



## Reading and activities list for Architecture

### Checklist of Actions for Oxbridge preparation

- Complete the course and college research booklet which covers entry requirements for your course (e.g. admissions tests during interviews). Use it to help you make informed choices.
- Respond and maintain email contact with your OMS Mentor and do not hesitate to ask questions which may help your Oxbridge preparation.
- Read British broadsheets such as The Daily Telegraph, The Independent or The Guardian preferably every day (if not feasible, then at weekends). Think critically about what you have read; what issues are raised?; What assumptions are being made? What information is being relied on to draw which conclusions? How would you frame a counter-argument?
- Make note of subject-related terminology to look up definitions with the aim of working them into future academic discussions on your chosen Oxbridge course.
- Keep a "Learning Log". Note down (i) book titles/ articles (ii) author (iii) your thoughts, feelings and observations (iv) context and relevance of the book/article (v) whether you agree with what you have read.

### Suggested reading (but students should feel free to pursue their own interests):

- Ackerman *Palladio*, Penguin Books
- Ackerman *Michaelangelo*, Penguin Books
- Curtis, W (2009 [1982]) *Modern Architecture since 1900* London: Phaidon.
- Davies, C (2011) *Thinking about Architecture: An Introduction to Architectural Theory* London: Lawrence King Publishing Ltd.
- Fazio, M., M. Moffett and L. Wodehouse (2009) *A World History of Architecture* London: Lawrence King Publishing Ltd.
- Ford *The Details of Modern Architecture* (2 vols), MIT, 1990, 1996
- Frampton *Modern Architecture, A Critical History*, Thames & Hudson, 1981
- Gelernter, M (1995) *Sources of Architectural Form: A Critical History of Western Design Theory* Manchester: Manchester University Press.
- Gideon, S. (2008 [1941]) *Space, Time and Architecture: The Growth of a New Tradition* Cambridge MA: Harvard University Press.
- Harries, K. *The Meaning of Modern Art, A Philosophical Interpretation*, Northwestern University Press, 1992
- Mallgrave H.F. and C. Contradiopoulos (2010 [2008]) *Architectural Theory: An Anthology from 1871-2005 (Volume II)* Malden MA and Oxford: Blackwell Publishing.
- Ray, N. *Cambridge Architecture, A Concise Guide*, CUP, 1994
- Spector *The Ethical Architect*, Princeton Architectural Press, 2001
- Wolfe, T. *From Bauhaus to our House*, Farier Straus Giroux, 1981

(Some of these books may be out of print but should be available in local libraries)

- Journals such as *Architectural Review*, *Architects' Journal*, and *Building Design* offer a sense of current issues in architecture and are available at specialist bookshops and in some libraries.
- Write a summary of the key themes and arguments advanced in the above texts. If any particularly interest you, read further around the subject, perhaps browsing commentaries and articles (<http://scholar.google.co.uk> can be very useful for this.

## Reading and activities list for Architecture

- Attend lectures at the LSE – these are on a range of subjects and usually include very notable speakers :  
<http://www.lse.ac.uk/collections/LSEPublicLecturesAndEvents/>
- Sound maths skills are expected for all the courses you are considering, as they involve statistics. You can hone these skills by solving interesting maths problems and get help on two Cambridge websites:
  - NRICH - <http://nrich.maths.org/public/index.php>
  - Plus magazine - <http://pass.maths.org.uk/>
- Read a quality daily newspaper every day such as The Guardian, The Independent or The Daily Telegraph and think about the issues that are raised. Analyse the arguments being advanced.
- When reading books and articles, try to be very critical in your analysis at all times. Develop counter-arguments and attempt to justify these with logic and evidence.
- As part of your learning process throughout Oxbridge preparation, create a cumulative list of definitions and key concepts to expand your academic vernacular and knowledge for use in academic conversation.
- To hone your debating skills for your Oxbridge interview, watch “*Question Time*” on BBC2. Do also listen to BBC Radio4’s “World at One” or “The PM Programme”, which explain the background to the news. You can catch programmes you missed online on <http://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/>
- Conduct research into Course and College choices using the Course and College Research Booklet to help you.