

SHAPING YOUR FUTURE:

An Architecture Careers Guide



MACKEY MITCHELL
ARCHITECTS

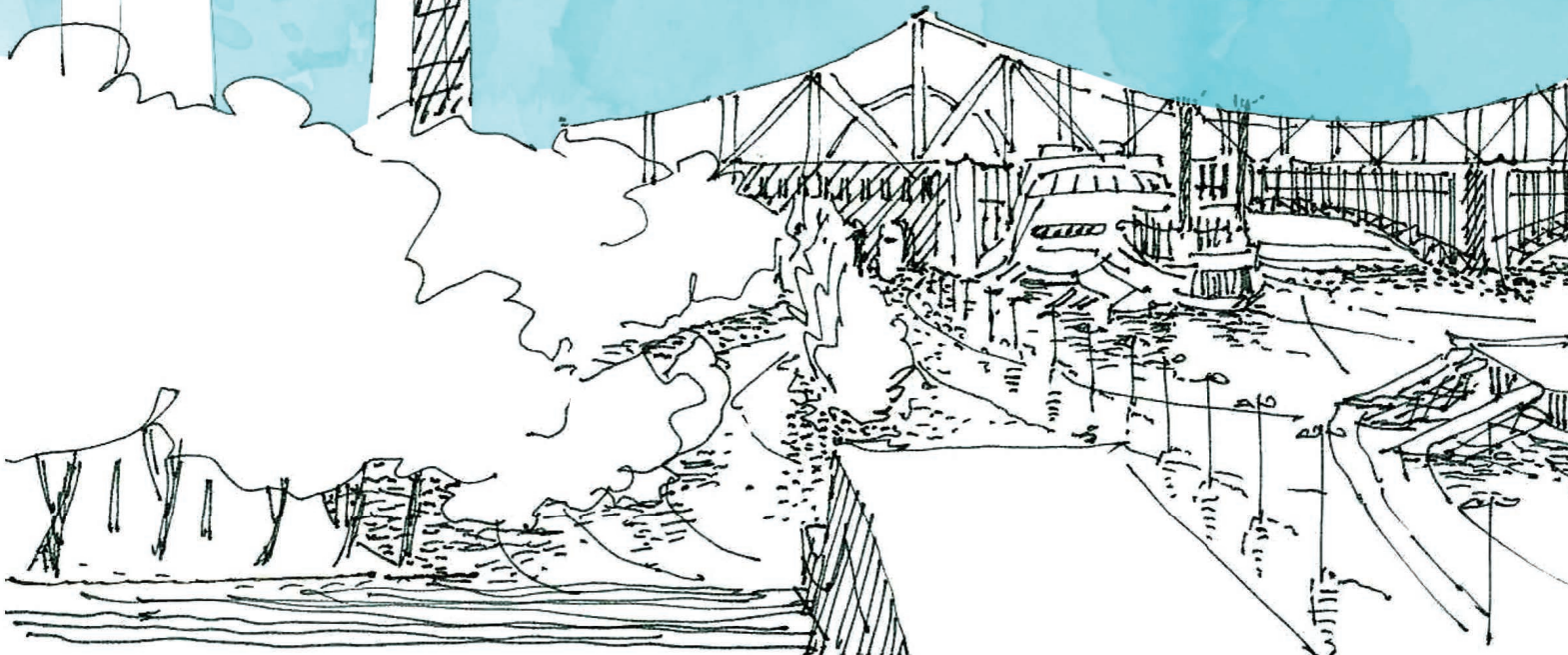
Table of Contents

04 06 08 10

WHO ARE WE? ARCHITECTURE?

DESIGN THINKING

WHAT DOES AN ARCHITECT DO?



12 16 22 30 32 34

STAGES OF
ARCHITECTURE

CAREER
PATHS

ARCHITECTURE
JOURNEY

IN THE
COMMUNITY

FUN &
GAMES

CLOSING



Ready to explore an exciting career
in architecture?

