects, designed objects, imagined objects, people etc.). These can be exploratory studies and/or finished work.
 2. Work done for visual arts courses (painting, printmaking, design and sculpture) in school. Photographs or coloured copies are acceptable. These can be exploratory studies and/or finished work.
 3. Other creative pieces of work done (creative writing eg. poetry, prose, articles etc.). No more than three pieces.
 4. If you are a photographer, examples of your photographic work of various subjects of your choice, showing a particular interest in the creative possibilities of the photographic medium would be welcomed inclusions in your portfolio. No more than four pieces.
 5. Photographs of three-dimensional work (e.g. sculpture, furniture, ceramics, craftwork, models etc.) (Note: due to short notice, one (1) three-dimensional piece can be carried in lieu of a photo.). No more than three pieces.
 6. Technical Drawings of a high quality (including architectural, mechanical and electrical drawings). No more than two pieces.
 7. Do not send AutoCAD drawings as part of your portfolio. This will not be accepted.
- Your portfolio may be of a format 8.5" x 11" or 11"x 17". It may be bound or pages secured in a case or portfolio. Work should be of a size that is easily examined without the aid of any instrument. Each item in your portfolio should be accompanied by the applicants' name and a brief description of the work shown.

8. Animations or videos/ short films, and 3D Visualizations can also be included as a selection of still images or if there is time during the interview, it may be presented.

The admissions panel would like to see original images where possible, but understands if reproductions have to be shown due to access, size or weight constraints. If reproductions are shown, please ensure that they are high quality digital scans or photographs, printed using a high quality ink-jet printer or photographic prints.

It is recommended that students take pictures of their works before submitting them to the CXC or Cape for examination.

Rolled up drawings are discouraged. CDs or DVDs or media with digital content are not accepted. Please note that the school is not obliged to return work but if the applicant provides a self-addressed envelope and a means of funding the return, the school would be happy to facilitate the return of the portfolio. We try not to keep portfolios from year to year.

All portfolios are to be presented at the interview. However, a student may email a copy of their portfolio as an additional item to their application form. The portfolio must not exceed 10mb. The submission of this digital portfolio does not exclude students from presenting their works in the interview as the interviews are a crucial part of the process.