

Architect



Description Architects use creativity and a practical understanding of structures and materials to develop concepts, plans, specifications and detailed drawings for buildings and other structures. They negotiate with builders and planning authorities, administer building contracts and inspect the work carried out.

- Typical duties**
- discuss requirements of clients or builders (to design a new structure or modify an existing one) and prepare a brief prepare sketch drawings, production drawings and detailed drawings by hand or using Computer-Aided Design (CAD) equipment
 - combine structural, mechanical and artistic elements into the building design, such as decks and atriums, lifts and air-conditioning systems, and decorative finishes
 - discuss designs and cost estimates with clients and others involved in the project, including engineers, quantity surveyors, landscape architects and town planners
 - obtain necessary approvals from authorities
 - prepare specifications and contract documents specifying building materials, construction equipment and, in some cases, the interior furnishings, for builders, tradespeople and legal advisers
 - observe, inspect and monitor building work, to make sure that it is progressing according to the contract and specifications
 - evaluate projects once they are completed and occupied

- Personal requirements**
- able to visualise ideas in three-dimensional form;
 - enjoy technical drawing and working with computers;
 - an interest in building technology;
 - accuracy, neatness and patience in drawing work;
 - logical thinker;
 - some artistic talent in freehand drawing;
 - good communication skills

- Qualification** The names of the Qualification may vary depending on the Institution
- Bachelor of Architectural Design
 - Bachelor of Environmental Design
 - Master of Architecture

The Australian Institute of Architects annually compiles information on the course content and structure for all undergraduate architecture courses in Australia, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea. The booklet can be downloaded from the Institute's website below.



Entry pathway To become an architect you usually have to study an accredited architecture degree at university. This usually consists of an arts or design degree with a major in architecture, followed by a Master of Architecture.

Architects must also be registered with the Architects Registration Board in the state or territory in which they wish to practise.

Job prospects Most architects work in architectural firms or for businesses that have large construction programs. Many start their own practice after a few years of experience.

Architectural training includes the ability to combine arts, science and technology. Therefore, architects increasingly find work in areas outside of architecture such as urban planning and design, property development, construction management, interior design, industrial design, teaching, research and journalism.

Architects may also be involved in project feasibility studies, strategic asset investigations, heritage studies, urban planning, interior design or landscape design.

Specialisations Architects often specialise in particular types of work, for example, domestic, low-rise commercial, high-rise commercial, industrial, conservation and heritage buildings.

Further information

- Australian Institute of Architects [www.architecture.com.au/]
- Architects Registration Boards [each State has its own registration board]

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