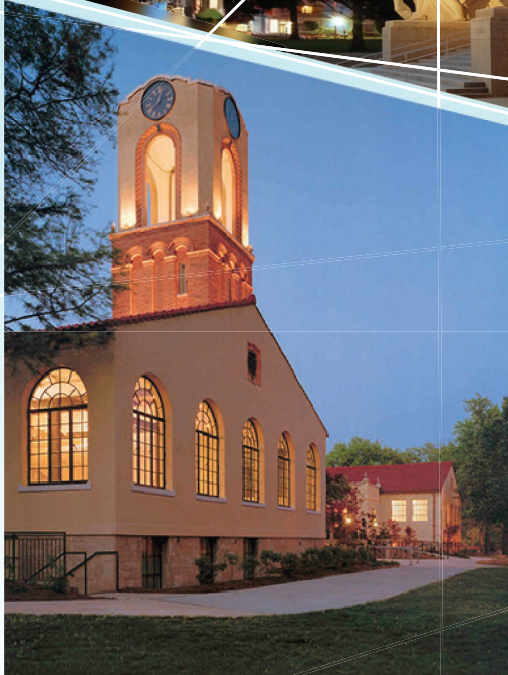
LET'S GO! ►

Who are we?

WELCOME

Here at Mackey Mitchell Architects (MMA) we are committed to sharing all we know about starting a career in architecture, collectively we've learned a lot! With this guide, we hope to inspire your curiosity about architecture, describe what it means to be an architect, and reveal all the possible career paths within the profession. Architecture is our *passion!*

Before we begin, here is a little bit about us!





85+ HIGHER
EDUCATION
CLIENTS



MACKEY MITCHELL ARCHITECTS

Since 1968, we have been shaping buildings and elevating communities through architecture. Our roots are firmly planted right here in St. Louis. From cherished landmarks, like Soldiers Memorial and the Old Cathedral, to places of learning, like St. Louis County Libraries and K-12 schools, you may have unknowingly experienced a Mackey Mitchell project!

But our reach extends far beyond St. Louis and our satellite offices in Asheville, North Carolina, Dallas, Texas, and Lawrence, Kansas. MMA-designed buildings are scattered across college campuses around the country—places where you too may someday live and learn!

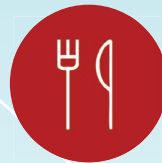
OUR AREAS OF FOCUS:



Student Housing



Student Centers



Student Dining



Civic & Cultural



Learning Spaces

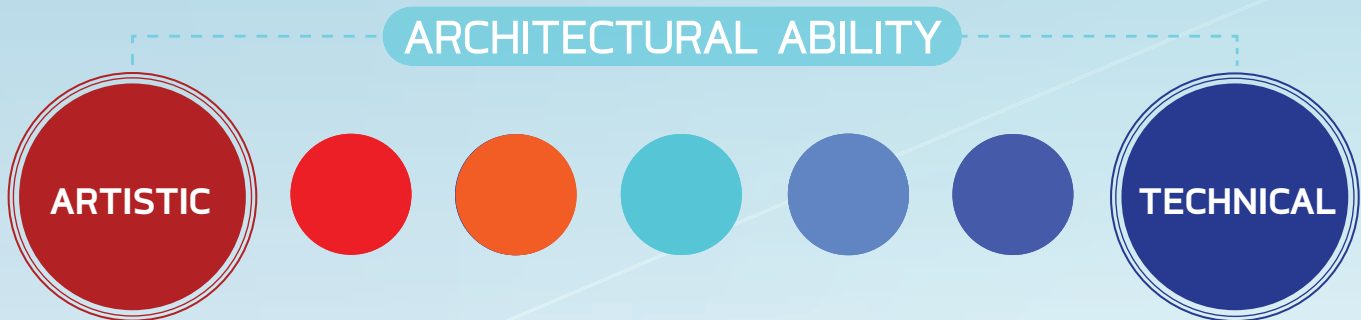


What is Architecture?

SHELTER. SHAPE. INSPIRE.

The origin of architecture can be traced back to the Neolithic period, about 10,000 B.C., as this is about when humans stopped living in caves and started building shelters, and the word architecture came later from the Greek word “arkhitekton,” meaning master builder. Since the beginning of humanity, the desire to influence our environments persisted and architecture evolved from a means of shelter and survival to a form of expression aimed at creating a more beautiful and functional world that maximizes human potential.

