

Career Profile: Architect



Architects use their skills to breathe life into a building. An Architect combines creative design with a wide range of technical knowledge and skills to provide integrated solutions for built and natural environments. Architects work with construction professionals, clients and town planners to provide concept drawings, plans and specifications to make sure the building meets the needs of the client and uses of the building.

What would my working day look like?

Some of the tasks you may complete are:

- ▶ Meet with clients to establish their needs, budget and project requirements and create a design brief
- ▶ Prepare sketches and detailed drawings using CAD software factoring in site conditions, features and ideal location and orientation of the building on the site
- ▶ Prepare project documentation to include sketches, scaled drawings, aesthetics, structural and mechanical aspects into the final design
- ▶ May be involved with lodging the project plans to the local authority to obtain building approval
- ▶ Inspect construction progress during and after the build to make sure it complies with standards and plans
- ▶ Design and coordinate projects ranging from very small to very large with the same attention to detail
- ▶ Work closely with clients, builders, tradespeople, government bodies and local councils

I might enjoy this job if:

- ▶ I like studying Design and Technology, the Arts, History and/or Environmental Studies
- ▶ I like being creative and am good with using computers
- ▶ I prefer a mixture of working indoors and outdoors
- ▶ Enjoy working with others
- ▶ I handle stress and stressful situations with a level head and can meet deadlines

Working conditions and hours

You will have a mix of working indoors and outdoors. When you are designing and drawing you will be in an office using specialised computer-aided design (CAD) software and will be outdoors when you need to visit work sites or workplaces to meet with clients and other professionals working on the project. An Architect's job can also be stressful at times especially when project deadlines are looming!

Architects generally work full time (generally 45 hours per week) and may be required to work after hours and on weekends.

How do I become an Architect?

To become a qualified Architect, you will need to complete Year 12 to enable entry into a degree program in architecture. Contact individual University Design schools to check if they have any pre-requisites before selecting your Year 11 subjects and before applying to a program. The next step is to enrol in an accredited architecture program. Your school careers advisor can help you with information on how to enrol at university.

After graduating you will need to register with the Architects Board of Western Australia to become a practicing Architect or you may want to complete postgraduate studies to specialise. For more information visit www.architectsboard.org.au

Future pathways and opportunities

You can have a satisfying career in mainstream architecture working for a large firm or government organisation. Future opportunities to pursue careers outside of mainstream architecture practice can include further study to become an Urban and Regional Planner, Design and Technology Teacher, Urban Designer, property development, environmental design or even conservation.

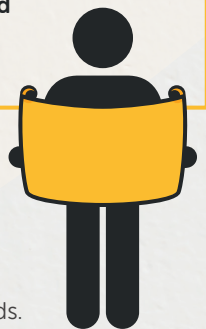
Average Pay

Up to **\$1,838** per week

depending on your qualifications and experience. (Source: Job Outlook)

What skills and personal qualities do I need?

- ▶ Be able to analyse and critically assess problems
- ▶ An eye for design and attention to detail
- ▶ Creativity and artistic flare
- ▶ Good interpersonal and communication skills
- ▶ Be able to visualise and imagine how something will look - see the big picture
- ▶ Have an interest in history, culture and environmental concerns
- ▶ Excellent organisational and time management skills to meet deadlines



Next Steps

Further information can be found at:

- ▶ Jobs and Skills WA – www.jobsandskills.wa.gov.au
- ▶ The Good Universities Guide – www.gooduniversitiesguide.com.au
- ▶ Job Outlook – www.joboutlook.gov.au