

“Stop doodling those sea animals in your scrapbook and go to bed,” yelled my mother furiously. Grudgingly, I put my 2B drawing pencil and the scrapbook away and retired to my bed.

Whenever I found time in my day, I would pamper myself by maneuvering my wands—drawing pencil and paintbrush—making sudden swerves or changing hues at the summons of my creative faculties, spinning my imagination onto paper. Art was my escape, allowing me to let my hair down and take a leisurely trip through the idyllic lanes of my utopian world. Every tenuous and imperceptible stroke of my wands would crackle to life my most hankered and oddest fantasies. My artistic lens gave me the confidence to rewrite, or rather paint, my yearned climax for *Gone With the Wind*—the reunion of the bold Scarlett O’Hara with the charming Rhett Butler.

With time, my fondness for sketching and painting turned into a metaphorical whirlpool that drew me more completely and deeply into itself. I started to find in it the sanctuary to merge my value systems and beliefs. Soon, I began spilling colors on paper and folding them in artistic style, naïve attempts at origami, as I delved into crafts as well, creating customized photo frames and pen stands.

My passion for creativity opened new windows of self-expression at each step, providing me space to artistically voice my thoughts and beliefs, without explicitly stating them but conveying them subtly through my imagination, compositional intelligence, and the skills of my hands.

Gradually, I began painting rooms and spaces that evoked serenity, comfort, and aesthetic beauty simultaneously. Eager to capture a winter scene from my imagination on canvas, I painted a December living room with a rustic fireplace mantel, neatly stacked kindling placed beside a small square wooden coffee table with a marble top. Blending the entire scene with dusty pink walls, I created a vintage space I wanted to dwell in, using my favorite medium to bring my dreams to life.

Creating this scene gave me the much-needed push to foray into imagining, painting and designing realistic beautiful spaces on paper. Soon after, I painted a bedroom where I could unwind at the end of a busy day. It featured a smooth-surfaced, semi-finished wooden bed with slightly asymmetrical legs creating a geometrical pattern, positioned across from a similar wooden bookshelf with faint and intricate coral and sapphire patterns, as if quietly lending life to the room. The block-painted, two-toned walls of cream and salmon pink, complemented by a large window on the right side of the room, doubling up as a cascading waterfall screen. Other accessories, a woollen, multi-colored dream catcher and a wooden wall clock with intricate carvings—all accented the appeal of the space and my desire to inhabit it. As I stepped back from the painting, pencil still

in hand, a realization washed over me. I had been measuring proportions and assessing functionality, balancing aesthetics with livability. They weren't mere sketches or idle fantasies but the earliest blueprints of architecture waiting to take shape.

This spree of painting spaces and rooms naturally invoked in me a desire to study room and interior designs in magazines and online. I liked learning about how aesthetic appeal braided with functionality and subtlety to produce alluring spaces —gently prodding me to direct my creativity towards interior architecture.

My love affair with art has profoundly shaped my personality, expanding my horizons, boosting my confidence, and empowering me with new goals and interests. Art has provided me with a sanctuary to re-energize and unchain myself from the chaos around me, and now I aspire to transform my childhood passion for painting imaginary spaces into a career creating beautiful, well-designed environments where others can find their sense of peace and belonging.

In approximately 500 words, discuss your reasons for pursuing undergraduate study in the visual arts.

Drawing has always been a part of my childhood. It was woven into my everyday routine where I painted, drew pictures and tried to bring characters that I pictured in my mind to life on paper. Most of the time, I painted scenes from places I had travelled to. It felt like a creative instinct because I could observe a scenery and imagine how things could look better, how shifting a material or object could change the entire picture and give the painting a completely different perspective.

This early interest slowly grew into a passion for design. A few years ago, my focus shifted from drawing individual objects to sketching my room and house, complete with shading and depth. These sketches evolved into sketches of hotels, interiors of malls, or even cafés. That was when I started noticing the interiors of every place I visited, paying attention to every single detail and sculptural element of any extraordinarily designed item. This shift made me realize that interior design was becoming a more serious interest rather than just a hobby.

Design feels meaningful to me because I can reimagine a space and make it visually appealing. Studying it feels like an opportunity to turn my interest into a successful career. For me, design is a medium where I can take something I've created in my mind and turn it into something physical, functional, and creative. It helps me to bring my imagination to life and shape environments where people feel safe: in a space that

reflects their vision and truly belongs to them. It's not just about decorating; it's about evoking emotions, setting moods, and making spaces inspiring.

I want to become an interior designer who creates spaces that are innovative, functional, aesthetic, emotionally expressive, and personal to each client. I want to gain international exposure by traveling to different places, working across different cultures, and gathering experience until I develop my own personal design identity. Eventually, I hope to establish my own interior design studio where I can fully express my creativity.

