

# Career Profile: Building Designer

Design is the single most important element in creating a new building and every building site is unique with its own set of challenges and possibilities.

Building Designers use their creative skills and technical building knowledge to produce practical, affordable and sustainable solutions to bring their client's ideas and dreams to reality. They design and produce working drawings and specifications for a wide range of residential and commercial projects. Building Designers may specialise in medium density housing developments, restorations, renovations, extension work and/or alternative housing.

## What would my working day look like?

Some of the tasks you may complete are:

- ▶ Creating designs for new buildings
- ▶ Ensuring compliance with building and planning regulations
- ▶ Working with a client to develop a design that meets their needs and the building standards and regulations
- ▶ Understand and interpret building and planning regulations
- ▶ Interpret and create drawings and blueprints for buildings
- ▶ Use computer aided design software to produce designs, detailed drawings and documentation
- ▶ Solve complex problems whilst working to the client's budget
- ▶ Communicate effectively with various people including the client, the Building Contractor and local government authorities as required

## I might enjoy this job if:

- ▶ I like finding solutions to problems and making the most of possibilities
- ▶ I like technical drawing and working with technology
- ▶ I can draw accurately and have good attention to detail
- ▶ I enjoy Design and Technology, the Arts, Maths, Engineering and English studies

## 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 inspect sites or meet with clients.

A Building Designers' job can also be stressful at times especially when project deadlines are looming! You can expect to work full time (generally 44 hours per week) and may be required to work after hours and on weekends.

## How do I become a Building Designer?

You usually need to have a formal vocational qualification to work in this field such as a Diploma or Advanced Diploma. To get started if you're still at school, you can enrol in the Certificate II in Building and Construction-Paraprofessional (Business) pathway. This can also be completed as a traineeship or school-based traineeship which usually takes 12 -18 months. Have a chat with your school careers advisor for more information. Otherwise, you may like to complete the following qualifications through a Registered Training Provider as they are not offered in Western Australia as a traineeship or apprenticeship.

Certificate IV	Diploma	Advanced Diploma
Residential Building Drafting	Building Design	Civil Construction Design

## Future pathways and opportunities

You can set up your own building company or hold a top-level position in a large construction firm. With further study your career could lead you to become a Construction Manager, Project Manager, Building Inspector, Building Surveyor or Quantity Surveyor.

## Next Steps

Further information can be found at:

- ▶ Jobs and Skills WA – [www.jobsandskills.wa.gov.au](http://www.jobsandskills.wa.gov.au)
- ▶ Building Designers Association of Western Australia – [www.aapathways.com.au](http://www.aapathways.com.au)
- ▶ Job Outlook – [www.joboutlook.gov.au](http://www.joboutlook.gov.au)



## Average Pay

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

depending on your qualifications, experience.

(Source: Job Outlook)

## What skills and personal qualities do I need?

- ▶ Be able to think creatively and innovatively
- ▶ Be a problem solver
- ▶ Enjoy using creative and artistic skills
- ▶ Have a careful, methodical and accurate approach to work
- ▶ Enjoy keeping up to date with new technologies and trends
- ▶ Have good organisational, time management, communication and interpersonal skills
- ▶ Be able to visualise ideas in three-dimensional (3D) form
- ▶ Be able to use drawing and measuring instruments accurately