



Information on the Aptitude Test for the Bachelor´s Degree Program Architecture

Would you like to apply for a study place in the Bachelor of Architecture program at our university? In addition to the general admission requirements, the qualification for the Bachelor's degree in Architecture also requires proof of passing an aptitude test.

Application

Due to the corona crisis and the associated restrictions and precautions, the aptitude test will be conducted in a fully digital form this year. This means that the application and aptitude test will be combined in one procedure. The portfolio contains the tasks for the aptitude test as well as optional independent work which you can upload in the application portal in a PDF file, along with other documents.

The application must first be prepared online. Afterwards, print it out and send it in by post from 1 May to 20 August 2020. This deadline is a cut-off deadline, i.e. documents that reach us after this date can no longer be accepted.

In addition to the application, we need the following documents for the aptitude test at the OTH Regensburg, which you are required to upload to the application portal:

1. a curriculum vitae with your full name, your full address and your application number (one DIN A4 page).
2. a signed declaration (= declaration of authorship) that all work has been produced independently (one DIN-A4 page).
3. a letter of motivation (one DIN A4 page), in which you explain the most important reasons why you want to study architecture at the University of Applied Sciences of Regensburg. Try to explain what particularly interests you in architecture. For example, have you had any experiences in recent years that have led you to perceive phenomena of our (built) environment, culture or social life differently? Have there been buildings, landscapes, events, etc. that have inspired or touched you? Did this perhaps happen in a completely different context, for example when reading a book or playing a computer game? Can you describe what motivates you, what inspires you?
4. self-made artistic works: In order to prove your individual artistic talent and suitability for the Bachelor's program in Architecture, please submit the works described in the explanation below (tasks 1 and 2) on a total of at least 15 and at most 50 pages. You are free to add your own independent works to the portfolio in addition to the tasks with a maximum of 15 pages.

pdf file numbers 1-3: maximum 5 MB each; pdf file number 4: **maximum 20 MB**

Explanation of the Portfolio and the Tasks of the Aptitude Test

Completion of the Bachelor's program in Architecture involves observing, analyzing and interpreting the environment in all its architectural, artificial and natural forms with curiosity and interest. In the context of the aptitude test, we will deal with one direct architectural question:
The Analysis and Transformation of Space

An application portfolio is rarely a simple compilation of more or less randomly existing material, but rather the aesthetic documentation of a conscious engagement with a theme. Just as important as your final result is your working process: preliminary studies, variations, observations and experiments can possibly say much more about the final result shown. How do you approach the question? How do you experiment, how do you analyze, how do you find something that interests you? This sometimes means dealing with certain spatial, artistic or creative questions, observations or ideas that you have developed individually.

The criteria for assessing your performance can be outlined with the following keywords:

- spatial perception
- drawing and illustration skills
- presentation and communication skills
- technical understanding
- perception and information processing
- creativity and imagination
- work behaviour
- commitment
- motivation

Please also be aware that not only the presented works, but also the cover letter and CV are part of your self-portrayal and must be carefully prepared in terms of content and form.

Repeat the following exercises over several days - start as early as possible so that you have time for reflection, experimenting and exploring. Work in series. Work with curiosity, desire and stamina.

TASK 1: Rational-Cognitive Section

Subject and Content: Abstraction - The Properties of Space

Look at your current home as if you were seeing it for the first time. Like an alien or a baby, you don't know the purpose of it all. This kind of abstraction requires you to discard the viewing habits and thus clichés that have been trained for a lifetime. This is only possible through a process.

Pay attention to the following topics, for example:

- **Light and Shadow.** Possible themes would be here: Are there strong alternations between light and dark? Does the light fall into the room differently or similarly? What is the reason for this? How are the window openings etc. placed in relation to the room, the wall, the ceiling? What is the direction?
- **Proportion.** What different proportions, i.e. ratios, can I discover? Are there rooms in your home with special proportions such as long, narrow, low, high, wide, short? What combinations of these are there?
- **Dimension.** Here it is not a question of proportion, but of the different sizes. Are there, for example, small, inconspicuous places to discover alternating with large ones?

