

DO YOU
HAVE
WHAT IT
TAKE TO
BECOME
AN

ARCHITECT



ILLUSTRATION:
FATIMA JAHAN ENA

NOTE-TAKING METHODS THAT ACTUALLY WORK

INVEST IN A STURDIER NOTEBOOK

Opt for medium sized, book-bound notebooks that are easy to carry, and eliminate the risk of sheets falling out and getting lost.

DON'T MIX YOUR NOTES

Use notebooks that come with separators, or manually add stick-on page markers to indicate each subject.

UTILISE THE CORNELL METHOD

Make three sections: main notes, cue column for questions and keywords, and a summary section.

PAY ATTENTION TO THE TEACHERS' WORDS

Instead of jotting down every point from a slide or board, ask questions and participate in the discussion. Talk to them rather than copying whatever they say.

KEEP STICKY NOTES, A HIGHLIGHTER, OR A RED PEN HANDY

Using a pop of vibrant colours such as red, magenta, or lime green, serves as a visual cue and can aid the revision of important areas in your study materials.

ABIR HOSSAIN

For a degree that offers a great deal of flexibility and enables its students to work across many fields, Architecture has its fair share of challenges. It is often cited as one of the most difficult majors to pursue. And that may be attributed to the long hours demanded, immense workload, tight deadlines, relentless reviews, project submissions, and the physically demanding nature of the discipline.

Despite how mentally and physically taxing it may be, Bangladesh churns out hundreds of new Architecture graduates each year. So, what fosters such a level of dedication and what does it take to study architecture?

Md. Ehsan Alam, Lecturer at the Department of Architecture, Brac University, talks about the challenges of pursuing the major.

"Architectural education is not an attainment of a degree. It is more of a technical training. You're training to be an architect," he said. "It is a combination of how creative you are but also depends on your ability to be organised and punctual."

Due to the arduous nature of Architecture, some students opt to switch majors. The difficulty, however, emerges from many aspects. Unlike most degrees, a Bachelor of Architecture is a five-year programme as opposed to other degrees, which are four-year programmes, and involves greater credit hours. Naturally, this makes it a big commitment and it's something that students only realise after enrolling in the programme. There are also other students whose first choices might not have been architecture.

"If you've come into architecture, you certainly have an inclination towards design. It would be a good utilisation of one's time if they pursue architecture for some time and then move into disciplines of design that better suit their interests," said Ehsan. "At the end of the day, however, if

someone isn't driven or remotely passionate, it starts to feel like a chore and learning becomes partial."

The drive doesn't necessarily always have to emerge from passion.

"One could always pursue something if they're not passionate about it but you could be encouraged by the employment opportunities, monetary factors, title, degree, or even just empowerment itself," he said.

For Ehsan though, passion wasn't derived from just enjoying the process, but also from realising that architecture could be used as a tool to contribute to one's motherland. It all looks different for everyone.

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"There could be bad reviews, terrible projects, and semesters where you and professor don't see eye-to-eye but there is an overarching theme that gets you through projects," he said.

When asked how one could brace for impact, he said that to brace for impact means always being on alert and in a state of panic.

"In life, how do you brace for impact? You are not aware of when disaster might strike. So, there is no bracing for impact. Take it one day at a time and solve problems as it comes your way. You have to be responsive," he concluded.

Abir is a Sub-Editor at Campus.