

landscape Architect



Description

Landscape architects plan and design land areas for projects such as parks, schools, hospitals, roads, malls, plazas, sports complexes, holiday resorts, hotel complexes, shopping centres, airports, housing subdivisions, national parks, playgrounds and commercial, industrial and residential sites.

Landscape architects may work independently or with other professionals such as architects, engineers and town planners.

Typical duties

- study and discuss designs, costs and construction of projects with clients;
- talk to architects, engineers and other professionals, and gather information on factors such as historical and natural conservation requirements, soil structure, drainage, rock features, existing and proposed buildings and sun and shade movements;
- draw up site plans outlining the development of the site, discuss with clients and seek approval;
- prepare specifications, arrange cost estimates, list building materials required and detail working drawings of the site, showing features such as location of buildings, roads and walkways, land contours and drainage systems, soil conservation measures and the vegetation to be planted or retained;
- undertake heritage studies and plans of management for open space areas;
- use computer and video-simulation packages to develop broadscale landscape plans;
- supervise site work;
- advise on landscape problems concerned with environmental planning.

Personal requirements

- analytical and planning ability;
- enjoy and have talent for design;
- creative flair;
- good communication skills;
- enjoy the natural environment;
- able to work independently;
- able to work as part of a team.

Qualification

The names of qualifications vary from institution to institution and include:

- Certificate IV in Applied Design – Landscape
- Bachelor of Landscape Architecture
- Bachelor of Design - Landscape Architecture



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Entry pathway Entry to these occupations is generally through a bachelor degree or higher qualification. Certificate IV courses are available from TAFE in some States. In some instances relevant experience is also required.

Membership of the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects is beneficial in practising as a landscape architect. Corporate membership is gained by completing an accredited course, undertaking two years of practical experience, and passing the corporate entry procedures set by the Institute.

Job prospects Landscape architecture is a large occupation with good employment opportunities. Most are employed in small, private consultancies and with private businesses such as architects and town planners, while the remainder work in federal, state, territory and local government agencies. Many landscape architects establish their own practices.

The vacancy level for Landscape Architects is average. Vacancies arising from job changing (Landscape Architects changing employers) are expected to provide 71 per cent of vacancies, compared with 23 per cent from job openings (Landscape Architects leaving the occupation) and 6 per cent from new jobs.

Specialisation Landscape architects may specialise in projects such as parks, playgrounds, roads or public housing. They may also specialise in types of services such as regional planning and resource management, site selection, cost studies or site construction.

Further information

- Australian Institute of Landscape Architects (AILA) [www.aila.org.au/]
- Royal Australian Institute of Architects [www.architecture.com.au/]
- Be Constructive [www.beconstructive.com.au/]
- Big Plans [www.bigplans.com.au/]