

COMPLETING YOUR PORTFOLIO

A PERSPECTIVE FROM A RECENT GRADUATE

It is really intimidating getting started on your portfolio, there is a lot of pressure and so many different ways to present your work and yourself! Architecture firms might not be hiring but getting a sample of your work in front of someone is crucial for when an opportunity does arise.

The best way to start is to gather your best work into specific categories. This might be split per year of uni or divided into subjects. Also think of including any other extra work which might be related like sketches, model making, photography etc. You aren't just getting hired for your skills but also based on your interests and how you might fit in at a practice - these things are a great way to show who you are and that you're more than just a drafting robot. Once you have gathered most of your work together you can start planning how it might fit together. It's important to include a range of projects that best highlight your skills or passion but not include absolutely everything.

There are countless videos online or Pinterest pages with inspiration to help guide you. My recommendation is aim for short, concise and simple. A beautiful booklet that is hand-stitched, taking a long time to produce each copy is lovely but will probably do the same job as a neatly bound booklet with a stapled spine - you will need to consider what is most important for you especially if you are contacting multiple practices enquiring about work.

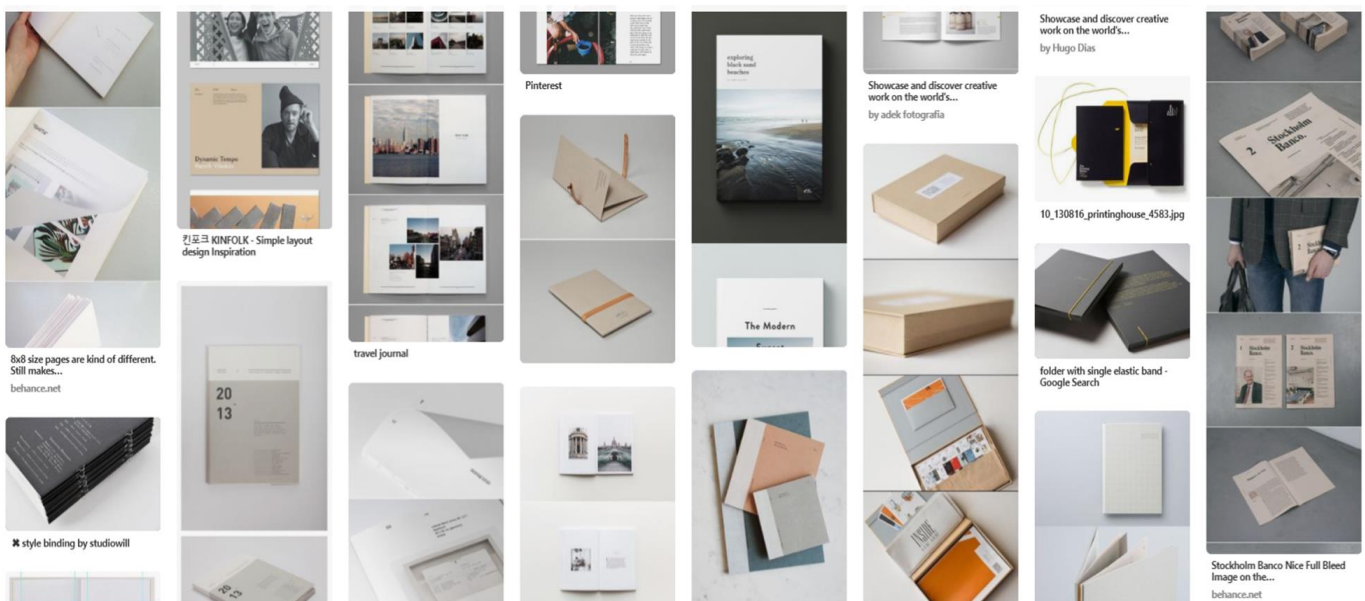


image from Pinterest: a quick search will reveal a lot of inspiration

Next, think of what the reason for your portfolio is going to be. You might prepare a short sample of work of 10-20 pages to hand-out that catches the attention of a potential employer to gain an interview. You might also prepare a larger portfolio encompassing all of your work from uni that is detailed and thorough which you take with you to interviews but keep yourself.

A portfolio is usually skimmed over in a few minutes so need to be as concise as possible. They might be digital and emailed as a pdf, be an online link, or drop in a physical copy. It's important to do your research on each practice and I recommend calling in-advance to find out who to address it to and find out their preferred format. It's also important to adapt your sample of work to the type of practice. Potentially have several core pages which don't change and others which are substituted out depending on the type of work the firm does. Good luck!