

MSA | BA1



INDUCTION
BOOKLET 2021

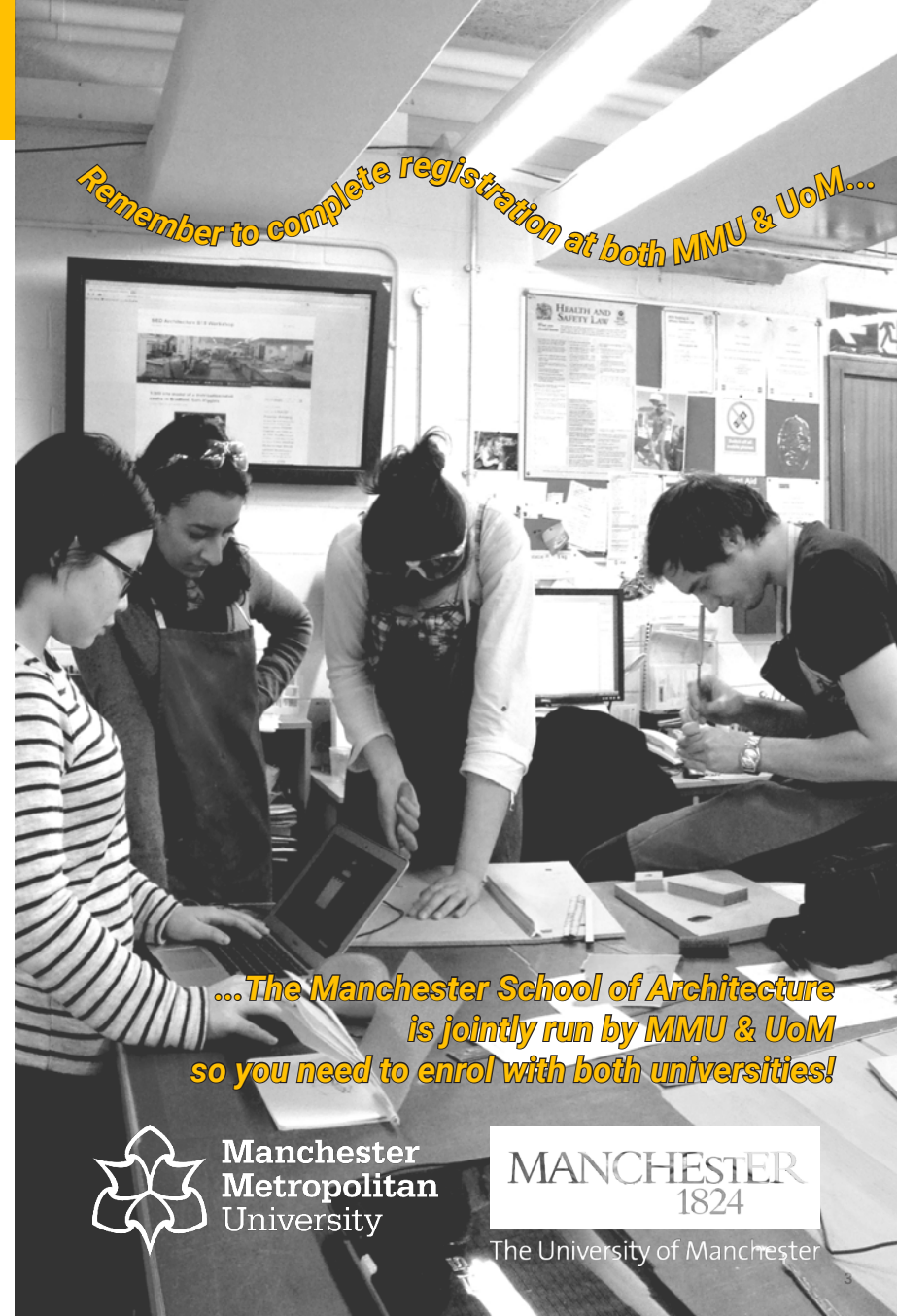
WELCOME

Welcome to the Manchester School of Architecture. Your next three years with us are going to be incredibly exciting but you'll probably find that architecture school is a very different learning environment - don't worry, we've got an amazing staff team who will help you make the transition and in no time it will feel like home. Our School is characterised by excellence, ambition, boldness, inquisitiveness, innovation, and social responsibility and we take imagination very seriously! We are a contemporary school of architecture in its truest and widest sense. We strive to be at the forefront, tackling contemporary societal issues such as diversity and equality, climate change, and the changing nature of the profession and practice and it is our student body that help us to constantly challenge and push boundaries. I look forward to working with you.