More broadly, architecture is the art and practice of designing buildings, spaces, and structures and is a way of thinking in which the architect is motivated to **shelter, shape, and inspire**. To shelter addresses the most foundational aspects of architecture, in which buildings are designed to meet human needs and stand the test of time. To shape speaks to the process of design, enabling the exploration of spatial forms, the flow and circulation of a space, and the intangible feelings a built environment evokes. To inspire is the result of buildings that straddle the desire to shelter and shape and, when balanced seamlessly, have the ability to stir emotion and elevate human potential.



Being an architect can mean many different things and require various skill sets. One does not need to be an artist, an engineer, or a mathematician to be an architect, but rather somewhere in the middle: a designer eager to explore innovative solutions for the built environment.

What is an Architect?

It might seem obvious that an architect “does” architecture, but what does that actually mean? At their core, an architect plans, designs, and/or oversees the construction of buildings, but as licensed professionals, they are responsible for protecting the health, safety, and welfare of the public in every space they design. They are uniquely positioned to improve the daily lives and well-being of individuals, and to protect them from danger, damage, or injury.

In addition to these critical considerations, the world is facing broad and complex challenges such as climate change and sustainability. Architects must consider a range of sustainability factors when designing, including water and energy conservation, in order to reduce the negative impacts of the built environment on nature.

“I really liked making things and then I saw that through architecture I could not just make things, but places.”

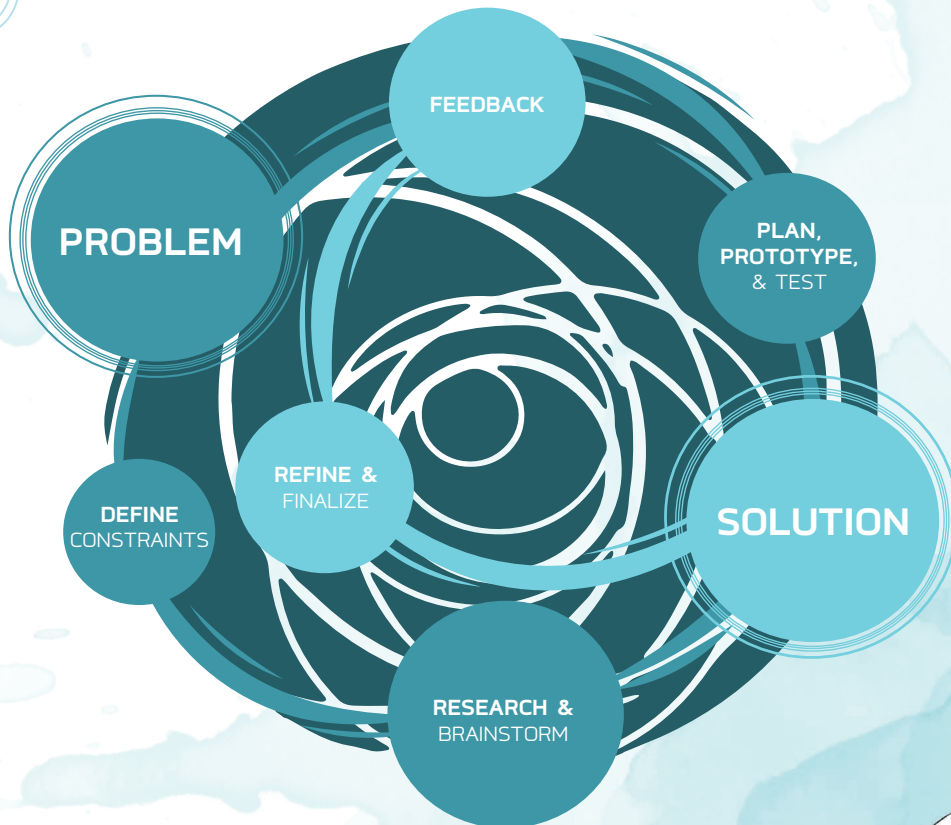
– Jordan Gatewood (MMA Principal)



KINGSTON RESIDENCE HALL
SOUTHERN NEW HAMPSHIRE
UNIVERSITY-MANCHESTER, NH

Design Thinking

THE DESIGN PROCESS



What is Design?

Think about the world around you, the chair you're sitting in, the clothes you're wearing, even the space you're reading this in—all of these things came to be because someone or some group designed them! There was either a need or problem that required a solution and a designer sought to resolve this while also balancing the desire for an attractive and functional product.

