

ARCHITECTURE AS A CAREER

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Proud Heritage campus-Durban by SoundSpaceDesign

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Architecture can be practiced in a variety of professional capacities: registered Professional Architects design and manage projects with the assistance of technologists and draughtpersons. Lecturers at universities and universities of technology are often registered architects and may also be in private practice. Developers often include registered architects in their in-house professional teams. Career opportunities exist in the public sector for suitably qualified people in the construction professions. Work ranges from massive complexes for public bodies to say, a meticulous restoration of an historic building. Architects often specialise in a particular field of expertise such as: hospitals, shopping centres, or residential buildings.

WHAT IS ARCHITECTURE?

At its simplest, architecture is the design of buildings, groups of buildings and often the space between buildings. But the scope of architecture goes well beyond just the drawing of plans. It's a profession, a business, a science and an art, all in one! Architecture takes imagination; the ability to order ideas and communicate them clearly; creativity (not necessarily artistic ability); a keen interest in human behavior, our habitat and the natural environment; and problem solving skills.

WHAT DOES AN ARCHITECT DO?

As an architect you are unlikely to spend all your life designing at the drawing board or on the PC using computer-aided-design programmes. There is seldom an 'average day' in an architect's practice. In addition to time spent in the office, the architect moves around between various building sites and is in constant contact with clients and the many disciplines involved in the building process. Skills such as computer literacy, site supervision and project management are essential.



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MORE INFORMATION

CONTACT
 THE SOUTH AFRICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS
 Private Bag X10063
 RANDBURG 2125
 Tel: (011) 782 1315
 Fax: (011) 782 8771
 e-mail: admin@saia.org.za
 website: www.saia.org.za



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For information about a career as an architect, contact:

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RANDBURG 2125
Tel: (011) 782 1315
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website: <http://www.saia.org.za>



EPA Studio-Durban by Elphic Proome Architects

WHAT APTITUDE DO I NEED TO BE AN ARCHITECT?

If you are creative – not necessarily artistic – have the mental ability to juggle different problems and come up with good solutions and enjoy subjects like maths, and art, architecture may be a good career choice. An interest in human behavior, the way people live and the natural environment are also important.

TERTIARY LEVEL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS?

Architecture can be studied either at a university or a university of technology. A Grade 12 exemption with mathematics is a requirement. The course includes general subjects such as design, the history of architecture, construction and a host of technical subjects ranging from water reticulation to electrical installation. Computer-aided draughting is part of the course.

COURSE DURATION

The university course is structured in two parts: the first is a three-year course leading to a B.Architectural Studies or BSc (Architectural) degree. The second is an additional two-year professional degree in Architecture which qualifies you to become an Architect. A student who leaves university after completing the three-year degree course will be able to become a senior technologist. The University of Technology course consists of a three-year National Diploma in Architecture and after an additional year of study, a B Tech degree can be obtained. This will enable a student to become an architectural technologist or senior technologist.

WHERE CAN I STUDY?

SA Universities:

University of Cape Town
University of Pretoria, University of the Witwatersrand
University of Free State University of KwaZulu-Natal
The Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University.

SA Universities of Technology:

University of Johannesburg,
Tshwane University of Technology,
Peninsula University of Technology,
Cape University of Technology,
Durban Institute of Technology,
Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University – Technology.

IN-SERVICE TRAINING

The receipt of a qualification in architecture is followed by a two-year in-service training period as a candidate in any one of the categories. After passing a Professional Practice Entrance examination, one may register with the South African Council for the Architectural Profession as a professional. This is a statutory requirement for practicing architecture in South Africa.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Bursaries are offered by government, including municipalities, and several public institutions. The Construction Education and Training Authority (CETA) make bursaries available annually. Visit their website at www.ceta.org.za.

Banks offer special facilities for funding higher education. Some firms of architects will assist aspirant architects. Application can also be made to universities and universities of technology for help in funding your studies.