## Architecture

### What can I do with this major?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Areas</th>
<th>Employers</th>
<th>Strategies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Residential Architecture** | Architecture firms, Real estate developers, Construction firms, Individual homeowners, Self-employed | **Description:** Designing new homes or renovating existing ones for either single or multiple families.  
Shadow, volunteer, or intern in an architect's office to gain exposure to the field.  
Develop strong communication skills and patience which are important when working with individuals in designing their homes.  
Study houses and architecture styles and read books and magazines about architecture. |
| Single Family Housing  
Multiple-Unit Residential  
Tract Homes  
Senior/Assisted Living  
Remodeling/Renovations  
Research | | |
| **Commercial/Institutional Architecture** | Architecture firms, Large corporations, Manufacturers, Research institutions, Transportation companies, Universities and colleges, Local and state government, Federal government agencies including:  
- Department of Defense  
- Department of Interior  
- Department of Housing & Urban Development  
- General Services Administration  
Preservation firms, Self-employed | **Description:** Designing office buildings, factories, laboratories, malls, schools and other commercial or government facilities.  
Seek part-time jobs and/or internships to gain relevant experience.  
Learn the technical side of preparing construction documents; spend time in the field to understand the mechanics of construction.  
Research the various jobs and processes that will take place in the buildings.  
Seek advanced training if specializing in a certain typology such as historic preservation and renovation or a certain type of building such as schools or hospitals.  
Get involved in leadership roles on campus; architects may serve as project leaders coordinating the work of engineers and contractors.  
Develop strong writing skills which are necessary for advancement. |
| Private Industry including:  
- Office buildings  
- Convention centers  
- Medical offices  
- Health clubs  
- Motels, hotels  
- Casinos  
- Restaurants  
- Shopping centers  
- Supermarkets  
- Theaters  
- Arenas | | |
| Public/Government including:  
- Schools, colleges, universities  
- Government facilities  
- Military facilities  
- Libraries  
- Hospitals  
- Recreational facilities  
- Churches  
- Museums | | |

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## Areas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RELATED PROFESSIONAL</th>
<th>EMPLOYERS</th>
<th>STRATEGIES</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Forensic Architecture</td>
<td>Federal, state, local government</td>
<td>Specialized training or advanced degrees may be required, e.g. master's in urban planning, degrees in landscape design, interior design, etc. Learn about real estate market and local supply and demand.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Urban Planning</td>
<td>Real estate firms</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Real Estate Developing</td>
<td>Developers</td>
<td>A contractor's license is considered valuable for working in the design/build area of architecture.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contracting</td>
<td>Contractors</td>
<td>MBA degree may open more opportunities within business and industry.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Property Assessment</td>
<td>Self-employed</td>
<td>Many large corporations employ architects to serve as client representatives when working with architectural firms.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Landscape Design</td>
<td>Architecture firms</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Interior Design</td>
<td>Design firms</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Engineering: Architectural</td>
<td>Engineering firms</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civil</td>
<td>Corporate architecture departments</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mechanical</td>
<td>Law firms</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Structural</td>
<td>Magazines, journals, publishers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consulting</td>
<td>Entertainment industry</td>
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<tr>
<td>Project Management</td>
<td></td>
<td>Earn JD for law practice. Experience in architecture and construction will help prepare one for contract negotiation and litigation.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Facilities Management</td>
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<td>Take courses in English and journalism to develop writing skills. Get involved with campus publications.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Product Development/Marketing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Law</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Insurance Liability</td>
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<tr>
<td>Writing/Journalism</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Set Designers</td>
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## Education

<table>
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<tr>
<th>EDUCATION</th>
<th>COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES</th>
<th>STRATEGIES</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Teaching</td>
<td>Colleges and universities</td>
<td>A doctoral degree in architecture is preferred and/or required for full-time professorships.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research</td>
<td>Special Collections Libraries</td>
<td>Professional experience and licensure in the field of architecture is beneficial.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Administration</td>
<td></td>
<td>Develop a working knowledge in the building design or construction industry, along with knowledge of CADD, project planning, and estimating.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Information/Library Science</td>
<td></td>
<td>Create a portfolio for faculty review.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Part-time Instruction</td>
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There are master’s degree programs for students who did not major in architecture at the undergraduate level.

Architecture involves much more than designing buildings. Talk to architects and visit their offices to learn more about the field.

Architecture is a combination of art and science. Students of architecture must be able to conceptualize and understand spatial relations and be detail-oriented. Develop creativity, analytical skills, and a sense of quality.

Supplement curriculum with art and photography classes.

Oral and written communications skills are important, particularly when working with clients, construction crews, or government officials. Good writing skills are valuable for developing architectural proposals.

Computer Aided Design and Drafting (CADD), Building Information Modeling (BIM), and other computer technologies are prevalent in the field of architecture. Develop as many computer skills as possible.

The job market for architects, especially residential, varies with changes in economy as demand is often tied to level of construction.

One third of architects are self-employed as either partners or running their own firms.

Most architects work in firms of fewer than five people.

Related fields include: graphic, interior, or industrial planning, real estate development, civil engineering, and construction management.

Some architects specialize in a particular building type. Graduate study in the field may be helpful for specializing. Other architects may specialize in a certain function of the firm such as project management or specification writing.

Areas of specialization include: historic preservation/renovation, healthcare facilities, sports facilities, educational facilities, master planning, and interior design.

Students should design a portfolio to use when interviewing. Include freehand drawings, final drawings by hand and computer, process sketches, photos of study models and finished models, a sample of writing, and work from technical courses.

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