Prof. Kevin Singh | Head of Manchester School of Architecture

This is the most exciting time in a generation to study architecture and Manchester is about the most interesting place you could be - in the thick of it. The teachers you will work with are engaged in live projects and investigating new and alternative futures through their research. We teach architecture in a way that puts you at the centre of your education. Through interconnected Studio, Humanities and Technologies teaching we ask you to discover what kind of creative Architect you want to be, to investigate the matters that you are concerned with and develop your expertise. We are looking forward to seeing what you do and become.

Dr. José Hidalgo | BA(Hons) Programme Leader



Remember to complete registration at both MMU & UoM...

*...The Manchester School of Architecture
is jointly run by MMU & UoM
so you need to enrol with both universities!*



Manchester
Metropolitan
University

MANCHESTER
1824

The University of Manchester

WELCOME

First year at Manchester School of Architecture is focussed on understanding and developing your character, skill, aptitude, and passion as an individual, as part of a vibrant, diverse and inquisitive cohort. We ask you to bring your existing knowledge and be open to experimenting and doing activities to unlock a new understanding of architecture. Your time will be spent making, drawing, thinking and recording in a number of teaching sessions which will ask you to question the context of the space around you.

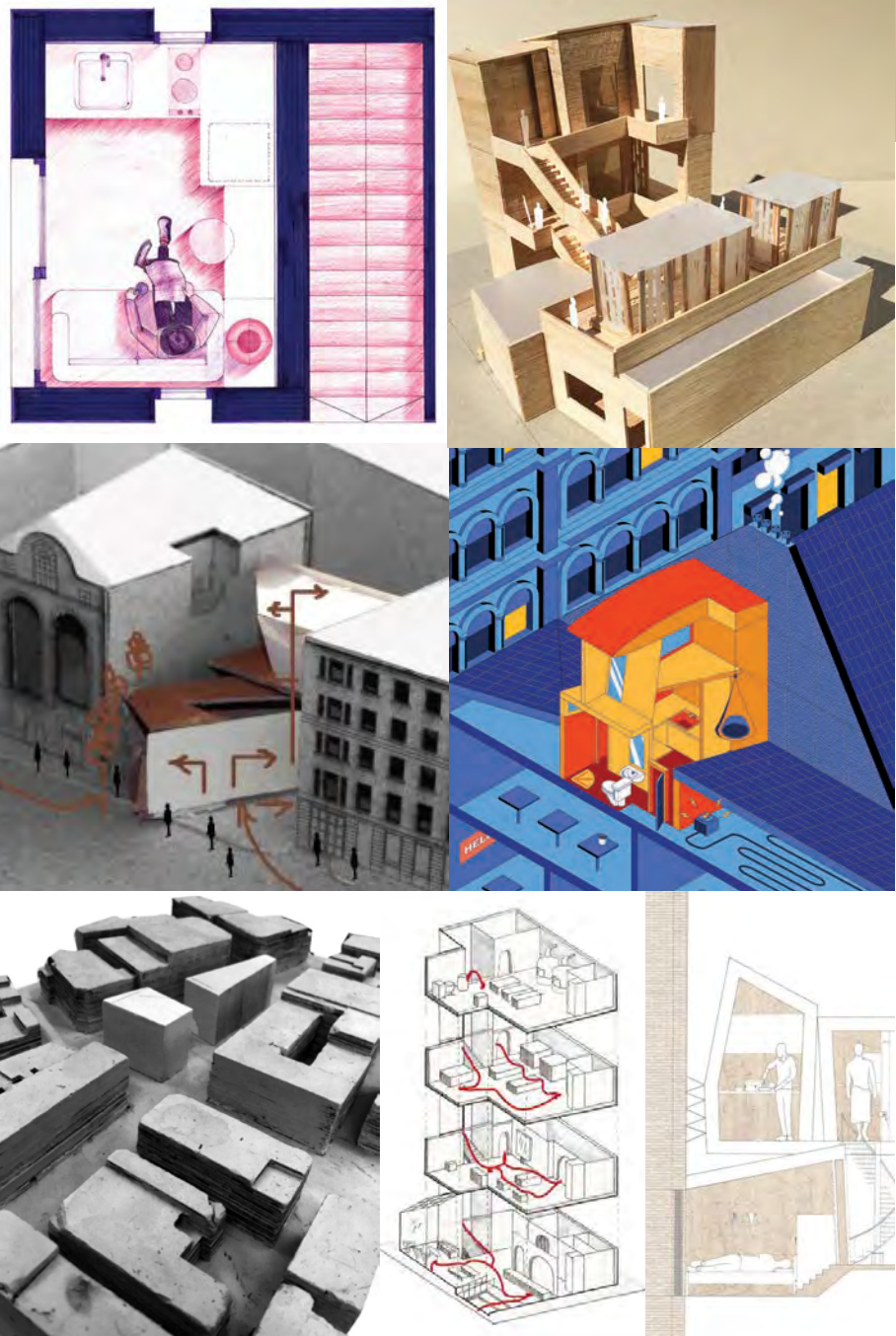
We understand that the experience of going to university has changed over the past year, but we have the resources to respond to changing situations and guidelines very quickly.

