

Architecture

From its conceptual beginnings, to the physical outcome, the design process involved in the architectural disciplines is one that intrigues me – both in its breadth and complexity. A sense of creativity and vision, yet grounded by a sound technical ability is what the architectural course would enable me to develop. Motivation, stemming from a natural curiosity, has encouraged me to pursue this interest in design, from an urban and environmental perspective. *[This is a really strong opening paragraph which explains exactly why this student wants to study Architecture.]*

Articles from “**Architecture Today**” and “**Materia**” have supplemented my interest, for example increasing my understanding of the geometric uniqueness of Norman Foster’s “radical” Swiss Re building from a critical perspective. Furthermore, in order to broaden my visual understanding of design, I have found “The Photographer’s Eye – Composition and Design” by Michael Freeman an absorbing insight into principles that are arguably widely applicable to other areas of design including architecture, allowing me to gain a deeper understanding of the foundations that make a composition effective, in the same way that shapes and structures can make a building unique and impressive. *[Demonstrating wider reading and additional research is always a good idea and here, the student has conveyed this very well by talking about how wider reading has helped them to increase their understanding of the subject area.]*

My passion stems from a grounding sense of responsibility for both the urban and physical environments in which we live. Buildings can create and influence the sense of space and identity for society as well as have an impact in terms of environmental considerations, in a world where climatic implications are becoming increasingly important. This links significantly to the instinctive dependence I feel society has on the environments in which it lives – demonstrated through my positive involvement with the Conservation Volunteers and in my undertaking of the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award. Furthermore, I have gained, on a smaller scale, an idea of the processes involved in the architectural career (including surveying, discussion, planning, and computer-aided as well as manual design) through involvement with a **local primary school to design and create an environmental Garden**, incorporating scientific concepts such as solar power. This has enabled me to become more visually aware and has indirectly strengthened my interest in the environmental design module. *[Excellent! They have used their extra-curricular activities to show the Admissions Tutor their dedication to the subject through carrying out voluntary work within the subject.]*

The multi-disciplinary and dynamically evolving nature of architecture attracts me, and this is reflected in the broad range of A-level subjects I have chosen. In Art and Design I have carried out an investigation into perspective – the way in which building and other structures (such as bridges) can capture this dynamic sense is intriguing, as they function to draw the viewer into the composition. Particularly interesting are architectural and structural elements that allow, through geometric repetition, for this visual process to occur effectively. A trip to Paris, involving visits to innovative art galleries like the Palais de Tokyo or the fascinatingly juxtaposed Louvre, alongside visits to several Norman Cathedrals in England have heightened my visual perception, appreciation of aesthetic and practical aspects of buildings, as well as my photography skills. In Geography, activities ranging from glacier model making to considering the concept of sustainability or gentrification have increased my awareness of the environment.

My dedicated role in school life can be seen in my responsibilities as a Geography prefect, Form prefect and member of the school’s Fairtrade Steering Group, which include organising display boards and assemblies. As an enthusiastic member of Senior Choir, I have participated in a variety of concerts including performances of St Nicholas, Schubert’s Mass and Cathedral services. I have academic drive and dedication, rewarded with winning Speech Day prizes regularly, and enrolling in NAGTY. I look forward with anticipation to a stimulating course entitled ‘The World in Crisis’ in which I hope to reflect on the global economic, ecological, social and political challenges facing the world. Most intriguing, will be the visit to the “Hockerton Housing Project”, through which I hope to gain an insight into the architect’s responsibility within the context of the Government’s move towards attaining sustainability on an individual basis.

I believe that my broadened understanding of the urban and physical environment, complimented with the ability to move from the macro to micro perspective, will stand me in good stead as I look forward to challenging my creative instinct and furthering my understanding of architectural design. *[A very strong ending to sum up the passion and the dedication shown by the student for the course and the industry.]*