Design is all around us, and it is the methodology we use to create. It is a language fundamental to the world of architecture and will be one of your greatest assets as an aspiring architect. Let's take a closer look at the design process!

Design Thinking

Design thinking refers to the cycle of design steps following an idea to its completion and implementation. We start with a **problem** or need that is considered by **defining its constraints**. We then **research and brainstorm** creative solutions and begin to **plan, prototype, and test** them all while receiving **feedback**. The feedback either leads to a reassessment of the problem that starts the cycle over, or leads to refinement and finalization of a **solution**. This is a continuous cycle that bounces back and forth between problems and designed solutions.



SCIENCE



TECHNOLOGY

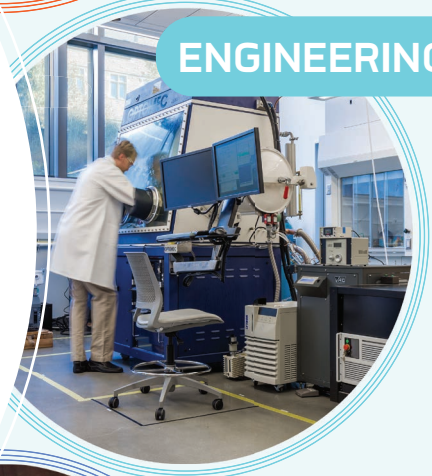


STEAM

The acronym STEAM is also important to consider when thinking about design as it is linked to a variety of skill sets. The application of science, for example, is no more or less important than the application of art in the field of architecture, as every architect has various strengths and relies on these skill sets collectively.

- **Science** teaches a way of approaching unknowns and experimentation relating to design problems
- **Technology** is important when learning emerging industries and new tools to efficiently amplify design ideas
- **Engineering** develops problem-solving strategies and innovative thinking
- **Art** cultivates creativity and applied design skills
- **Math** promotes practical applications of algebra and geometry in designing spaces, products, or ideas

ENGINEERING



ART



MATH



Architecture: On the Job



The day-to-day job of an architect varies. Because licensed architects are responsible for the design and implementation of a building, they are uniquely positioned to protect and improve how people interact with their spaces. As previously mentioned, this means designing spaces that align with the ideas of “shelter, shape, and inspire,” where a person’s needs and safety are as equally considered as the aesthetics of the building. Most architects work together on a team, collaborating throughout a majority of the design process, whether that means discussing big picture ideas or refining specific details. It is this coming together of creatives, design ideas, and hard work that comprise the job of an architect.



In addition to these universal components of the job, modern architects must also grapple with societal and environmental constraints, as climate and sustainability considerations are at the forefront of every new build. Every design should seek to improve the built environment while mitigating negative impacts on the natural world.



“Everything we do is about enriching the lives of people, about developing human potential.”

–Marcus Adrian (MMA Principal)

Architect Skillsets

Architects spend significant time engaging with clients, listening, and understanding their needs, then translating those goals into creative design solutions illustrated through sketches, measured drawings, renderings, and models (both digital and physical). Using the skills and tools mentioned below, architects often work with one another and additional consultants or experts equally crucial to the design of a space. As technology continues to evolve, it's important to remain flexible and adaptable to emerging software and applications, utilizing what is most appropriate for each project.



SKILLS

- PROBLEM-SOLVING
- COLLABORATING
- LISTENING
- COMMUNICATING
- TIME MANAGEMENT
- DRAWING + SKETCHING
- ORGANIZING
- READING



TOOLS

- RENDERING & DESIGN SOFTWARE, INCLUDING:
 - RHINO 3D
 - REVIT ARCHITECTURE
 - SKETCHUP
- ADOBE CREATIVE SUITE
- MICROSOFT OFFICE
- PEN + SKETCHBOOK

Engineers, interior designers, contractors, landscape architects, urban planners, project managers, business and marketing developers, and graphic designers are some of the various roles on an architectural design team helping bring a building to fruition. The next couple of pages will explain the architectural design stages, detailing the involvement of the architect alongside these additional design roles.

