

SO
YOU

WANT TO DO

DESIGN?

GREAT!

We love you already :)



**The good news is,
you've been called
for an interview! Yay!**



**The bad news is,
you have
no portfolio** (sad life).

You can't draw or don't know where to start cos the last time you got an 'A' in Art was in Primary 2. Your teacher won't let you have your D&T or Art coursework to show us. You're getting nervous and gassy just thinking about the interview.

**Well, stress no more
because we're here to help.**

This is

**The Definitive Cheatsheet,
The Ultimate 10-Year Series,
The Comprehensive Survival Guide,**

to nailing that design interview and putting together a decent portfolio, or as we call it around these parts

- an interview journal®.

This power manual gives you the inside guide into getting a place in the TP School of Design through the interview and portfolio review process.

FIRST,

ARE YOU THE ONE?

We'd love to love you and adopt you into the big Design family but first we'll have to meet you. To know for sure if you're right for Design, here are **10 very easy questions:**

- 1 Do you see more pattern than badminton?
- 2 Do you like to argue about the difference between turquoise and teal?
- 3 Love to nitpick on details but also love the big picture?
- 4 Apple or Pear?
- 5 Think hipster is boring?
- 6 Do your parents/teachers think you ask too many questions?
- 7 Love to take pictures of everything you see?
- 8 Do life's answers only come in black and white?
(yes, do get philosophical with us)
- 9 How many shades of grey are there?
- 10 Do you see shapes?
(okay that was a trick question haha)

Hint: yes, yes, yes, all fruits are good, yes, yes, yes, #monochromelife, more than 50, duh

In other words, if you're **picky about details, curious about the world**, ask why not more than why, love to document life, got an idealistic streak, love to share your opinions, and more importantly got ideas and an eye for the pretty, then we're pretty sure we're on the same wavelength.

WHAT WE

LOOK OUT FOR?

Passion

Energy & Enthusiasm

Curiosity

Leadership

Interest in the course

Diversity

Wide range of interests

So now that you're all psyched up for the interview, what should you bring?

The short answer: EVERYTHING – everything that is, that will give us a good idea of who you are, what your passion is in design, where your strengths are.

WHAT IS IN A

PORTFOLIO?

**Samples of your original, creative work.
Your D&T journal or your Art coursework.**

(If your teachers don't let you take this out of school, take some pictures.)

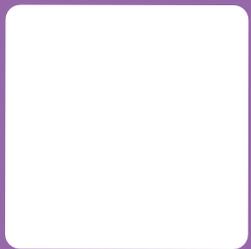
**If you have freelanced and been paid for
creative work, do add that in too!**

**Work that is personal,
the stuff that you do
outside of school, like:-**

- o **Sketchbooks**
- o **Logo ideas**
- o **Doodles**
- o **Moodboards**
- o **Photos**
- o **Writing**
(that includes scripts, essays, journals, short stories, poems & more!)
- o **Blogs**
- o **Videos**
- o **Paintings**
- o **Music**
- o **Sewing work**
- o **Clay work/pottery/wood/
any physical item**(that you made)

Psst: it doesn't all have to be art or design related! For example, if you love cooking and you creatively experiment with ingredients, snap a picture of the dish you cook (better yet bring food samples! Interviewing is hungry business) and talk to us about how or why you chose to cook differently.

Tip: How much work to show/bring? You can show us as much as you like, but a good range of 6 to 20 pieces of work would be a start.



HOW TO MAKE A NICE SHINY

PORTFOLIO

FROM SCRATCH?

Draw your hands/cat.

Draw things in your room.

Find a subject matter of interest, eg anime.
Don't just draw it repeatedly, line for line.

Draw it in different ways.
Try different mediums.

Take pictures but try going beyond OOTDs, selfies and literal depictions of events or subject matter.

Ask yourself how are you exploring composition and technique?

How can the image(s) tell a story?

Look up Pinterest or YouTube and find tutorials that teach you something – a video, how to draw, how to paint, how to stylise. Follow it. Modify it. Make meaning of it. Make it your own.

If you can't draw, try stylising.

Think of pointillism for example, explore different ways of expressing one idea. Observe / Question how things work. Take things apart, literally or metaphorically. Fix them back in different ways. Try some of the exercises in this guide.

