



Royal  
Danish  
Academy

# Admission 2024: Crafts

Design  
Architecture  
Conservation

# Digital admission test

Welcome to the digital admissions test for the Royal Danish Academy!

For the whole day, you will work with developing a design/crafts proposal with a point of departure in the question:

## **How can design/craft create and strengthen humans connection to nature?**

Nature has inspired designers and craftspeople for centuries. The objects, products, visual universes, graphic compositions and fashion and textile objects we design and manufacture are often inspired by nature. We are a part of nature ourselves and our relationship to nature has evolved over time. Natural forms and motifs were often copied by designers and artisans in the 17th and 18th centuries, while abstract interpretations of nature's principles and forces characterized the modernist period.

Climate change, changes to the planet's ecosystems and natural resource scarcity prompt us to reconsider our relationship to nature. How do we design new objects that take nature's resources into consideration and bring us closer to nature?

As a part of the digital admissions test you will also find a separate inspiration catalogue. Here you will find texts and images you can use as inspiration. In addition, you can also include the 5–10 objects you have collected before the test. On the following pages you will find a process we suggest that you to follow.

## **Before you begin the test, you should read through the following points to be sure you are adequately prepared:**

- Read through the entire assignment before you begin
- Remember that questions and texts are inspiration and should not be 'answered'
- Remember yourself and your interests
- We are more interested in how you work and your process rather than what you make
- Adhere to the rules on the number of pages and other formalities
- The proposed timing for each task is a guide but remember to plan your time wisely so you complete each section including time to upload your material before 17.00
- Remember to upload your portfolio and video before 17.00
- Remember to take breaks



Royal  
Danish  
Academy

Admission 2024

### Materials and tools

You may use the materials we have asked you to have available. You can choose yourself which tools you use. It is up to you whether you work analogue, digitally or a combination of the two. You must deliver the task digitally in pdf format.

### Formalities and submission

- Your submission of the task must not exceed 7 pages, You must upload your task as one combined pdf file.
- Your submission must be in A4 landscape format.
- Make a title for each page that clearly describes what you are showing (e.g. 'final design proposal')
- Write short image captions for the most important things you show (max. 80 characters including spaces per caption)
- Remember that your task must be anonymous. You must not write your name.
- In addition to the task, you must upload your portfolio (max. 5 pages) and your video. In all, you must upload 3 files. You must upload all 3 files before 17.00.
- You must upload your files in MitAkademi.



Royal  
Danish  
Academy

Admission 2024

# Guiding process steps

We suggest you follow the process set out below. The timings are suggestions and you should take breaks within them.

## 1. Upload portfolio and video

It is advantageous to start with uploading your portfolio and video so you become familiar with the system. If you do not upload straight away, remember to do it before 17.00.

## 2. Brainstorm and exploration of what you already know on the subject

Use approx. 30 mins.

Should take up at least 1 page of your final submission

*Use words, picture and quick sketches to explore what you already know. You can also present mindmaps, scenarios and look words like 'nature' and 'connections' up so you have existing definitions to work with.*

- Look at the inspiration catalogue and the objects you have collected as a starting point to begin the test.
- Potential questions to consider as a starting point (you do not need to consider them all):
  - What do you think of, or see, when you see the words 'craft', 'nature' and 'connections'?
  - How does design and craft create connections? Which types of connections do you have experience with? – digital, physical, emotional, sensual, communicative?
  - What does it mean to be connected? What is the value in being connected to nature?
  - What does the concept of nature mean for you? What is distinctive about nature?
  - Is there anything special about existing connections to nature? Do the connections have a function? Are you becoming aware of problems with people's connection to nature?

## 3. Observation and visual registration

Use approx. 30 mins.

Should take up 1-2 pages of your final submission

*Find drawing equipment, notebook, camera or other things you would like to use to make visual registrations. Start with observing and making registrations of the things you see around you – what do you see that you connect with nature? ... or perhaps the absence of nature, traces of nature, natural forces? Use and include the objects you have found before the test.*

- Possible questions for the registrations (do you do not need to use them all):
  - What does nature look like? How does nature communicate to the different senses? What qualities does 'nature' have in comparison to 'non-nature' – observe and register colours, materials, forms, patterns, signals etc. What do you discover? What captures your interest? A material? A specific colour palette? A particular set of forms?



Royal  
Danish  
Academy

Admission 2024

- After this, observe and register how the connections appear. Consider and attempt to visualise the connections in both abstract and concrete ways. Which connections can you see? When and how do you experience that design and craft can create connections?

#### 4. Development of ideas

Use approx. 90 mins.

Should take up at least 1 page of your final submission

*Use form and visualisation to develop and work through ideas. Let your observations help you to transform and work through your material.*

- What have you observed about people's connection to nature?
- What stands out in relation to creating connections to nature? How can you develop that? How can you investigate and illustrate similarities and differences, opposites and potentials? How does your material inspire you to create and strengthen our connection to nature?

#### 5. Development, visualisation and communication of 1 idea

Use approx. 180 mins.

Should take up at least 1 page of your final submission

*Choose something from the visual or 3D material you have worked on that you would like to develop further. Which ideas do you have for your craft/design proposition that creates and strengthens connections? It can be both signals and messages as well as concrete suggestions/solutions.*

- Choose the idea you think is the strongest and develop it further through sketches (analogue and/or digitally) to a final design proposal
- Also consider who the target group is for your proposal – and how your proposal can speak to this group of people
- Visualise your design, so it clearly communicates the medium, context, material choice and scale – use images, sketches, collages, models etc.

#### 6. Gather your material in a PDF of maximum 7 pages

Use approx. 30 mins.

- Make a title for each page that clearly describes what you are showing (eg. 'Final design proposal')
- Write short captions for the most important things you show (max. 80 characters including spaces per caption). Remember to reference if anything you include in your submission is not your own work or words.

#### 7. Upload your work

Use approx. 30 mins.