LET'S GO! ▶



**ALBERICI CORPORATE
HEADQUARTERS**
ST. LOUIS, MO

Stages of Architectural Design



A QUICK OVERVIEW

Beyond the day-to-day obligations of an architect, overseeing the design and construction of a building in the long term follows roughly the same development. The stages of architectural design are a series of six steps taking a project from its initial design to its final construction. Creating a building is a lengthy process, and by breaking it down into manageable parts, it allows architects to design more efficiently and effectively. These industry-standard steps foster communication between architects, engineers, contractors, and other design professionals, while also maintaining building and design standards and fostering creative design. The next two pages give a brief overview of each of these stages.

“The utility of a well designed thing is that it has the ability to really raise the soul and the spirit.”

-Steve Emer, AIA (MMA President)

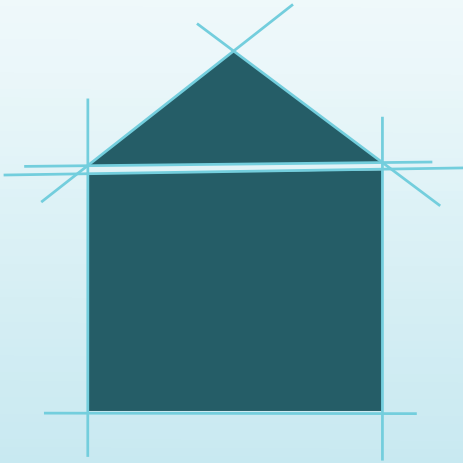


LET'S GO! ▶

OUTLINE. RESEARCH. CONCEPTUALIZE.

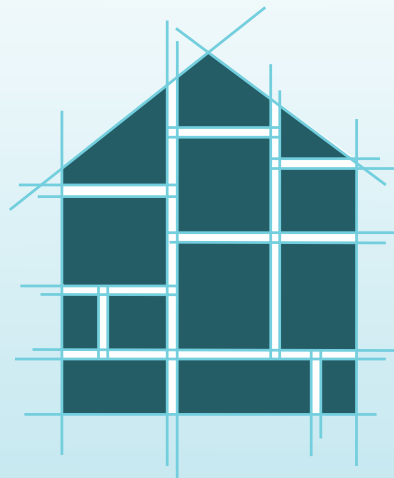
SHAPE. PROGRAM. CONSIDER.

DEVELOP. REFINE. ENHANCE.



PROGRAMMING

Programming is considered the pre-design phase, whereby a larger consideration of design problems and design needs are established. During this phase the project scope is determined so the work can be designed.



SCHEMATIC DESIGN

Schematic design is the initial phase of the design process. The goal of this phase is to create the overarching design concept for the project. The project identity is developed, and the concept design is completed.



DESIGN DEVELOPMENT

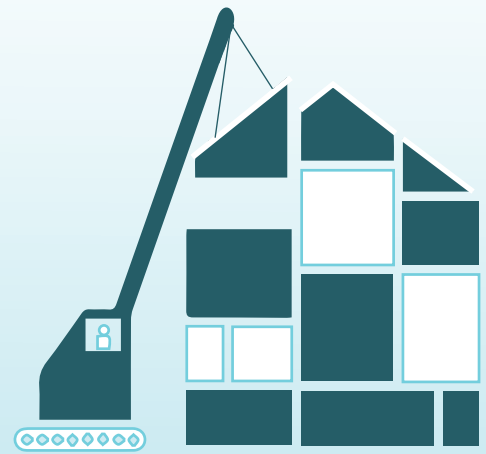
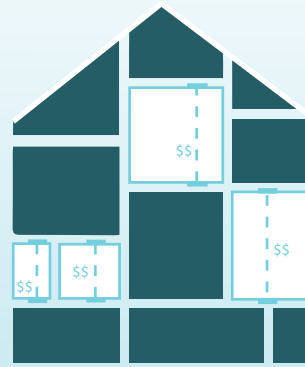
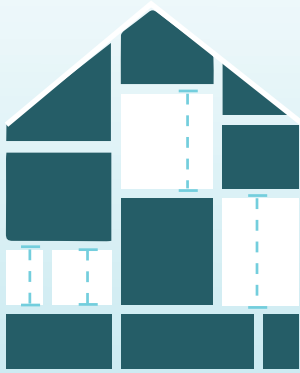
Design development advances the initial design concept. More detailed information is needed from the client. The engineers begin to study building systems, elevations are developed and there is an overall refinement of initial design concepts.