I wish to study visual arts because I want a strong foundation that helps me understand different textures, shapes, styles, sculptures, and compositions, all of which are essential for becoming a professional interior designer. An undergraduate program will give me the chance to experiment with different mediums and learn how to think like a designer: conceptually, critically, and creatively. I want to develop my ideas and strengthen my communication skills. Studying at the School of Visual Arts will expose me to critique-based learning, and provide guidance from experienced artists who will help me grow. The environment will give me a place to experiment, create, and discover tools and materials that will define my creative path.

Include information about what inspires you, what does your artistic process look like, share why you are interested in and utilize certain materials, exhibitions in which you have participated, or other activities that contribute to the making of your work. If you are applying to the BFA with an Emphasis in Writing, your statement needs also to address how you imagine a studio arts environment will impact your writing practice. (The application won't accept a response shorter than 250 words.)

I feel inspired by every architectural form, from buildings to urban landscapes. What draws me is the way form, balance, and structure work together. Lines, symmetry, and the utilization of empty spaces evoke feelings of calmness. When creating something, I strive to combine creativity with technical expertise to create professional-level designs.

My artistic process begins with observation. I notice shapes, textures, and the way light interacts with materials. I don't rush to create. First, I draw rough sketches and explore which colours would complement my work, using references that help me think through balance, color palettes, and mood. Next, I experiment by mixing mediums, trying new materials, or approaching the same concept from different perspectives. Upon finalising it, I focus on creation, where every move or stroke is guided by my intuition. When my work is complete, I analyze it and make adjustments to ensure that the final piece matches how I had imagined it.

During my internship under ANSA architects, I gained hands-on experience learning how to communicate with clients, manage time under pressure, think through spatial arrangement, and visualize and develop unique design concepts for spaces, while managing client expectations. This experience combined with my knowledge of design trends, construction principles like, how to balance visual weight distribution and contrast elements, and attention to detail, have equipped me well for this course.

At SAIC, I am eager to deepen my creative and technical skills in an environment that challenges me to grow both as an artist and designer.

In 250-500 words, please respond to the following prompt:

All Programs (Except Construction Management): Write about a piece of work (visual art, musical performance, piece of writing, architecture, or design) that has influenced you and describe the impact it has had on your perspective OR write about a part of your work and the impact of creating the work has had on you.

I remember sitting in my room, flipping through the pages of a book on modern architecture and design, when I came across a picture of the Burj Khalifa. It was mind-blowing: the world's tallest building has a Y-shaped footprint inspired by the Hymenocallis, a spider lily. The central hexagonal core is supported by a series of wings with setbacks arranged in a spiraling pattern that reduces the building's mass and the effect of wind. Built with reinforced concrete, glass, aluminium, and stainless steel, it stands at 828 meters with 163 floors above ground. How was this even possible?

This curiosity prompted me to learn more about it. So I searched online, gathering all the information I could find about its construction and design philosophy. The more I learned, the more my perspective on design began to shift. I began to look at spaces differently, noticing how light interacts with materials, how colours affect mood and emotion.

So, when my family planned a trip to Dubai, I was thrilled. I observed every single building: its shape, scale, colour, and complexity. Then I finally saw it: the Burj Khalifa; rising into the clouds, setting up a standard for what design and construction could achieve. What fascinated me most wasn't just the engineering marvel but the realization that imagination and ideas could become reality. Not only Burj Khalifa, but also other buildings like the sail-shaped Burj Al Arab, the twisted Cayan Tower, the Dubai frame, the Museum of the Future—each structure told a story of a grandiose vision.

These experiences sparked my interest in architecture, while my fondness for designing and creating drew me to interior design. After seeing Dubai's skyline I began to understand that design isn't just about aesthetics, it's about how spaces make us feel and how interiors can reflect identity. The fusion of modernity and traditional designs has deeply influenced my creative thinking. I learned to visualize and develop unique design concepts for spaces, and understand how to arrange furniture and customize spaces according to the expectations of people. Staying updated with current design trends, being knowledgeable about building and construction, attention to detail, applying the principles of balance and contrast—can transform ordinary rooms into meaningful environments.

Before witnessing Dubai's transformation, I thought that design was something fixed or limited, bound by conventional materials and familiar ideas. Watching the Burj Khalifa rise from the desert made me realise that the impossible can be built with vision and determination. Dubai taught me that you can transform a desert into a city that touches the sky, proving that architecture is not built from materials alone but from imagination and courage. Every space has the power to connect people to something greater than themselves and that realization changed how I see my future in design. I now believe in its power to turn emptiness into beauty and to bring to life what others can't yet imagine.