1. After submitting an online application via the University’s online application system (https://aal.hku.hk/tpg/programme-list-2021), applicants will receive a Faculty email and be requested to submit supporting documents in soft copies via Faculty’s MArch (Design) Application Documents Submission System (https://extranet.ad.arch.hku.hk/Admission/mdesign). Applicants will only be requested to submit hard copies of supporting documents when they receive admission offers from the Faculty. Please refer to page 2 of this document for further information about submitting supporting documents.

2. Applicants have to appoint 2 referees, preferably one previous teacher and one professional employer, via the University’s online application system (https://aal.hku.hk/tpg/programme-list-2021). At least one academic reference is required.

3. To be eligible for admission to the Master of Architecture (Design) programme, a candidate:

(a) shall comply with the General Regulations and the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula;
(b) shall possess a bachelor’s degree with honours of this University or another equivalent qualification from another university or comparable institution accepted for this purpose;
(c) for a candidate who is seeking admission on the basis of a qualification from a university or comparable institution outside Hong Kong of which the language of teaching and/or examination is not English, shall satisfy the University English language requirement applicable to high degrees as prescribed under General Regulation G2(b);
(d) shall satisfy the examiners in qualifying examination if required.

4. Preference will be given to applicants with professional experience that has shaped their practical and intellectual capacity in a positive manner. The Master of Architecture (Design) (MArch((Design))) is a three-year full-time programme offered by the Department of Architecture. Built on the existing MArch programme, the MArch (Design) programme offers a path for qualified students from undergraduate programmes outside of architecture to pursue an architectural education. MArch (Design) will operate on a mono funding model consisting of self-funded places. The accreditation of the programme is currently pending for approval.

5. The curriculum extends over three years of full-time study offering courses on the following: advanced structural systems, architecture and its discourses, core design courses, design and construction communication, design and technology of sustainable buildings, digital media and methods, history of modern architecture, introduction to building structures, pre-thesis seminar, principles of building, professional practice I & II and electives. The main feature of the curriculum is to enable students to acquire a broad range of skills in related fields, providing opportunities for student to keep pace with topical issues and to develop flexibility and mobility of thinking, coupled with a greater degree of initiative, innovation and self-reliance. The other feature is to place greater emphasis on project work congruent with the essential features of architectural professional practice and to closely link formal teaching to practice.

6. Applicants shall be notified of their application results no later than August 15, 2020. If after this date, notification has not been received, please contact the Faculty Office at 3917 4923.

19 August 2019
The following are some frequently asked questions raised by potential applicants:

1. What supporting documents do I need to submit?

I. After submitting the online application via the University’s online application system (https://aal.hku.hk/tpg/programme-list-2021), within one day, applicants will receive an email from the Faculty with login ID and password to access the Faculty’s MArch(Design) Application Documents Submission System (https://extranet.ad.arch.hku.hk/Admission/mdesign). Please upload the below list of supporting documents to the MArch(Design) Application Documents Submission System by 12:00 noon (GMT+8), January 31, 2020. Please do not encrypt the supporting documents.

a) Curriculum vitae (inclusive of publications and academic awards, if any)

b) Official transcripts

c) Graduation certificate (if any)

d) Test Report of the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), or International English Language Testing System (IELTS) (if you have not been studying in the university in which the courses are taught in English).

e) A portfolio with no more than 20 pages of creative work related to landscape orientation in PDF format. Proper credit and context must be given for all work related to author, collaborators, and professional office in which the work was completed or academic course and instructor for which the work was completed, where appropriate. The maximum file size is 30MB.

f) A written statement of interest (500 words maximum). You should

i. describe why you want to attend the Master of Architecture (Design) Programme at HKU and identify specific aspects of the programme or the context of Hong Kong that have influenced your decision to apply;

ii. describe an academic project or professional experience that has shaped the way you approach architecture or urbanism; and

iii. identify a topic or architecture or urbanism that you would like to explore in greater depth in your graduate studies at HKU.

Applicants will only be requested to submit supporting documents hard copies when they receive an admission offer. Therefore, please do not submit hard copies to the Faculty Office before you receive the offer.

II. Applicants have to appoint 2 referees, preferably one previous teacher and one professional employer, via the University’s online application system (https://aal.hku.hk/tpg/programme-list-2021). At least one academic reference is required.

Both of the referees will be requested to complete an online referee report and upload a reference letter via a separate email sent by the Faculty.

2. What are the basic requirements for admission?

To be eligible for admission to the programme, a candidate:

(a) shall comply with the General Regulations;

(b) shall possess a bachelor’s degree with honours of this University; or another equivalent qualification from another university or comparable institution accepted for this purpose;
A candidate should upload all the required supporting documents, in forms of soft-copy, to the Faculty’s MArch (Design) Application Documents Submission System before the application deadline.

3. How can I fulfill the University’s English Language Proficiency requirement if the medium of instruction in my University is not English?

An applicant is required to obtain:
(a) a score of 550 or above (paper-based test) or 80 or above (internet-based test) in the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL; University TOEFL code: 9671) ; or
(b) a minimum overall band of 6 with no subtest lower than 5.5 in the International English Language Testing System (IELTS)

Test scores obtained more than 2 years will not be accepted.

4. Is there any GPA requirement of my Bachelor degree?

There is no absolute GPA requirement set for the admission to the MArch (Design) programme. However, an applicant with good academic results will be more favorable to his/her application.

5. Is practical work experience essential for my application?

Practical work experience is not an essential requirement for admission. However, preference will be given to those applicants with professional experience that has shaped their practical and intellectual capacity in a positive manner.

6. Will my application be rejected if the supporting documents can’t be submitted before the application deadline?

Our MArch (Design) Application Documents Submission System will be closed at 12:00 noon (GMT+8), January 31, 2020. Therefore, you are strongly requested to submit your supporting documents before the deadline. Otherwise, the chance for admission will definitely be slim due to incomplete supporting documents submission.

7. Is there any interview required for the programme?

Starting from 2019 intake, shortlisted applicants may be invited for the admission face-to-face interview between February to July. Applicants residing in Mainland China may be invited for the admission face-to-face interview in Shanghai. For those applicants who are not residing in Hong Kong and Mainland China would be invited for skype/phone interview instead. The detailed interview arrangement would be sent to the shortlisted applicants via email.

8. What is the fee structure of the programme?

The exact composition fee for 2020-21 intake is yet to be confirmed. Below is the table for the estimated composition fee for 2020-21 intake:
10. When do I need to pay for the admission deposit?

You are liable to pay for the admission deposit upon acceptance of firm/conditional offer. The deposit amount is the sum of the first installment of the composition fee (HK$100,000) and the caution money (HK$350).

The composition fee is pending for the University’s approval.

11 October 2019