

What is Architecture?

Architecture is one of the most influential professions in our global society. It influences the way in which the built environment is planned, designed, made, used and maintained. Architecture brings together the arts, environmental awareness, sciences and technology.

PERSONAL QUALITIES OF AN ARCHITECT

The role of an architect is quite diverse, and so are the skills and personal qualities required:

- Imaginative and creative thinking skills
- An ability to analyse and critically assess problems
- An ability to see the big picture, as well as giving attention to the smallest detail
- An ability to communicate effectively
- An understanding of history, cultural and environmental concerns

Through their professional work architects develop:

- A practical and technical understanding of building materials and elements, structures, construction and services
- Coordination and interpersonal skills to manage a complex project team of consultants
- Negotiation skills to resolve complex building issues
- Lateral thinking skills to solve complex problems
- The ability to mediate and administer a building contract fairly

HOW TO BECOME AN ARCHITECT

Secondary education

The usual first step is the completion of Year 12 to enable entry into a degree program in architecture. Articulation from TAFE courses varies according to different university requirements.

We suggest that you contact individual architecture schools to check if they have any pre-requisites before selecting your Year 11 subjects and before applying to a program.

There are a number of secondary school subject areas that can give a good background to the study of architecture. These include: art, design, graphic art, environmental studies, history, geography, physics, mathematics, business studies, communications and information technology. Students interested in a career in architecture are encouraged to develop broad interests in many areas.

* An ability to draw or use computer aided drawing software is not essential.

Work experience

If you are interested in a career in architecture you might consider doing work experience in an architect's office.

Tertiary education

The next step is to enrol in an accredited architecture program. Your Careers Advisor can help you with information on how to enrol at a university. Architecture courses vary in content, flexibility and duration (typically 10 semesters of study over a 5 year period). You can obtain up to date information directly from the universities or visit www.architecture.com.au. The Institute office in your state/territory can put you into contact with architecture students to find out what it is like to study architecture. Shop around and find the program which suits your interests and needs.

Post-tertiary training and registration

Graduates of architecture programs must complete 2 years' practical work experience before they can apply to become a registered architect. Prior to registration, it is expected that graduates can undertake an architectural project competently through all its project phases and have a sound knowledge of legal and contractual issues related to the practice of architecture. For further information about registration contact the Architect Registration Board in your state/territory. Contact details are available from the Architects Accreditation Council of Australia website at www.aaca.org.au.

ARCHITECTURE AWARD

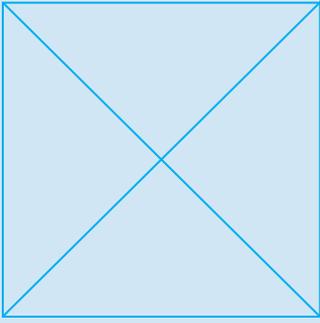
For information about the Architects Award (code MA000079) governing the salaries and employment conditions of students and recent graduates of architecture visit the Australian Government Fair Work Ombudsman Award Finder at awardfinder.fwo.gov.au.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Many graduates will take up a career in private practice or government. Many become specialists in heritage, sustainable design or commercial products. However, because an architect's skills and training are so broad, there are also many opportunities outside mainstream architecture practice.

Urban design
Urban planning
Project management
Construction management
Asset management
Property development
Interior design
Furniture design

Theatre design
Construction law
Conservation
Teaching
Research
Industrial design
Disaster relief



WHAT ARCHITECTS DO

Architects are professionally trained designers who work on small buildings, groups of buildings and large or complex buildings, as well as the places in and around them. They combine creative design with a wide range of technical knowledge to provide integrated solutions for built and natural environments. During the five typical phases of a project the architect has a variety of roles.

Starting the project

The architect talks with the client about expectations, project requirements and budget. This information forms the design brief.

Design phase

The architect analyses the design brief and the building site conditions, and determines the best location and orientation. The architect then develops ideas through rough plans, sketches and models. These ideas are brought together into concept design drawings.

Design development, documentation and building approvals

The architect compares the concept design drawings with the design brief and develops the technical detail for the project with the project team. Detailed drawings and specifications are prepared for the builder. The drawings are lodged to obtain local authority building approval. The method of engaging a builder for the project is determined.

Construction

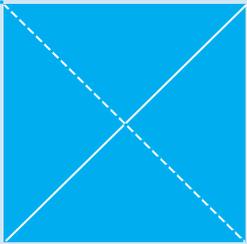
The architect works with the builder and other project team members to ensure that the project is constructed in accordance with the drawings and specification.

After construction

Projects have a warranty period called the defects liability period. It is the architect's responsibility to follow up any issues or outstanding work with the client and the builder.

ABOUT THE AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

The Institute is a professional membership organisation which promotes the value of architecture to the public, governments, the building industry and other organisations. It has an office in every state and territory in Australia. The Institute provides many services for its members and has an active student arm called SONA. Visit www.sona.com.au.



Schools/programs of Architecture in Australia

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

University of Canberra

Faculty of Arts and Design

www.canberra.edu.au/faculties/arts-design

NEW SOUTH WALES

University of Newcastle

School of Architecture and Built Environment

Faculty of Engineering and Built Environment

www.newcastle.edu.au/school/arbe

University of New South Wales

Faculty of the Built Environment

www.be.unsw.edu.au

University of Sydney

Faculty of Architecture, Design & Planning

www.arch.usyd.edu.au

University of Technology, Sydney

School of Architecture

Faculty of Design, Architecture and Building

www.utsarchitecture.net/

NORTHERN TERRITORY

Charles Darwin University

School of Creative Arts and Humanities

www.cdu.edu.au/creative-arts-humanities

QUEENSLAND

Bond University

Soheil Abedian School of Architecture

Institute of Sustainable Development

& Architecture

www.bond.edu.au/

Griffith University

Griffith School of Environment (Architecture)

Science, Environment & Engineering

Technology Group

www.griffith.edu.au

Queensland University of Technology

School of Design

www.qut.edu.au

University of Queensland

School of Architecture

www.architecture.uq.edu.au

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

University of Adelaide

School of Architecture and Built Environment

www.architecture.adelaide.edu.au

University of South Australia

School of Art, Architecture and Design

www.unisa.edu.au/aad

TASMANIA

University of Tasmania

School of Architecture & Design

Faculty of Science Engineering & Technology

www.arch.utas.edu.au

VICTORIA

Deakin University

School of Architecture and Built Environment

Faculty of Science, Engineering and

Built Environment

www.deakin.edu.au/scitech/ab

Monash University

Faculty of Art, Design and Architecture

www.artdes.monash.edu.au/architecture

RMIT University

School of Architecture and Design

www.rmit.edu.au/architecturedesign

University of Melbourne

Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning

www.abp.unimelb.edu.au

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Curtin University

School of Built Environment

Department of Architecture and Interior

Architecture

humanities.curtin.edu.au/schools/BE/

University of Western Australia

Faculty of Architecture, Landscape and Visual Arts

www.alva.uwa.edu.au

Contact information for architecture programs

is subject to change. The Institute website:

www.architecture.com.au has up to date

information.



**Australian
Institute of
Architects**

The Architects Accreditation Council of Australia (AACA) maintains a listing of accredited architecture courses at www.aaca.org.au.

MORE INFORMATION

For further information on careers in architecture and related topics visit the Institute's website www.architecture.com.au or contact the Institute office in your state or territory.

The Australian Government has a very informative website at www.jobguide.thegoodguides.com.au.

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