

Architects plan and design buildings such as homes, schools, and other structures. They also manage resources to keep projects on time and on budget.

DUTIES

A person in this career:

- Prepares scale drawings or architectural designs, using computer-aided design or other tools.
- Plans or designs structures such as residences, office buildings, theatres, factories, or other structural properties in accordance with environmental, safety, or other regulations.
- Directs activities of technicians engaged in preparing drawings or specification documents.
- Prepares contract documents for building contractors.
- Prepares information regarding design, structure specifications, materials, color, equipment, estimated costs, or construction time.
- Meets with clients to review or discuss architectural drawings.
- Integrates engineering elements into unified architectural designs.
- Administers construction contracts.
- Consults with clients to determine functional or spatial requirements of structures.
- Develops marketing materials, proposals, or presentation to generate new work opportunities.

Architects design structures of every type, from schools to office towers to shopping malls. It's their job to make sure buildings look good. But they also have to make sure what they create is useful and safe.

An architect's design must satisfy the client's needs and wishes. It also has to result in a safe structure. To do that, architects need to be artistic but also precise. They must have a good grasp of both art and math.

Architects may start a project by drawing plans for a new building. Or they might focus on the best way to renovate an old one.

These sketches may include details like:

- building materials
- mechanical parts
- electrical wiring
- structural details

Once the designs are approved, architects oversee the build. They may work closely with the construction managers and crew. They may also direct landscapers outdoors and plan with interior designers.



SALARY INFORMATION

Location	2018				
	10%	25%	Median	75%	90%
California	\$53,240	\$69,160	\$89,580	\$118,470	\$153,100

*Pay period based on yearly amount.

EMPLOYMENT OUTLOOK

1,370

estimated annual job openings

Stable growth rate is estimated to be

6%

During projects, architects have many duties. They need to make sure their design aligns with their client's wishes. They also have to keep track of spending. Their project costs must fall within the client's budget.

Architects have to make sure construction is on schedule as well. It's important that buildings are completed on time. Architects are also liable for the safety of their buildings. Their designs have to conform to local by-laws and meet building codes. If designs fail in either of these areas, an architect might get sued.

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ARCHITECTURE

Some architects work as consultants. They may conduct studies to see if proposed projects are possible. Or they might assess the status of older buildings. Architects may work in urban planning or interior design as well.

Architects also need to know how to run a business. They have to negotiate contracts with clients and contractors. They bill people for their services and keep track of accounts. Architects need to promote their work, too. They must attract new clients who have projects to be designed.

RELATED OCCUPATIONS

Construction Managers 🌞 🌿

Architectural and Engineering Managers 🌿

Civil Engineers 🌿

Architecture Teachers, Postsecondary 🌞

Interior Designers