DETAILED. SPECIFIC. TECHNICAL.

EXPENSE. APPRAISE. BUDGET.

BUILD. REVIEW. IMPLEMENT.



CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTS

Creating Construction Documents is the most time consuming period of the project. During this phase, the design team produces drawings and detailed specifications used to construct the building or addition.

BIDDING

Bidding is the period of time the drawings are sent out to contractors to estimate the cost of the overall project. In this phase, expenses are evaluated and negotiated. The role of an architect is to field contractor's questions and issues clarifications.

CONSTRUCTION ADMINISTRATION

Construction Administration is the overall implementation of the project. Every prior phase has led to this point, as the project is under total construction. The architect makes occasional site visits, reviews shop-drawings, and attends construction meetings.



We hope learning about design thinking, skills used on the job, and the stages of architectural design has given you some insight into the world of architecture. However, this industry is not limited to architects alone—many kinds of professionals work together across projects. Next we'll review some of those career paths!

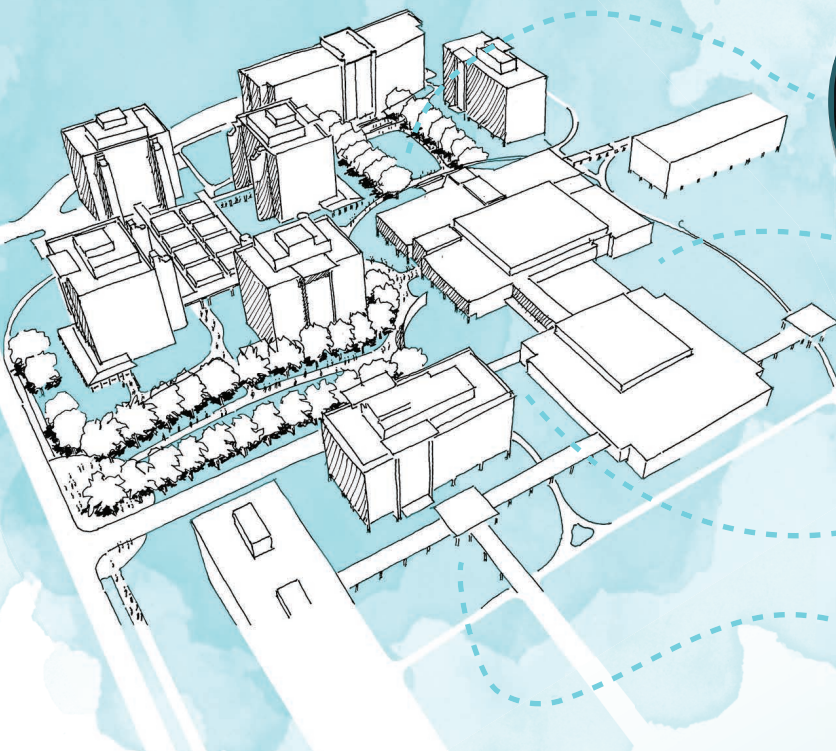
LET'S GO! ►

HILLSIDE RESIDENCE HALL
UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND
KINGSTON, RI

Urban Design

Crafting Our Cities

Are you captivated by the energy of cities and curious about how you can improve them? Do you feel inspired to work directly with communities, helping shape the way that they can grow and prosper? If so, consider the field of urban design! Urban designers engage with both the large-scale construction of cities and the individual human interactions within them. They bring together ideas from developers, local communities, architects, planners, traffic engineers, landscape architects and many more professionals, to improve our everyday lives and experiences. Sometimes this will result in new places being built or in a new appreciation of existing urban areas in cities and towns.



City Systems - Understanding how the fabric of a city is made up of a network of human interactions and their connections with the built and natural environment.

Renewal & Rehabilitation - Focusing on revitalizing existing areas of city spaces rather than constructing new ones and working to restore communities that have historically been discriminated against or fallen into overall disrepair.

Placemaking - Engaging directly with community residents to ensure that projects are improving everyday lives.

Public Space - Improving cities by incorporating places for people to engage and come together such as public parks and artwork.

"When you look at a city, it's really a collection of neighborhoods, a living breathing organism, completely interconnected."

