

ARCHITECT

A RCHITECTS pride themselves of the buildings which they plan, design and decorate, not only for the aesthetical, but also for the functional, practical and economical aspects. Studies in architecture and planning lead to degrees which equip candidates to create buildings and city spaces.

People wanting to erect a building consult architects for design proposals. After preliminary sketches, so that their client can get an approximate idea of what the building will look like, final plans are drawn according to scale. Architects must comply with all the municipal regulations and the local authority must approve the plans.

Architects consult with quantity surveyors concerning the estimate of cost and the quantity of building material that will be needed. They also consult with building contractors and keep a watchful eye on the building process.

Architects need a good intellectual ability, especially mathematical and numerical abilities. They come into contact with people on various levels, therefore they should be able to interpret their needs correctly. It is important that they have the ability to work independently and be able to make their own decisions. They need fluent verbal and writing abilities in order to express themselves clearly.

Creativity and artistic abilities are important, but architects must also be practical and have technical insight. A business sense is also an important quality of an architect.

RECOMMENDED SCHOOL SUBJECTS

Mathematics, Technical Drawing and Art.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

A Senior Certificate (matric exemption) is needed for a degree course in architecture at a university. Further requirements differ from university to university. Good matric results are required since students are selected before being admitted to their first year of study at a university.

TRAINING

UNIVERSITY

Architecture: At all the Universities the qualification structure for Architecture is 3 year Bachelor of Architectural Studies followed either by a 1 year BAS Honours and a 1 year Master of Architecture (Professional), or followed by a 2 year M Arch (Prof).

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Architects are employed at provincial and municipal services, large employers, mining companies and the private sector or as lecturers at universities or universities of technology. Architects can also become self-employed.



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