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AN  
INTRODUCTION TO  
**ARCHITECTURE**

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WJEC GCSE ART AND DESIGN

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WRITTEN BRIEFS

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## PREFACE

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These written briefs for the Welsh Joint Education Committee GCSE Art and Design assessment materials are part of a series of resources created by students from The Welsh School of Architecture which are designed to give an introduction to architecture for school students in line with the national curriculum.

While the briefs are architecture based, they do not require expert knowledge and can be applicable to any learner who has an interest in design and making.

It is hoped that work produced as a result of this pack will increase interest in the built environment and architecture. For those students wishing to pursue architecture at university, it is intended to support the individual's application process in terms of developing architectural portfolios and an awareness of themes often explored in architectural education.

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WRITTEN BRIEF 1

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**INVESTIGATE CRAFT AND MAKING IN LOCAL CULTURE**

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Traditional crafts utilising local materials is deep rooted in Welsh culture, whether that be coracle making, woollen mills or wooden love spoons, to name a few. The work is a direct response to the local landscape and materials available within it.

Experiment with the theme of place through making that captures local identity.

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WRITTEN BRIEF 1

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PRECEDENTS

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**Alvar Aalto** (Architect)

Designer including architect, furniture designer and sculptor, designs directly relate to their surroundings with an emphasis upon craft and making

**Assemble** (Architecture Practice)

Designers interested in creating connections with place

**Charles and Ray Eames** (Architects and Designers)

Experimental designers focussed on making

**Andy Goldsworthy** (Artist)

Sculptor and photographer working with natural materials to produce a response to the land

**Anthony Gormley** (Sculptor)

Uses the human form to explore peoples connection to the world

**Glenn Murcutt** (Architecture)

Inspiration gained from the vernacular

**Carlo Scarpa** (Architect)

Combined traditional crafts with modern manufacturing processes with an emphasis upon materials

**Rural Studio** (Educational Architecture Practice)

Community orientated projects focused on making and place

**James Turrell** (Artist)

Concerned with light and space in relation to place

**Peter Zumthor** (Architect)

Emphasis upon craft and materials

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WRITTEN BRIEF 2

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**EXPLORE THE ROLE OF TECTONICS WITHIN ARCHITECTURE**

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Natural materials such as Welsh oak or slate and industrial materials like steel are essential elements of the built environment of Wales, along with the emergence of new and innovative materials. Materials have the ability to create atmospheric and tactile spaces. Connections between and layers of materials can create tension as they meet or compliment each other.

Explore the tectonics of architecture by investigating construction methods, connections and the use of materials in artistic design.

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WRITTEN BRIEF 2

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PRECEDENTS

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**Jonathan Adams** (Architect)

Material choice inspired by the local landscape

**Shigeru Ban** (Architect)

Innovative use of recycled materials

**Andy Goldsworthy** (Artist)

Sculptor and photographer working with natural materials to produce a response to the land

**Zaha Hadid Architects** (Architecture Practice)

Experimental approach to materials

**Herzog et de Meuron** (Architecture Practice)

Innovative use of materials

**Louis Kahn** (Architect)

Honesty to a singular material

**Mies van der Rohe** (Architect)

Use of industrial materials with an emphasis upon detail and joints

**Carlo Scarpa** (Architect)

Combined traditional crafts with modern manufacturing processes with an emphasis upon materials

**Caruso St John** (Architecture Practice)

Explores potential for construction with a fascination for materials

**Peter Zumthor** (Architect)

Emphasis upon craft and materials

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CREATED BY STUDENTS AT THE WELSH SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE

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CAITLIN MULLARD

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