Portfolio Guidelines 
for Application to the New York School of Interior Design

Applicants to the Bachelor of Fine Arts degree program or to the Associate in Applied Science degree program are required to submit a portfolio as part of their application. Here are some general guidelines and suggestions regarding portfolio preparation.

1. Our school, like most, requires a minimum of 10 to 12 pieces of artwork in a portfolio. It is important to choose your work carefully. 10 strong pieces are better than 15 mediocre pieces.

2. Your portfolio for admission into the New York School of Interior Design should consist of fine art and/or design work. Drawing, drafting work, painting, sculpture and other media are accepted.

3. At least two of the works in your portfolio should reflect an interior space. We will accept works from observation or from imagination that depict an interior setting.

4. Please show some examples of work done in color.

5. Be prepared to talk about your work, and answer questions about it. Explaining your ideas will provide insight into your portfolio.

6. Show drawings done from life. Still life, portraits and landscapes are recommended. Remember that our purpose in reviewing your portfolio is to judge your readiness for our programs. Show works that indicate potential.

7. Please show original ideas. Works copied from photographs are not encouraged but can be considered if they have been altered or used as a reference.

8. Try to steer clear of work that is too “cutesy.” Drawings and paintings of cartoon characters, unicorns and teddy bears often times do not provide an indication of your creative capacity.

9. Include recent work (work completed within the last two years is best.)

10. If you must send slides, be sure that they are in focus, and that they are each clearly labeled with your name, address, title of the work, date completed and the medium.