We recommend that you carry a small sketchbook with you at all times to sketch and diagram as you begin to notice the details, the artefacts and the inhabitants of our cities. It is important to understand that you already have a vast resource of skills and knowledge within yourselves. The environment of the studio should be seen as one in which individual investigations and debate are as important as 'being taught'. You will learn to use a variety of creative techniques over the year and to push the boundary of what you think constitutes architectural knowledge.

Most importantly, you should never be afraid to take risks and to go beyond what you think is 'required'. Be prepared to work hard and to be challenged on your designs in studio sessions by working in ways which you might not understand at first. Do not be scared to think differently and to make a few mistakes along the way.

Everyone remembers their first year at Architecture School, and this is going to be one to remember! It is the most exciting, most free and most creative educational space our discipline has, so make sure you take this opportunity with confidence and enthusiasm!

Here are some examples of work from last year to help inspire you...



STUDIO



Amy Hanley | BA1 Year Leader

a.hanley@mmu.ac.uk

Studio is where you will learn how to test and experiment with form, debate ideas and present your own unique proposals. We will challenge your existing knowledge of space and how space is created. Projects begin from a variety of starting points and increase in scale over the year. Through this unit you will become independent designers capable of developing complex briefs and beautiful ideas.

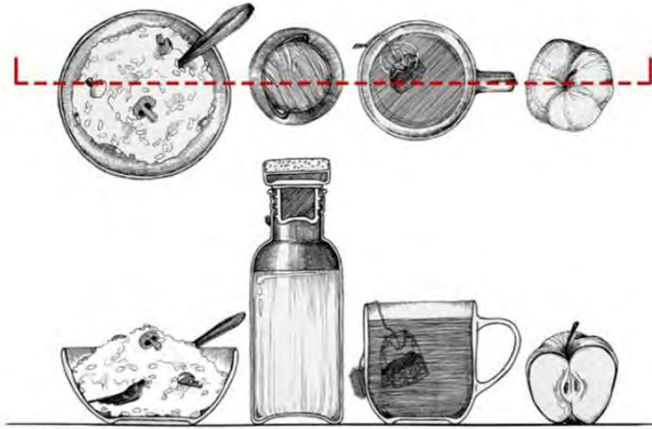
The starting point for your first studio project will require you to consider how movement might be visualised and manifest spatially. Through the design of a space for dance, the idea of considering the specific qualities of a space will be introduced, so you might want to start thinking about how you could best represent your ideas visually. The next project considers a compact home and the final one considers space for manufacturing.

