



Australian Institute of Architects

BECOMING AN ARCHITECT

This brochure has been prepared by the Australian Institute of Architects to help you decide if architecture is the career for you.

It covers information on the University application process, and what architects actually do.

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, technology and socio-economics.

As an architect you can play a part in shaping the environment in which we live.

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 to 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 a concept design proposal.

Design development, documentation & building approvals

The architect reviews the concept design drawings against the design brief to ensure the project satisfies the client's core requirements 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 relevant issues or outstanding work with the client and the builder. An architect may also be involved in post occupancy evaluation.

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 PRIOR TO STARTING TERTIARY STUDY.

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. Study at an accredited program is essential if you wish to register as an architect after graduation. Your Careers Advisor can help you with information on how to enrol at a university. Architecture courses vary in content, flexibility and duration, with 10 semesters of study over a 5 year period being the recognised standard. You can obtain up to date information directly from the universities or visit 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 that suits your interests and needs.

Post Tertiary Training and Registration

Graduates of architecture programs must complete at least 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: awardfinder.fwo.gov.au.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

There are many pathways available to graduates. The majority will pursue a career in architectural practice. There are also opportunities for specialisation in specific areas of practice – for example: education, heritage or health care – or phases of the process such as brief writing, design, documentation or contract administration. However, because an Architect's skills and training are so broad, there are also many opportunities outside mainstream architecture practice.

Urban design	Theatre design
Urban planning	Construction law
Project management	Conservation
Construction management	Teaching
Asset management	Research
Property development	Industrial design
Interior design	Disaster relief
Furniture design	Strategic planners/advisors

ABOUT THE AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

The Institute is a professional membership organisation that 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 sona.com.au.

ACCREDITED SCHOOLS/PROGRAMS OF ARCHITECTURE IN AUSTRALIA

ACT

Faculty of Arts and Design
University of Canberra
www.canberra.edu.au/faculties/arts-design

NEW SOUTH WALES

School of Architecture and Built Environment
Faculty of Engineering and Built Environment
University of Newcastle
www.newcastle.edu.au/school/arbe

Faculty of the Built Environment
University of New South Wales
www.be.unsw.edu.au

Faculty of Architecture, Design & Planning
University of Sydney
www.arch.usyd.edu.au

School of Architecture
Faculty of Design, Architecture and Building
University of Technology, Sydney
www.utsarchitecture.net

NORTHERN TERRITORY

School of Creative Arts and Humanities
Charles Darwin University
www.cdu.edu.au/creative-arts-humanities

QUEENSLAND

Soheil Abedian School of Architecture
Institute of Sustainable Development & Architecture
Bond University
www.bond.edu.au

Griffith School of Environment
Environment, Planning and Architecture
Griffith University
www.griffith.edu.au

School of Design

Queensland University of Technology
www.qut.edu.au

School of Architecture
University of Queensland
<http://www.architecture.uq.edu.au/>

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

School of Architecture and Built Environment
University of Adelaide
www.architecture.adelaide.edu.au

School of Art, Architecture and Design
University of South Australia
www.unisa.edu.au/aad

TASMANIA

School of Architecture & Design
Faculty of Science, Engineering & Technology
University of Tasmania
www.arch.utas.edu.au

VICTORIA

School of Architecture and Built Environment
Faculty of Science, Engineering and Built Environment
Deakin University
www.deakin.edu.au/scitech/ab

Department of Architecture
Faculty of Art, Design and Architecture

Monash University
www.artdes.monash.edu.au/architecture

School of Architecture and Design
RMIT University
www.rmit.edu.au/architecturedesign

Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning
University of Melbourne
www.abp.unimelb.edu.au

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Department of Architecture and Interior Architecture
School of Built Environment
Curtin University of Technology
humanities.curtin.edu.au/schools/BE

Faculty of Architecture, Landscape and Visual Arts
University of Western Australia
www.alva.uwa.edu.au

Contact information for architecture programs is subject to change. The Institute website: architecture.com.au has up to date information.

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

MORE INFORMATION

For further information on careers in architecture and related topics visit the Institute's website 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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