WOODBURY SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE • ADMISSIONS

# Graduate Portfolio Requirements

Master of Architecture (MArch) | Master of Interior Design (MID)

All MArch and MID applicants must submit a portfolio of selected work. The portfolio should show how you think, investigate ideas, and communicate visually. Applicants to the three-year pathways do not need previous education in architecture or interior design. Portfolios are evaluated in the context of each applicant's educational and professional background.

## Portfolio expectations by pathway

FOUNDATION ENTRY

### Three-year MArch / MID

Applicants from any academic field

3–5 creative projects or bodies of work

10–15 pages recommended

Show originality, curiosity, visual communication, and potential. Architecture/interior design projects or specialized software are not required.

ADVANCED ENTRY

### Two-year MArch / MID

Applicants with relevant prior design education

4–6 design projects

15–25 pages recommended

Show substantial architectural or interior design work, including development, spatial thinking, and appropriate technical representation.

For all applicants: Maximum 25 pages in total compiled into one PDF file, including any cover or contents pages. The project and page ranges above are recommendations; careful selection matters more than filling every page.

## What to include

Three-year pathway. Choose original work that reveals your creative or analytical ability: drawings, paintings, photography, graphic design, sculpture, models, fabrication, digital work, visual research, data visualization, or related explorations. Research-based or interdisciplinary work is welcome. A "project" may be a connected series of studies rather than a conventional building or interior design proposal.

Two-year pathway. Prioritize academic or professional architecture/interior design projects. Include the evolution of each project alongside final results. Where relevant, show plans, sections, elevations, models, spatial diagrams, material and lighting studies, construction/detail thinking, and visualizations. Complementary creative or research work may also be included.

## Presenting your work

- **Describe each project**. Include a title, date, brief purpose or design question, project context (academic, professional, or independent), and a concise explanation of the outcome.
- **Show process and decisions**. Use selected sketches, research, precedents, explorations, iterations, and final results to explain how the work developed.
- **Identify your contribution**. Clearly label collaborative or professional work and describe your individual role, including work produced with digital or AI-assisted tools, where applicable.
- **Design for screen review**. Use legible text, clear drawings, and well-captioned images. Favor thoughtful editing over dense layouts.

HOW PORTFOLIOS ARE REVIEWED

## Evaluation criteria

Faculty review portfolios holistically and in relation to the applicant's prior preparation. For three-year applicants, potential and clarity of thought matter more than technical architectural or interior design expertise. For two-year applicants, evidence of prior design education and discipline-specific skills carries greater weight.

01 Critical thinking & research

Ability to frame questions, investigate context or precedents, analyze constraints, and develop a thoughtful rationale. Work should connect ideas, process, and outcomes.

02 Design & spatial thinking

Creativity, experimentation, composition, and sensitivity to scale, people, and space. For two-year applicants, look for well-developed architectural or interior design proposals and coherent spatial strategies.

03 Building, materials & technical judgment

For two-year MArch applicants: appropriate understanding of drawings, structure, assemblies, circulation, and enclosure. For two-year MID applicants: materials, lighting, furniture, human use, accessibility, and interior detailing as appropriate. Not prerequisites for three-year applicants.

04 Representation & communication

Effective use of available media to communicate ideas: sketches, diagrams, drawings, photographs, models, digital work, written briefs, or visualization. Specific software packages are not required for three-year applicants.

05 Professionalism, authorship & impact

Clear organization, accurate labels, appropriate credit for shared work, careful editing, and attention to the social, environmental, cultural, or human implications of the work.

## Submission checklist

- One PDF booklet. Combine all projects and supporting material into one document. Do not submit separate project files.
- Page limit. No more than 25 PDF pages total; cover and table of contents are included. Each page in the PDF counts as one page.
- File quality. Optimize images for on-screen review. A file size of 20 MB or less is recommended for convenient upload and viewing; follow any technical limits shown in the application portal.
- File label. Use a recognizable filename, such as LastName_FirstName_MArch_Portfolio.pdf or LastName_FirstName_MID_Portfolio.pdf.

## Admission and program placement

A portfolio is one component of the graduate application. Applicants seeking the two-year pathway, advanced standing, or transfer credit may be asked for additional course documentation. Entry pathway, studio placement, and eligible transfer credit are subject to a separate academic review and are not guaranteed by portfolio submission alone.

*Prepared and revised by the Chair of Graduate Studies | Fall 2026*