Over the summer think about your own home, and how you live, think about the activities and how much (or how little) space they require. Start by measuring yourself, and try to draw people doing different daily activities. We have provided some links to some free books on the reading page of this booklet to help get you inspired, so have a look at those!

First Year Motto: Remember that Architecture is a doing word!



HUMANITIES



Humanities at MSA will help you to develop your understanding of the social, cultural, historical and theoretical aspects of Architecture and we begin to do this through a deeper understanding of drawing. Firstly, we'll be discussing why you should draw as much as considering its history and practicalities. Our position is that architects think through drawing, so we're challenging you to understand the spatial knowledge possible through plans, sections, elevations and perspectives.

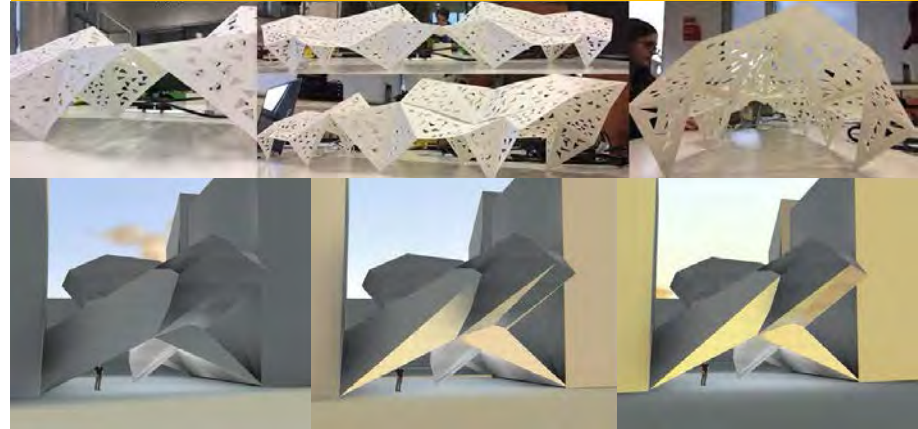
We then discuss architectural history more directly as a history of ideas. Each lecture will be a survey of a theme: healthcare, power, class, for example. The aim is to equip you with the skills to conduct your own research as well as to discuss key ideas and examples with each lecture.

Over the summer, keep a sketchbook. Don't just draw perspectives, draw sketched plans and elevations as well (a notebook with a grid can help a lot here). Learning to look is an essential part of architecture, and drawing in a sketchbook helps you to see. Whilst you draw, think about when the building was made and why: has it been adapted, and why does it take the form that it does? Why don't we build like this now? Every building represents the philosophy and culture of its time and place in some way: there's no such thing as a building that's too boring to think about!

Dr Ray Lucas
Humanities Leader



TECHNOLOGIES



"You can't better the world by simply talking to it. Philosophy, to be effective, must be mechanically applied." Buckminster Fuller.

"Technology is the answer; but what was the question?" Cedric Price.

The Technologies unit asks you to question the experiential and instrumental performance of a building by examining materiality, buildability, technology, sustainability and detail. Through a series of lectures and case studies the course allows you to analyse architecture starting with the following time honoured criteria set by Vitruvius of 'Firmitas, Utilitas, Venustas' [Firmness, Commodity and Delight] :

Firmness // Is the building safe, stable and durable?

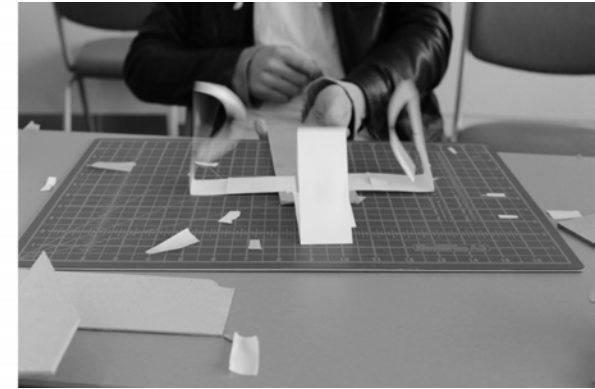
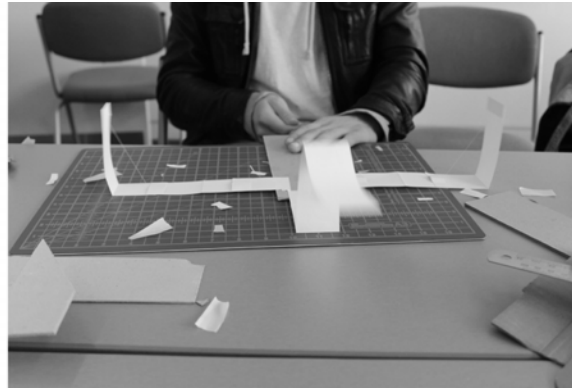
Commodity // Does it accommodate its programme comfortably?

