

Aptitude Exercise  
for Admission to the BA(AS) Program  
Department of Architecture  
University of Hong Kong

27 December 2020 (available: 12:00 noon, Hong Kong Time) to  
31 December 2020 (upload deadline: 12:00 noon, Hong Kong Time)

The criteria measured by the Aptitude Exercise includes the capacity to conceptualize, analytical ability, the rigor evident in approach taken, creativity, and originality. The Aptitude Exercise should reflect the student's capacities and therefore the work must be conceived by the applicant alone.

A PDF submission must be uploaded by 12:00 noon, 31 December 2020, using the uploading tool found on this page. The PDF should be no more than 100MB. Applicants do not need to post a hardcopy of their work to the Faculty of Architecture. Applicants selected for an interview will be asked to bring a hardcopy of their submission. Your submission will be discussed at our interviews.

Any questions should be addressed to the Faculty of Architecture by email at foaoffic@hku.hk. We look forward to learning more about you. Good luck and enjoy creating your Aptitude Exercise.

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#### *Exercise Problem*

In the 15<sup>th</sup> century the Italian humanist Leon Battista Alberti wrote *De re aedificatoria* (On the Art of Building), stating "the city is like a great house, and the house in its turn a small city." Architecture is about creating communities, generating ways of living together, and providing homes for people. This requires architects to anticipate and to imagine the life of their designs.

Today, the world urgently needs the insight of architects. According to United Nations data, in a span of 300 years the world will have gone from almost 0% to practically 100% urbanized. Between now and 2050 an average rate of around 1.5 million people will be urbanized each week, producing a city the size of Hong Kong roughly every five weeks. 431 million Chinese citizens have been urbanized in the last twenty years. In the next thirty years India will urbanize, adding another 384 million urbanites to cities across India. Hong Kong is within a 5-hour flight to 50% of the global population and sits at the center of Asia's massive urbanization.

This Aptitude Exercise asks you to reflect on both Alberti and our current global urban condition and offer possible meanings and interpretations of the following two statements:

The city is a house

The house is a city

Each statement should be represented as an idea in one single image that is found, captured, taken or constructed by you. Your ideas may be conceptual, poetic, personal or imaginary. There is no right or wrong answer.

Please include an optional 250-word written explanation in English if you wish. The complete Aptitude Exercise submission will be the two images and the optional 250-words of text.