HOW TO IMPRESS AT THE

INTERVIEW?

Speak our lingo

– (some vocab you can pick up – form, shape, lines, light, shadow, colour, contrast, material, narrative, story, angles)

Ask questions

(we love curious minds)

Don't be shy.

Show us your work proudly.

Dress appropriately

SOME QUESTIONS WE MAY ASK AT THE INTERVIEW...

Why do you want to do in this course?

Tell us what you understand about the course.

What exhibitions have you visited recently?

Did you attend the open house?

What are your favourite
books/magazines/films/
songs/spaces?

What contemporary
artist/ designer inspires you?

Do you have a favourite
artist/ designer?

WHAT TO
WEAR?



Jeans are okay.
We are also okay with **t-shirts**.

All manner of footwear is acceptable –
but don't wear flipflops.
Designers have more imagination than that.

Not all designers wear all black,
so don't try too hard.

And if can't decide, just wear
your school uniform!

FAQS



I have no portfolio. What should I do? Can I still come for the interview?

Yes, you can still come for the interview. If you don't have a portfolio, spend some time and effort to make a quick portfolio by trying some of the easy exercises in this guide.

I have no Art or D&T background. Can I still apply for Design?

It's okay if you don't have Art or D&T background. Many of our students still do well in Design without any prior knowledge of art and design. The ability to draw can be cultivated and we do teach those fundamental skills here in Design School.

What is the test about?

The aptitude test looks at how much you know about design in general. Some parts may test your ability to develop quick ideas or the way you look at objects, lines, shapes and the world around you.

ANNEX

What are we looking for?

The short answer is, we look for creativity and passion for design. But creativity can be expressed in many ways, not just drawing and sketching. Those technical skills are teachable. It's okay if you can't draw. Creativity is found in the culinary arts, in music, dance, drama, film-making, writing, sewing and more. We look for people who are curious, who are willing to work hard, who enjoy different ways of looking at the world. We also look out for those who enjoy working with their hands to make something.

How many pieces of work must a portfolio have?

A good portfolio will give us an idea of the range of work you do. So anything from 5 pieces to about 15 would give us a good sense. Of course if you would like to show us more, that's always welcome!

Must a portfolio be physical drawings or actual work?

No, not necessarily. A portfolio can be digital – scanned and uploaded into your tablet or laptop. It can be a blog or a website you've developed. If you can't bring physical objects you've made eg D&T projects or large-scale artwork, then take a picture and show us. Those who are interested in the Digital Film & Television course may bring scripts that they have written or short videos they have shot for personal or school projects.

Select a minimum of 3 (more is better!)
**from the following suggested
exercises to present at the interview.**

Stylise something in 8 different ways



Find a subject matter of interest, ideally something simple such as an apple or your favourite animal.

In the first box, draw it in a way that you best know how, whether it is a photorealistic illustration or a simplified interpretation.

Then, draw the same object in a different way. You may explore different mediums such as marker renderings or watercolours, try techniques like pointillism, drawing in a continuous line, or look to art styles for inspiration.

Explore as many styles as you can. 8 is just a suggestion. If you can show more than 8, great!

We want to see how you push yourself out of your comfort zone.

Any conceptual thinking behind choice of experimentation is appreciated.

We are also interested in the documentation of your progress and practice.



100 lines

Draw 100 different types of lines or as many different lines as you can.

You may use different mediums to draw these lines.

Number them, and give each line a name.

Feel free to use as many sheets of A4 paper as possible.



Insta-story

Find 4 images on Instagram that interest you.

Provide a brief description for each.
Why did you choose this image? Were you attracted to the colour palette? Was it the composition? Did the image communicate a narrative that moved you?



Accidental letterforms

Look around you. Our environment is made up of interesting forms. A round table resembles the letter “O”, while a dried up leaf may look like a “J”. A building at a certain perspective may reveal an “M”.

Capture as many letterforms as you can with your phone camera, and present them at the interview. No restrictions on whether they are uppercase or lowercase. Extra points if you manage to form “TP Design Rocks!” It is okay to have repeated letters.



School of Design

21 Tampines Avenue 1

Singapore 529757

Tel: 6780 5133 Fax: 6784 6144

Email us at: deshotline@tp.edu.sg

www-des.tp.edu.sg