Delight // Is the experience of the building delightful?

Get inspired over the summer by drawing a portal frame, finding out the compressive strength of a standard brick, making a simple model of a frame, designing a tall tower to support a tennis ball with one sheet of paper, finding three types of bridge, drawing a staircase in section and finding a structural fault in a building.

Matt Ault
Technologies Leader



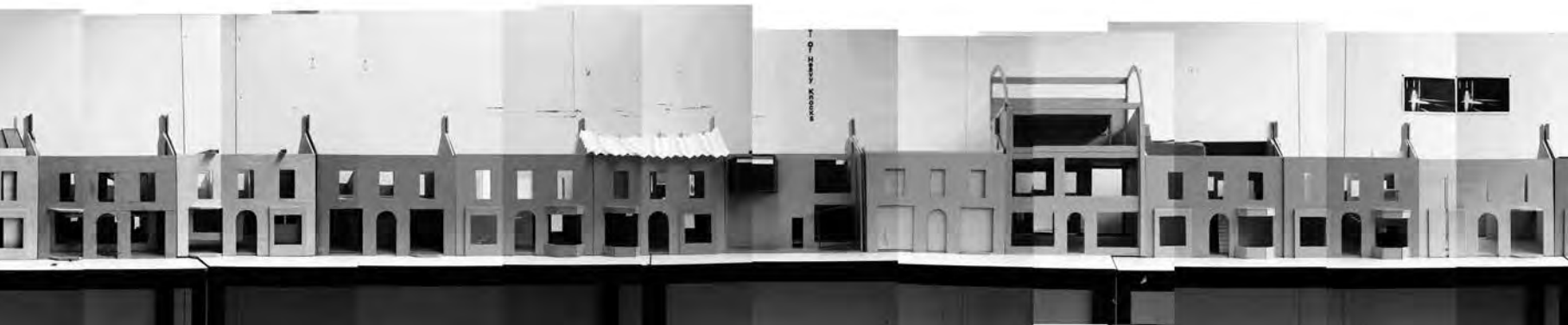


Each week is supplemented by a SKILLS workshop session. These sessions are designed to allow you to progress the many skills required to meet the course deadlines and align with Studio, Humanities and Technologies outputs which require rudimentary knowledge and skills that underpin the discipline.

Get inspired over the summer by simply looking at drawings that inspire you and working out how you think they were drawn by experimenting with techniques and recording them in an experimental sketchbook. Some of our favourites can be found at <http://drawingarchitecture.tumblr.com>.

After Easter each year students work with key collaborators in the city in an intensive MSA LIVE programme which tackles social agendas through exhibitions, installations, built projects, workshops, charrettes, processions and protests. Over the years this programme has seen students working with real clients doing anything from bricklaying to creating digital environments.

Get inspired over the summer by reading through the blog of MSA LIVE 2021 which can be found at <http://live.msa.ac.uk/2021/>. You can also get involved in architectural events where you live from exhibitions to volunteering for community building projects.



TYPICAL WEEK

First year in architecture provides a range of different learning experiences and we plan the timetable carefully to ensure you can manage the work and your time effectively. This typical weekly structure gives you some idea of how you will spend your time at architecture school in BA1:

This weekly structure gives you a suggestion of how to plan your time at university.

You will be provided with much more detail about delivery during induction week and via Moodle (our online intranet where all course material is stored - you will get access once you register and enrol at MMU).

