

# EXPLORE a career in ARCHITECTURE

Architecture is the imaginative blend of art and science in the design of environments for people. People need places to eat, work, live and play. Architects transform these needs into concepts and then develop the concepts into building images that can be constructed by others. These projects can be as small as an entrance way and as large as an entire college campus—and everything in between.

An architect serves in a leadership role to bring together the design and budgetary requirements set by the client, restraints of a site (where the building will be constructed), needs of the building's users, and the limitations of materials into a unique and balanced design solution. Decision-making, team leadership and creativity are the key elements of making architecture.

Succinctly put, an architect is a licensed professional with specialized skills who designs buildings and cityscapes and helps make real the unique vision of their clients and communities.



## Education

Students should pursue a degree from a program which is accredited by the National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB) in order to meet the educational qualifications necessary to take the Architect Registration Examination (ARE). Ideally, the beginning architecture student will have a solid background in the physical sciences, including mathematics; be able to “conceptualize” at an above-average level; have a strong proficiency in oral and written communication; demonstrate a breadth of interest in the humanities; and be able to draw and sketch with ease. Architecture is a multi-faceted profession so even if you do not excel in mathematics (or drawing, or writing), you may still become an outstanding architect.

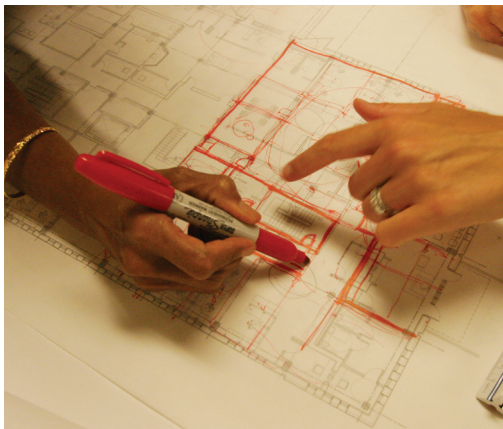
## Experience

During school and after graduation it is important to gain experience as an intern working in a design firm. Interns can gain experience from working with small and large architecture firms, engineers, contractors, and other professionals in firms across the country and around the world. The common denominator for most is the Intern Development Program (IDP), and many interns personalize their internship experience within the confines of the program to gain rich professional development opportunities during their early careers. The IDP is a national and essential program that architecture interns use to log their internship time via a training unit system. A typically internship may last three to five years.

## Examination

The required Architect Registration Examination (ARE) is based on the knowledge and skills expected of a newly registered architect, practicing independently, to provide architectural services. The ARE evaluates an applicant's competence in the provision of architectural services to protect the public's health, safety and welfare. It includes subjects like pre-design, mechanical and electrical systems, site planning and building technology. Each of the test's divisions can be taken in any order at any time by a candidate who has been deemed eligible to test by a jurisdiction (U.S. state, territory or district). Some jurisdictions might have additional requirements (like an additional oral exam/interview).

**ARCHcareers.ORG**



Do you want to be an architect? ARCHcareers.org will lead you through the steps in becoming an architect. The “Three Es” of architecture will be your guide. They are: Education, Experience and Examination. Whether you are a high school student, a parent, a university student or an intern, these are the three core principles of the architecture profession. You must satisfy all three parts to call yourself a registered (licensed) architect. The Web site will give you an overview to the varied and diverse paths to a career in architecture and of the requirements for registration.

Generally speaking, a person becomes an architect by completing the following actions:

1. Earn an accredited degree in architecture.
2. Participate in the Intern Develop Program (IDP).
3. Pass the Architect Registration Exam (ARE).

Detailed explanations about educational and career opportunities and more can be found at ARCHcareers.org, the official Web site for the architecture profession.

## Get Started Now

Students of all ages and educators can connect to the architecture profession by joining the American Institute of Architecture Students (AIAS), the official pre-professional organization for students. The AIAS is not only a voice for students, it also offers a vast collection of resources and activities designed to help save money, save time and assist with one's educational and professional pursuits. Join the thousands of others student and professional members by visiting [www.aias.org](http://www.aias.org).

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