

# **How and How Well Do Schools of Architecture Select their Students: Israel's Technion as a Case Study**

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## **Abstract**

This study provides a panoramic evaluation of the selection system used by the Faculty of Architecture at the Technion, Israel. For several decades now, the Architecture Selection Test (AST) has been a central component of this system. This practical, open-ended test (in which planning, designing, presenting and analyzing abilities are tapped) is used in addition to high school matriculation (Bagrut) exams and to the all-university Psychometric Entrance Test (PET). The report starts with an introductory review of the selection procedures used in architectural departments around the world, followed by a description of the process of selection to the Technion's architecture school. Then the results of a brief job analysis are presented, or rather a personality analysis, portraying the qualities perceived as most desirable for the architecture student. Finally a predictive validity study is presented regarding the admission process employed by the Technion's architecture school, including a reliability assessment and a generalizability analysis of the AST. Our main conclusion is that even before implementing the recommended improvements in the processes of developing and scoring AST, its contribution to the prediction of the criteria it was meant to, namely, the performance in the studio (design projects) in architecture studies, can be clearly shown.