Monday is dedicated to STUDIO Teaching. You will meet with your tutor and studio group in the Chatham Studios. On Tuesdays there is an optional online drop-in with year leaders for extra support with any of your coursework or to discuss any pastoral issues.

Wednesday mornings will be dedicated to SKILLS delivery, which usually consists of a lecture followed by a workshop type activity. **Wednesday afternoons** have no formal teaching or delivery as we want to encourage you to attend extra-curricular activity such as a sports or social groups. **Thursday** is dedicated to Humanities and Technologies lectures and learning activities such as building tours, seminars or discussions.

Tuesday and **Friday** are self-directed days (there is no scheduled delivery of classes or lectures). On the timetable shown here, we suggest that you dedicate one of those days to working on Humanities coursework - for example reading, finding references, carrying out an English writing course etc. And the other dedicated to Technologies coursework - including the weekly tasks of your case file.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<div>STUDIO</div> <div>e.g. group activities, tutorials, presentations, debates, reviews</div>	<div>NO SCHEDULED CLASSES</div> <div>OPTIONAL DROP IN WITH BA1 LEADER</div> <div>SUGGESTED HUMS WORK e.g. research in library, work on essay topic, do an english writing course</div>	<div>STUDIO LECTURE</div> <div>+ SKILLS SESSION</div> <div>e.g. drawing, model making, discussions</div> <div>NO SCHEDULED CLASSES</div> <div>extra-curricular activities & sports</div>	<div>HUMS LECTURE</div> <div>TECH LECTURE</div>	<div>NO SCHEDULED CLASSES</div> <div>SUGGESTED TECH WORK e.g. group work on assignments, work on case file, submit weekly pages.</div>

We will provide specific reading lists for each Studio, Humanities and Technologies brief, wherever possible we will endeavor to ensure all books can be accessed online, through MMU or UoM Libraries. Reading in architecture doesn't always mean reading a book cover to cover. Sometimes it can be reading to find a specific reference, or looking at a particular chapter or precedent. However, there are four key texts which will serve as essential reference in Year 1, and will prove useful throughout your architectural education:

Studio Craft & Technique for Architects (Delany, M. & Gorman, A.)
Model Making (Werner, M.)
Architect's Pocket Book (Baden-Powell, C.)
Pevsner's Architectural Guide: Manchester (Hartwell, C.)

These can be bought as a bundle exclusively from BLACKWELLS in Manchester for a **discounted price of £61.46** (saving of £26.50 on RRP). They also offer FREE delivery, or you can collect when you arrive! Blackwell's University Bookshop, University Green 146 Oxford Road M13 9PG. Tel - 0161 2743331 / email - manchester@blackwell.co.uk

SALE
Blackwells offer
a great discount
on this bundle of
books, and they
deliver FREE to UK!

For International Shipping Cost,
please contact Blackwells.

READING

SUMMER INSPO

Here are some online resources for you to browse as you prepare yourself for Architecture School in September

Get thinking about STUDIO

ONLINE BOOK: Understanding Architecture Through Drawing. Brian Edwards:
https://issuu.com/rafaelcarias/docs/understanding_architecture_trhough

Take a look at the Manchester School of Architecture's Degree Show:
<https://www.msa.ac.uk/2021/>

You can see other UK Architecture School's work online via these links, collected by RIBA Future Architects blog: <https://www.architecture.com/knowledge-and-resources/knowledge-landing-page/degree-shows-2021>

Get thinking about HUMANITIES

ONLINE BOOK: Introducing Architectural Theory: Debating A Discipline. Edited by Korydon Smith: https://issuu.com/thanhcn/docs/introducing_architectural_theory

Take a look at some architectural drawings: <https://www.ribapix.com> this website has some wonderful examples. Look at how they depict doorways, windows, steps, and other features. Copying these is a great way to develop your drawing skills.

Listen to short interviews with current leading architects on this podcast: <https://architecturemasters.org/>

Get thinking about TECHNOLOGIES

ONLINE BOOK: Materials for Architects and Builders. Arthur Lyons: https://issuu.com/raneemqubatus/docs/arthur_lyons_materials_for_architects_and_uilder

Take a virtual tour around buildings all over the world: <https://www.archdaily.com/tag/virtual-tour>

EQUIPMENT

ARCHITECTURE IS A DOING WORD!

