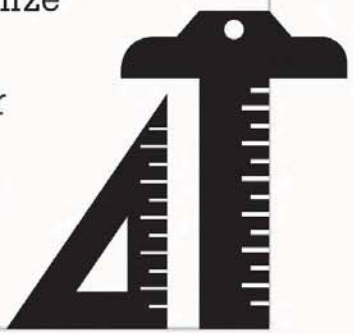
ARCHITECT

JOB DESCRIPTION

An architect plans and designs buildings for a range of clients, from companies developing huge retail or leisure facilities to individuals building their own homes. Architects may design new buildings, work on existing structures, or specialize in the restoration and conservation of historic sites. They are responsible for ensuring buildings are designed to comply with national, state, and local building codes.



SALARY

Newly qualified architect ★★☆☆☆
Senior architect ★★★★★

INDUSTRY PROFILE

Employment opportunities linked to the state of construction industry • Rising demand for architects due to growth in housing market • Fierce competition in the private sector

AT A GLANCE

YOUR INTERESTS Art • Design • Construction • Design technology • Materials science • Engineering • Physics • Mathematics

ENTRY QUALIFICATIONS A degree followed by at least a two-year apprenticeship and licensing exams are required for entry.

LIFESTYLE Architects may work regular office hours, but more often than not, project deadlines demand longer hours.

LOCATION While the work is mainly office-based, architects also travel to construction sites to meet with clients and assess progress.

THE REALITIES Markets can be affected by changes in the economy. Pay can vary greatly between the public and private sectors.

CAREER PATHS

It takes a long time to qualify as an architect. You need to gain practical experience after completing a degree in architecture, after which you take a set of exams to earn professional accreditation. Once qualified, your progress depends on your reputation and field of activity. Large architectural practices offer opportunities for promotion, but many architects choose to set up their own business, or to take jobs with property developers or local authorities.

DISTANCE LEARNING STUDENT You may be able to study by distance learning to gain professional accreditation as an architect. To become an architect, you need an accredited undergraduate degree.

GRADUATE An architecture degree can take up to five years, after which you will need to work and learn under professional supervision before registering as a qualified architect.

RELATED CAREERS

- **LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT** *see pp. 170–171*
- **CIVIL ENGINEER** *see pp. 176–177*
- **STRUCTURAL ENGINEER** *see pp. 196–197*
- **COST ENGINEER** *see pp. 198–199*
- **TOWN PLANNER** *see pp. 200–201*
- **INDUSTRIAL DESIGNER** Develops the appearance, usability, and function of a wide range of products using engineering and business expertise. An industrial designer usually works alongside engineers and model-makers and draws up proposals for projects. They may also be responsible for the costing of designed item to make sure it is commercially viable.

SKILLS GUIDE

- Strong communication skills and the ability to liaise with clients and the construction team.
- A willingness to work in a team of construction personnel of varying skills and abilities.
- Artistic flair and the creativity to generate unique and innovative design ideas.
- Efficient management skills for running design projects, both on a large and small scale.
- Good technical knowledge and a logical, analytical approach toward challenges.
- Attention to detail in order to produce drawings and designs to exact specifications.

RESIDENTIAL ARCHITECT Designs and builds homes and residential properties to be functional and visually appealing. Specialty knowledge of residential building regulations is also important.

ARCHITECT Once licensed, an architect can design a variety of different kinds of buildings or choose to specialize.

COMMERCIAL ARCHITECT Designs and builds retail, office buildings, and other large commercial structures, cooperating closely with engineers and interior and landscape designers.

CIVIC ARCHITECT Designs public buildings, usually working with a local authority, town council, or government agency.

CONSERVATION ARCHITECT Specializes in the conservation of old buildings, ranging from ancient monuments to listed residential properties.