What is a Specification?

A specification is one of the most important sections of the project, and it is used to check the project throughout the process, keep you on track and help evaluate it at the end

In the outside world it is not only essential, but it is so important that it can make or break a company. In school we do not have this pressure, but it is important to understand that in the outside world it is key to everything you do.

It is basically the CONTRACT between the client and the manufacturer/builder, detailing what exactly needs to be produced and undertaken, right down to the smallest detail and mistakes can be very costly if you get it wrong.

The difference between school and industry is that it will include how much the client will pay for the project, and if changes are made during the process or construction, there must be agreement between the client and the manufacturer about to who will pay for it. Even with this detail of preparation and care a basic building projects it can be up to a 1/3rd more than the original quote/budget by the time you finish, and projects like Crossrail, where the budget was £14.8bn, it is currently running at £19bn (August 2020)

In the design process suggested here, there are 2 specifications, firstly:

Initial Specification

This is formulated at the design brief stage before research. It is a list (See the Initial Specification Handout for details) and is only really based upon initial thoughts and responses to the brief/client. It is not a definitive list, just something to get started with. You also list down what possible actions you would undertake to find out about. It is not only to helps guide your research but also helps you refine the Final Specification

Then most importantly:

Final Specification

This is the final list of requirements, which should be as detailed as possible, you do not need to add actions, but you may need to add reasons and explanations to it if they have not been explained earlier:

**Initial Specification**

1. It must be safe Action: I will need to find out what regulations cover this

**Final Specification**

1. It must be safe and comply with Safety regulation Sp673 with regards to space

between units

See Final Specification Handout for further details.

Remember, think of this as your contract. It must be used throughout the project to check you are answering the brief.