Architectural education combines drawing, model making, test modelling, photography, film making, sketching, experimentation, computer presentations, analysis and written work which all require a lot of equipment. Although we do not suggest you buy overly expensive materials and experiment with found objects and recycled basics, there are some things which are worth investing in as you start your course.

What type of laptop do I need?

The laptop will need to have a good graphics card and plenty of memory. You can use Windows or Mac. We would typically recommend an Intel Core i7 processor (or equivalent), 16GB of RAM, 500GB or more of memory with a good graphics card. This is only a suggestion, check the requirements of the software listed below for more specific needs.

What software will I need to use?

Typical software includes the Adobe Suite (Photoshop, Illustrator and InDesign), AutoCAD and Revit as well as 3D modelling software Sketchup. The Microsoft office suite (or equivalent) is also required.

**Fred Aldous 20%
Discount Code:
MSA20 &
4D Model Making
Shop Discount**

ESSENTIAL EQUIPMENT NEEDED FROM DAY 1:

Sketchbook
Mechanical Pencil
Pencil Leads
3 x Drawing Pens: e.g. 0.25mm/ 0.35mm/ 0.7mm
Tape Measure
Masking Tape
Metric Scale Rule: 30cm (scales: 1:1/ 1:5/ 1:20/ 1:50/ 1:100/ 1:200)
A1, A2 and A3 Paper
Tracing Paper (a roll of tracing paper can be a great idea)
Laptop (should have a graphics card/ good for image processing)

GOOD TO HAVE / FUTURE PURCHASES:

Portable Drawing Board (A2/ A3)
Adjustable Set Square // 300mm
Sketching Pencils
Notebook
Cartridge Paper
Drawing Tube (A1)
Model Making Grey Card
Scrap Card
Balsa Wood
Model Making Glue
Cutting Mat (A1/A2)
Steel Rule: 1000mm/ 300mm
Scalpel & Blades
Suitable Waterproof Clothing
Calculator
Digital Camera/ Camera Phone
External Hardrive
Cloud Storage for Backup

SALE
Student discounts
will be available at
many shops once
you enrol at both
universities and
get your student
cards!!

MCR MAP

For those students who are joining us in Manchester, here are some important locations:

1 : MMU LIBRARY

Library // Books // Journals
Magazines // Maps // Special Collections
Computers // Archives

2 : MMU UNION

Student Union Advice Centre
Union Shop // Art Supplies // Paper
Pens // Paints // Modelmaking Card

3 : BENZIE + CHATHAM BUILDING

Studio // Workshops // A4 + More Shop
Computes // AV Store // Digital Lab
Printers // Scanners
Art Cafe // Roof Terrace

4 : HUMANITIES BRIDGEMORE STREET

Lectures // Humanities // Technologies
Dissertation Library // B.15 Workshop

5 : UOM LIBRARY

Books // Journals // Research
Maps // Archives // Periodicals

6 : UOM UNION

Student Committee // Freshers Fair
Debate // Support // Community

Remember to complete registration at both MMU & UoM...

OXFORD ROAD

HIGHER CAMBRIDGE STREET

MSSA

We recommend you join the MSA Freshers 2021 facebook group to meet other students who are joining the school of architecture this year. There are some 2nd & 3rd years in the group who will be able to answer more questions about student life.

Join here:

[MSA Fresher 2021 Facebook Group](#)



Coming to architecture school can be a daunting prospect, but you will automatically be part of the largest subject student society in the country and we are here to support you throughout your time at the MSA.

The committee of the Manchester Student Society of Architecture [MSSA] organise a series of events and activities, including the informal Before You're 30 [BY30] lectures, the MSA Debating Union, the MSSA Zine,

BLM_Arch@MSA, WOA!H (without a home), MSA Photography, MSA&U (wellbeing) the MSA Ball, socials, and networking opportunities. You can become as active and involved a member as you like. Join us, the committee, any of the subgroups' teams or set up something new, like a sports team, an event, or another student led initiative. Just come along to one of our weekly online meetings and we will help you to get started.