With this perspective, try to draw your home in sketches. Go on a journey of discovery through your home. See it like an architect would!

Variations, combinations and other individual themes are also possible. Search not only for the differences, but also for similarities. It is important that you are not guided by your views of "beautiful and ugly".

Procedure:

Distinguish between three room themes for your drawing series:

a) The Constructed Space / The Abstract Space:

Draw only the "architectural" spaces. You can approach this theme by perhaps first starting to merely draw the rooms. Then, however, it is not a matter of, for example, depicting the living room as realistically or correctly as possible or how it is furnished. It is more a matter of going on a journey of discovery and seeing your home in a new way through drawing: Perhaps the storage room, the pantry, the guest toilet, which you have perhaps never seen as a mere room, are in fact very interesting rooms because they are particularly narrow and thus also particularly high? A hallway is not only a functional connecting corridor, but also a very special room. Or have you ever seen the living room just as a room? Possible questions would be, for example: How do I enter this room? Where are the windows placed and why are they placed where they are? How does the light fall - at what time?

After the first visual inspection, decide on one or a few selected rooms that you find particularly interesting.

b) The Space In-Between / The Newly Discovered Space:

Draw spaces that are not "classical" architectural spaces and which you are only now discovering anew. This can be done, for example, by a leap in scale: Is it, for example, the space in the wardrobe, the one under the table or the one under the chair, the one between the radiator and the wall or the one in between, the one behind the books on the bookshelf and the back of the shelf?

Now imagine this space again as an "architectural" space by enlarging it to another dimension. You can illustrate this, for example, by drawing a person into the transformed space.

Think in terms of space and not objects. To stay with the example of the back cover of a book: In this step, the viewer is not, of course, faced with huge backs of books. But perhaps you are interested in the alternation of narrowness and vastness and of rhythm in space, impressions that arise when you abstract this space in-between.

After the first visual inspection, decide on one or a few selected rooms that you find particularly interesting.

c) The Transition Space / The Threshold:

Now that you have firstly seen space differently and secondly discovered new spaces, we come to the third theme, the connection of spaces to each other:

Spaces are always connected to each other; this is also called a sequence of spaces.

These can be, for example, doors, windows, stairs, porches, ramps, corridors or deflections in the room. How am I guided through the room? How are the rooms separated from each other or how are they connected to each other? Are there exciting changes between different rooms? Are the connections and transitions perhaps specially designed? Are there steps or thresholds, for example? Is a room perhaps also a connecting room? Is there a special entrance situation as a connection from inside to outside? Are all doors the same? Are there interesting or strange projections? (....?)

After the first examination, decide on one or a few selected rooms that you find particularly interesting.

Weigh the three tasks according to

- existing conditions,
- your own discoveries that interest you
- and, if applicable, in relation to task 2.

If you are not making sufficient progress with the given situation, you can also use rooms in your immediate surroundings from memory (but stay at home!)

Task 2: Artistic-Creative Section

Theme and Content: Transformation and the Idea of Space

Based on your experiences and observations from the first analysis task, you should now develop your own new space. This therefore represents a "real" design task.

With which change would you develop one of your analyzed rooms further? Interpret one or more themes further. Your fantasy, imagination and creative-artistic skills play the key roles here. Exaggerated or unrealistic ideas can also be developed. It is not important that the room works well, but that you work with the theme of the room to create an interesting or exciting space. In the end, a completely new room can also be created. Try out different criteria.

Try to show the newly designed room in its qualities:

Your design idea can again be presented in two and three dimensions. Perfect results are not necessarily expected. Creativity, the presentation of your own perspective, i.e. your "idea" and the approach to implementation are important. We would like to learn how you think, design and then present this graphically. It is also helpful to show attempts, approaches and experiments in sketches. It is not only the finished picture that counts, but also your desire, your curiosity and your interest.

