**CUA**rch

# Portfolio Recommendations
For high school students applying to the B.S. in Architecture program at The Catholic University of America

A portfolio is **NOT required** for those students applying to CUA's Undergraduate Bachelor of Science in Architecture Program **from high school**. However, many have asked to submit portfolios just the same. We do review them and send our evaluations to the Admissions Office.

Due to frequent requests, we have prepared the following portfolio guide:

## What goes in a portfolio?
Your design portfolio is a collection of your work and a personal statement of your creative ability. It presents an image of you and your design/visual skills, how you organize yourself and what your priorities are. This aspect of your portfolio is as important as the whole contents it holds.

Remember that your portfolio is used to review your thinking and creative skills, **not to document your CAD drafting skills**. Please, do not submit blueprints or construction drawings from an office or building science courses.

The portfolio should include architectural and visual work done in an academic setting. In addition to architectural design work you may submit other visual creative work, such as images of your drawings, paintings, sculptures, graphic designs, etc. The portfolio should show that you have the motivation and skills to carry out architectural designs that you begin by including a variety of work or projects that you have carried to some level of completion. The portfolio demonstrates your ability to develop your design ideas from conceptual sketches, through drawings and study models, to the final design scheme. The portfolio can be a very diverse collection of various modes of representations, ranging from pencil drawings and physical models to CAD drawings and renderings and animation stills. The portfolio should demonstrate a level of consistency that is aligned with your personal interests. Some features of your portfolio, that should be consistent throughout are:

• page size (please see below)
• page orientation (portrait or landscape)
• lettering style (use simple, easy-to-read fonts)
• title pages
• consistent use of color
• consistent use of page layout, etc.

## Format:
The Catholic University of America School of Architecture and Planning accepts only 8 -1/2" x 11" or 11" x 14" or smaller portfolios – however, **we prefer 8 -1/2" x 11"**. Loose (unbound) sheets and formats larger than 11" x 14" will **not be accepted**. If your coursework is done on a larger format, please scan it and reduce it to the requested format. All portfolio material must be bound and must not be more than 1" (2.5cm) thick. The applicant's name must be clearly visible on the

cover page. *Please, do not submit rolled or folded prints or drawings and do not submit more than one portfolio. Portfolios not meeting these guidelines will not be reviewed.*

## A Word of Advice:
The Catholic University of America School of Architecture and Planning is proud of its design emphasis. The more you demonstrate your desire to learn about design and the more you demonstrate your design skills – the more likely it is that your portfolio will be successful. Architectural design is very much about ideas and ability to translate those ideas through various stages of design process. Try to document your design process thoroughly in your portfolio. Keep track of all work that you produced in your design studios and decide how it can be used in your portfolio. Keep in mind that ONLY the best quality work goes into your portfolio. That might mean re-working and refining some of the older projects to suit your portfolio needs.

## You may want to pick up the book:
*Portfolio Design* by Harold Linton

Please mail your portfolio to:

*The Catholic University of America*
*Office of Admissions*
*Washington, DC  20064*