We look forward to meeting you in September, in the meantime check our website, follow us on Instagram, like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter! And make sure you join the [Official MSA Year 1 Facebook Group](#), some of our members will be there to help orientate you!

The MSSA

Find out more:

mssa.msa.ac.uk

instagram.com/architecturemssa/

facebook.com/themssa

twitter.com/themssa

[MSA Freshers 2021 Facebook group](#)

WELLBEING

Looking after your wellbeing is important all year round. There are lots of wellbeing and mental health support services across both University of Manchester and MMU. Remember it is important to take breaks from studying, eating and drinking well and getting a good night's sleep will all help keep you healthy.

At University of Manchester, the counselling and Mental Health Service can help you if you are feeling anxious, worried, lonely or under pressure. They are available to talk to if you feel you need to talk to someone in confidence and can also give advice on improving your wellbeing. There is also a dedicated team of counsellors. Counselling is a type of talking therapy that allows you to talk about your problems in a non-judgemental environment. Counsellors are trained to work with you on personal and emotional issues. MMU has a similar service which is accessible to you as well.

Within the school of architecture there is a student-led wellbeing group called MSA&U. They installed kettles around studio to encourage breaks, and have run yoga and meditation sessions. You can check out their activities via Instagram: [@msaandu](https://www.instagram.com/msaandu), or get in touch with them by email: msawellbeing@gmail.com

Throughout your studies if you ever feel low, if your sleep is upset, or you are feeling overly anxious, please talk to someone you trust.

The University of Manchester Counselling and Mental Health Service can help support your mental health and wellbeing.

**University of Manchester
[Counselling Service Website](https://counselling.service@manchester.ac.uk)**

UoM Counselling Service:
counselling.service@manchester.ac.uk
Tel: 0161 275 2864

**Manchester Metropolitan University
[Counselling & Mental Health Website](https://counselling.mmu.ac.uk)**

MMU Wellbeing Advisors:
wellbeing@mmu.ac.uk

MMU Counselling Service:
counselling@mmu.ac.uk
Tel: 0161 247 3493

**Look out for the MSA&U
Welcome Booklet which
has some great advice and
tips for new students!**

SUPPORT

To help support your studies MMU's Academic Study Skills Tutors are there to help. Staff can advise students on a range of issues relating to university life including: managing your time, presentation skills, reflective journals, research, exam tips, essay writing, dealing with stress and getting the best from your course.

If you are disabled or have a Specific Learning Difficulty, such as dyslexia, or health condition such as mental health difficulties you may find that you need some extra help when faced with the demands of Higher Education. Using medical evidence and an initial assessment, a Learning Support Adviser can help to identify your needs and suggest strategies, which will prove helpful. The adviser will produce a Personal Learning Plan [PLP] with you, which identifies to teaching staff your support needs and advises them of any reasonable adjustments they may need to make. The PLP is then sent to your department with your permission and any necessary adjustments will be incorporated into your sessions.

If you have a pre-existing specific learning difficulty, long term health condition or disability please seek advice from the MMU Disability Support Service as soon as possible by arranging an initial confidential discussion with an adviser.

**Manchester Metropolitan University
[Student Hub](https://studenthub.mmu.ac.uk)**

For general enquiries.
Tel: 0161 247 1000
Email: studenthub@mmu.ac.uk

MMU Study Skills Tutors
Tel: 0161 247 3330
studyskills@mmu.ac.uk

[MMU Writing Project](https://writing.mmu.ac.uk)

For help with written English.
Highly recommended for international students

[MMU Disability Support Service](https://disability.service@mmu.ac.uk)
Tel: 0161 247 3491
disability.service@mmu.ac.uk

**University of Manchester
Student Services, Burlington St**
For general enquiries
Tel: 0161 275 5000
Email: ssc@manchester.ac.uk

UoM Study Skills Programme
[My Learning Essentials](https://mylearningessentials.mmu.ac.uk)

If you are unsure of how to access support, come along to the weekly drop-in session on Tuesdays with the BA1 Leader.

MANCHESTER SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE

Cover photo: Paul Grogan Photography



FROM THE CITY OF THE CITY FOR THE CITY AND BEYOND