Aptitude Exercise
for Admission to the BAAS Program
Department of Architecture
University of Hong Kong

December 14, 2018
(available: 12:01am) -
December 17, 2018
(upload deadline: 11:59pm)

The Aptitude Exercise allows the applicant to
demonstrate her or his interest and capacity for
telling an architectural story. The criteria
measured by the exercise include: capacity to
conceptualize, creativity, curiosity, analytical
ability, daring, rigor, intelligence, intuition,
openness, perseverance, spatial sensibility, and
sociability.

Assessment of candidates is based on a
combination of factors including academic
scores, personal statement, referees' reports (if
any), Aptitude Exercise, and finally the interview
(if applicable).

The Aptitude Exercise should reflect the
student's capacities and interests and should
therefore be the work of the applicant alone.

Exercise Problem
Architects design by giving form to ideas and
processes. This requires a capacity to investigate
and describe the world around as a means to
imagine new possibilities for the spaces of our
cities and landscapes

For this year's Aptitude Exercise (AE), we ask
you to investigate and describe an object in a
way that conveys your unique capacities to
interpret and imagine the world.

For this year's AE, that object will be a piece of
fruit. First, select a fruit of your choice.
Investigate its different aspects. Describe as
many of these aspects as you think important.
Through the questions you choose to investigate
and the ways you describe the fruit, give us a
sense of your capacity to observe, interpret and
imagine.

Your investigations could (but need not be
limited to) look into the following questions:

**Your process of acquiring the fruit:** How
did you get it? Where did you get it? What
kind of stall or store was it from? What kind
of journey did you take? Who owned this
fruit before you? Why did you choose this
fruit?

**The fruit's physical and tactile
dimensions:** How does it look? How big is it?
What is its cross-section? How do you take it
apart? How heavy is it? How hard or soft is
it? How does it smell? Taste? Feel? What is
its composition?

**The fruit's origins:** Where is the fruit from?
How did it get to where it is? Can you make
a map that describes the fruit's lifetime?
What are its ecological origins?

**The fruit's cultural associations:** How, for
example, has it been represented in literature
or visual art? Where does the fruit get its
name from? What role does it play in the
economy?

**The fruit's future:** What will become of the
fruit once you are finished with it?

The book format allows you to tell a story, make
an argument or create relationships using the 16
pages available to you. The pages together
should communicate the questions that are
relevant to you about the fruit and your
particular capacity to describe and interpret the
findings of your investigation.

We encourage you to use a medium or media
(pen, pencil, coloured pencil, marker, crayon,
computer drawing, water colour) and work in a
format (illustration, painting, collage,
photography, diagram, measured drawing, etc.)
with which you are comfortable and enjoy.

Verbal description should be limited to less than
10% of each page.
The submission should be completed on 4, double-sided, A4 pages that, when folded in half, create an A5 booklet.

The front and back page of the booklet should include 1) your applicant ID number and 2) the date of the submission.

See Diagram A for instructions on how to make a booklet.

A PDF submission of the booklet layout should be uploaded by 11:59 pm, December 17th using the uploading tool found on this page. The PDF should be no more than 300MB. Applicants are also asked to mail a hardcopy of their A5 booklet to the Faculty of Architecture. Mailed submissions should be postmarked no later than 11:59 pm December 21, 2018.

Applicants selected for an interview will be asked to bring a hardcopy of their submission. Your submission will be discussed at our interviews.

Address for mailed submission (postmark deadline December 21, 2018, 11:59 pm):

Faculty of Architecture
attn: BAAS Programme Officer
University of Hong Kong
Knowles Building- 4th Floor
Pokfulam Road
Hong Kong

Any questions should be addressed to the Faculty of Architecture by e-mail at <foaoffice@hku.hk>.

We look forward to learning more about you.

Good luck and have fun with the Aptitude Exercise.

FAQ:

Q: Should I make my submission by hand and then scan it, or make it on the computer? EITHER IS POSSIBLE.

Q. I am an international applicant. Do I need to mail a hardcopy? YES.

Q. I have received the aptitude Exercise yesterday, I want to know if I can use the drawings and paintings that I had been working on in my current studies? IF YOU THINK THEY OFFER AN EFFECTIVE RESPONSE TO THE EXERCISE, YES.
DIAGRAM A - HOW TO MAKE A BOOKLET

PRINT LAYOUT

BOOKLET

BOOK LAYOUT