-John Burse (MMA Principal)

Landscape Architecture

Architecture Meets the Natural World

If you're passionate about the outdoors and creating spaces that everyone can enjoy, landscape architecture might be for you! Landscape architects balance ecological and aesthetic considerations, creating unity between the architecture itself and the natural world. For landscape architects, the resulting projects can be everything from public parks and residential gardens to college campuses!

Design Rooted in Science: Landscape architects benefit from a strong understanding of how the environment impacts the spaces they design. Knowledge of plant biology, climate patterns, and even plate tectonics can all come into play when creating functional and sustainable outdoor spaces.

Looking Beyond Buildings: Landscape architects consider how their work is impacted not just by physical buildings, but also by sunlight, wind, and rainfall. Their projects stem from living materials like trees, grass, and flowers, which allows them to create beautiful spaces that are ever changing.

Considering the Community: The work of landscape architects can become the defining feature of a city (think Forest Park in St. Louis or Central Park in New York City). Their projects can feature local plants and animals, and they can allow the local culture to blossom by offering space for social programming and events.

Bringing People Together: Landscape architects intertwine the natural and human worlds with their design of public spaces. Their projects are accessible to people of all ages and backgrounds, meaning everyone can enjoy their creations!

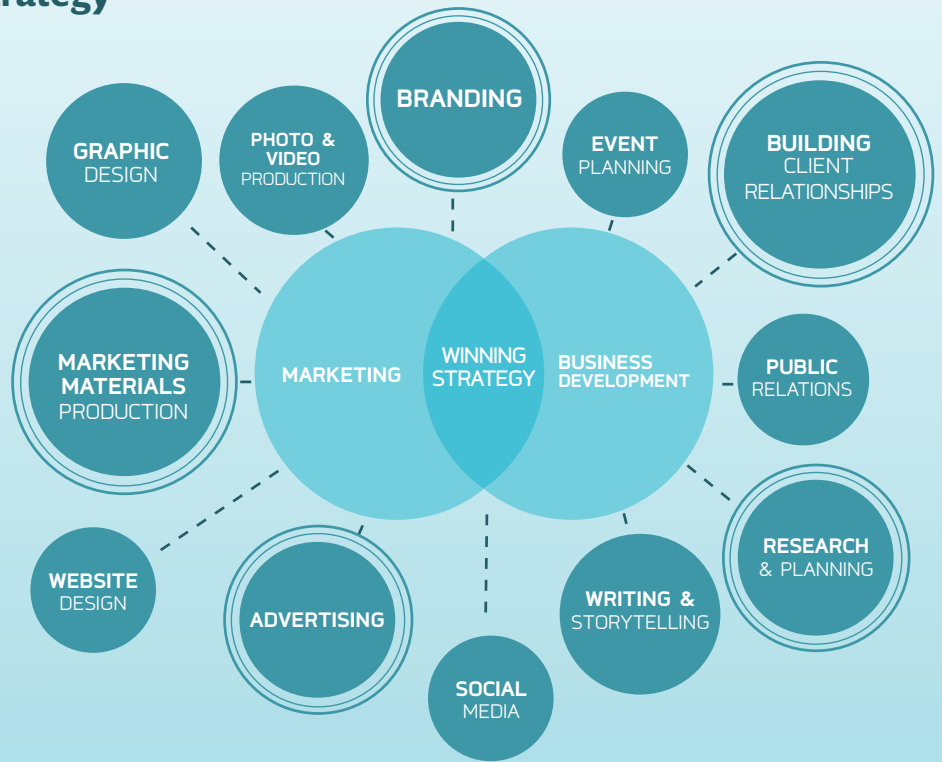


Marketing & Business Development

The Synergy of Creativity and Strategy

Architecture is not just about design and building - behind those awe-inspiring structures, there's a hidden force that helps architecture firms get chosen for projects. Welcome to the world of architecture marketing and business development! Marketing professionals in architecture firms promote services, enhance reputation, and attract clients by communicating unique strengths.

They shape brand identity, conduct market research, craft compelling content, and create winning proposals. Business development professionals drive growth by nurturing relationships, targeting potential clients, and expanding the market. A bachelor's degree is typically required for entry-level positions.



