

Chris Hardie

Schmidt Hammer Lassen /
Perkins & Will, Shanghai

Could you give a brief, personal introduction and to your practice?

*My name is **Chris Hardie** and I am an Architect and Principal at the Danish studio **Schmidt Hammer Lassen**, and Design Director at global firm **Perkins and Will**.*

I oversee the work of the combined practice in Asia, and a combined studio of 100 architects and designers in Shanghai.

Could you describe three top skills you look for from your graduate candidates?

*In technical skills, we seek solid presentation skills, the ability to draw in **Revit**, and solid 3d skills in **Rhino***

What personal attitudes / characteristics do you seek from your graduate candidates?

*Regarding personal skills and characteristics, we seek candidates with **confidence, energy and a clear ability to explain** and talk about their work.*

What are your pet hates when receiving portfolios and during interviews?

*We don't like over complicated portfolios with pages wallpapered with graphics; we prefer **calmer more succinct presentations that have impact and clarity**.*

Don't be late for interviews, and don't lie about your experience.

When reviewing a portfolio, is there anything you specifically look for? How would you suggest candidate's format these?

*We look for an understanding of **story telling and graphic control**. Only put something on the page if it contributes to the story you wish to tell about the project.*

Don't be afraid of blank space.

When reviewing a CV, what advice would you offer a candidate in making these effective?

Keep CV's short and to the point. 1 page is sufficient.

Try and present your work consistently, and make it clear what your contribution was.

Should a candidate be fortunate enough to reach interview, what are the typical question you always ask?

We ask questions like:

- 1.What do you know about our work in the studio?*
- 2.What are your strengths as a young designer?*
- 3.Talk about your ability to work in a team and give some examples.*
- 4.What would you goals be during the first year in our studio?*
- 5.What other aspects of being an architect are you interested in other than design?*

If you could offer one single piece of advice to graduate candidates, what would it be?

Be confident.