Procedure:

Create a series of sketch sheets with some two-dimensional (e.g. floor plans, views, sections) and some spatial (e.g. perspectives, isometrics) representations. You can draw multiple sketches on one sheet. You can also write down your observations on your drawings in short and in note form. It does not depend so much on your technical skills, but also on what you analyze and show. Pay attention to harmonious proportions.

Of course you can also give the room a new use: Is it suddenly a space where you only experience the view or the sky? Or is the new space used in a completely different way? Is it in a completely different context ...?

Here you are completely free to develop your idea.

Presentation and Delivery:

- Exercise 2 is described in a much shorter way, but it is the main focus of your own free work! It builds on the results of exercise 1.
- You hand in a PDF file. All pages are in A3 horizontal format. The size depends on your way of working. The portfolio should have at least 15 pages and not exceed 50 pages.
- Label each sheet or drawing with a keyword-like title that indicates which of the three spatial themes it deals with and try to name an idea, a development or a "subject" with a keyword.
- "Guide" us through the sequence and weighting of your drawings and pictures through your process. For example, are there pages with many small representations on one sheet of paper for experiments? Are there pages with only one statement, one idea, one picture?
- You are free in the way you present yourself. For example, the works can be made as drawings, paintings, collages, photographs, computer representations, illustrations of three-dimensional works or similar. If you have no preferences of this kind, we recommend working with pencil (with different degrees of hardness) and, if necessary, in black and white.
- Tracing photos or computer drawings or the like is not an adequate method!

The portfolio with your samples of work for tasks 1 and 2 and the letter of motivation (instead of a personal interview) will be assessed by the selection committee according to idea, concept, creativity and quality as follows:

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| - Average Grade of your University Entrance Qualification: | 0 to maximum 10 Points |
| - Letter of Motivation (cf. No. 3 under application): | 0 to maximum 30 Points |
| - Artistic-Creative Section (cf. No. 4 under application): | 0 to maximum 30 Points |
| - Rational-Cognitive Section (cf. No. 4 under application): | 0 to maximum 30 Points |

The minimum requirement for passing the aptitude test is the achievement of 60% of the maximum possible number of points, i.e. 60 out of a maximum of 100 points, whereby at least 18 points each must be achieved for all partial examinations with the exception of the average grade of your university entrance qualification.

In addition, please send your application including documents (see FAQ 6) such as university entrance qualification, curriculum vitae and signed printout of the online application (not online portfolio!) by mail to

OTH Regensburg
Referat Zulassung
Prüfeninger Straße 58
93049 Regensburg

If the university entrance qualification is acquired in the application year, it must be received by the Referat Zulassung by 20.08.2020 and cannot be handed in at the faculty.

Link to Online Application: www.oth-regensburg.de/studienbewerbung

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| Results: | will be announced promptly, verbal information will not be given |
| Legal Framework: | Study and examination regulations as well as statutes on the determination of aptitude |

Admission to Study at the OTH Regensburg

After passing the aptitude test, the notifications of admission and rejection are sent out in writing shortly afterwards. For the further procedure, please refer to FAQ No. 7.

Information about the Pre-Study Internship

The obligation to do a pre-study internship does not apply if the FOS/BOS (technical /vocational secondary school) certificate with the subject area of technology or design is submitted with the application. In all other cases, see due date.

Due date of the internship confirmation: From the beginning of the course of study to the beginning of the third semester at the latest (not the date of the application to study).

Duration: 12 weeks

Dividing up an Internship: The practical activity should provide a broad spectrum of insight into the professional practice of an architect and should be completed as a whole or in connected sessions of at least three weeks.

Content: Proof of construction planning activities in architectural, engineering or planning offices must be provided. The German degree from the technical / vocational secondary school ("FOS/BOS Technik und Gestaltung") is fully recognized as a pre-study internship.

Regensburg, 22.07.2020
Prof. Markus Emde