

Architects design buildings and other structures that are functional, safe, and economical, and must suit the needs of the people who use them. Architects provide professional services to individuals and organizations planning a construction project. They may be involved in all phases of development, from the initial discussion with the client through the entire construction process. Their duties require the following skills: designing, engineering, managing, supervising, and communicating with clients and builders.

Architects design a wide variety of buildings, such as office and apartment buildings, schools, churches, factories, hospitals, houses, and airport terminals. They also design complexes such as urban centers, college campuses, industrial parks, and entire communities. They may also advise on the selection of building sites, prepare cost analysis and land-use studies, and do long-range planning for land development.

Design Architects normally have years of experience. They create the overall aesthetic presentation of a building and work on the schematic design stage—the initial scheme for a building's design. **Project Architects** generally take over a project after the schematic design stage, though often the design architect remains involved. Project architects make sure a drawing is put together well and that a building can actually be built. At architecture firms, **Project Managers** are often experienced project architects who are more responsible for managing and coordinating a project than designing the various parts of it. After all the documents have been created and the contractors have been selected, **Construction Administrators** oversee a building's actual construction and make sure contractors correctly assemble every detail of a building as specified in the building plans and documents. In a process called "redlining," experienced architects mark changes or additions to documents on paper; **Draftspersons** translate those changes to electronic documents.

Salary Information:

- Architect (Except Landscape and Naval)
\$70,320 Median Salary (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2008)
- **Architectural and Civil Drafters for the Rochester, NY area:**
\$44,400 Median Salary (Career One Stop, 2008)
[*Salary varies based on education/advanced degree, work-experience & setting/location]

Transfer Information:

- The majority of all architectural degrees are from 5-year Bachelor of Architecture programs.

Additional Information:

- Architecture Careers:
www.akropolis.net/~zeus/archcareers
- The American Institute of Architects: www.aia.org