HILLMAN HALL
WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY
ST. LOUIS, MO

Interior Design

Creating Environments that Spark Joy

Those with an eye for aesthetics and a passion for crafting beautiful, functional spaces may find their ideal career path in interior design. This profession allows individuals to utilize their innate sense of style and attention to detail to transform ordinary environments into havens of beauty and functionality. Take a look at how interior designers play a vital role in shaping environments that inspire, engage, and uplift!

Crafting Aesthetically Pleasing Environments: Interior designers skillfully select harmonious colors, textures, materials, and furniture, evoking emotions and inspiring users through spaces that align with the project's vision.

Enhancing User Experience: Interior designers prioritize the well being and comfort of people who interact with their spaces. Considering factors such as lighting, acoustics, ergonomics, and sustainability, they design environments that promote productivity, relaxation, and positive feelings.

Space Planning and Layout: Interior designers excel in spatial planning, optimizing functionality, flow, and harmony in interior spaces, addressing specific needs and enhancing user experience.

Collaboration and Communication: Interior designers collaborate with architects, engineers, clients, and contractors, effectively communicating and fostering teamwork for an overall successful project execution.

Creating Emotional Connections: Interior designers curate spaces that deeply resonate with people, reflecting their values, culture, and aspirations through thoughtful element selection.



Sustainable Design

Sustainability is Not Just a Buzzword

Do you have a burning passion for both architecture and saving the planet? Sustainability is a way of thinking and designing that seeks to balance human needs with environmental responsibility. Imagine a future career where you can make a positive impact on the world through your design skills. There is a wide array of sustainability principles and components that designers consider to improve the sustainability of a project - across these two pages we have highlighted a few of the most common features!

MATERIALS & RESOURCES

Sustainable toxin-free and verified recyclable materials



INDOOR ENVIRONMENT

Use natural light, monitoring of CO2 levels, and efficient air conditioning



Rendering created by Modus Studio

ADOHI HALL SUSTAINABILITY FACTS

COMPARED TO A TYPICAL RESIDENCE HALL:



42%
Less Energy Use

86%
Outdoor Views

42%
Less Indoor Water Use

60%
Less Outdoor Water Use

2030 COMMITMENT

The 2030 Commitment is a voluntary program by the American Institute of Architects (AIA) that asks architecture firms to set goals for reaching net zero emissions in the built environment, which creates a staggering 40% of the world's emissions. As architects, reducing carbon emissions is not enough. To make the biggest impact, we must all commit to designing net zero buildings by 2030.

OUTDOOR ENVIRONMENTS

Integrating the natural world and design, enhancing a connection to the outdoors



ENERGY & ATMOSPHERE

Utilizing sustainable energy production



WATER EFFICIENCY

Water capture, reduction, and reuse



By embracing sustainable design principles, architecture professionals actively contribute to creating a built environment that respects our planet's resources and supports a sustainable tomorrow! It is worth noting that engineering plays a significant role in enabling sustainable design and architecture overall. Architects must have a baseline understanding of a project's structural components as they coordinate with engineers. This understanding and relationship between architecture and engineering becomes most important as engineers and architects collaborate to find ways to innovate sustainably.

Now that we've reviewed some additional career paths within the world of architecture, next up is the start of your architecture journey.

LET'S GO! ►

ADOHI HALL
UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS
FAYETTEVILLE, AR

Your Architecture Journey

Early Childhood

While architects benefit from a wide range of knowledge, education, and experiences, many discover their knack for architecture through STEAM and design thinking when they're young. The following activities and curriculum can help any future architect explore their curiosity and help them develop a love of learning throughout their growth. If you're an older student and any of these activities trigger fond memories from your childhood, you could have a career in architecture!



SCIENCE

Growing plants and taking walks in nature are fun ways to learn about the natural world and how we are all connected to it! Visit your local science museum to get a head start on learning about all the fascinating science subjects you'll take later in school. Science kits will give you hands-on experience!



TECHNOLOGY

Tablet and video games, like Minecraft, can help you learn about problem solving and creativity. Just don't overdo it (to keep mom happy).



ENGINEERING

Creating forts, LEGO building, and making paper airplanes can all help you learn about shape, space, and structure. On a bigger scale, try rearranging your bedroom to discover all the ways you can fit your furniture!



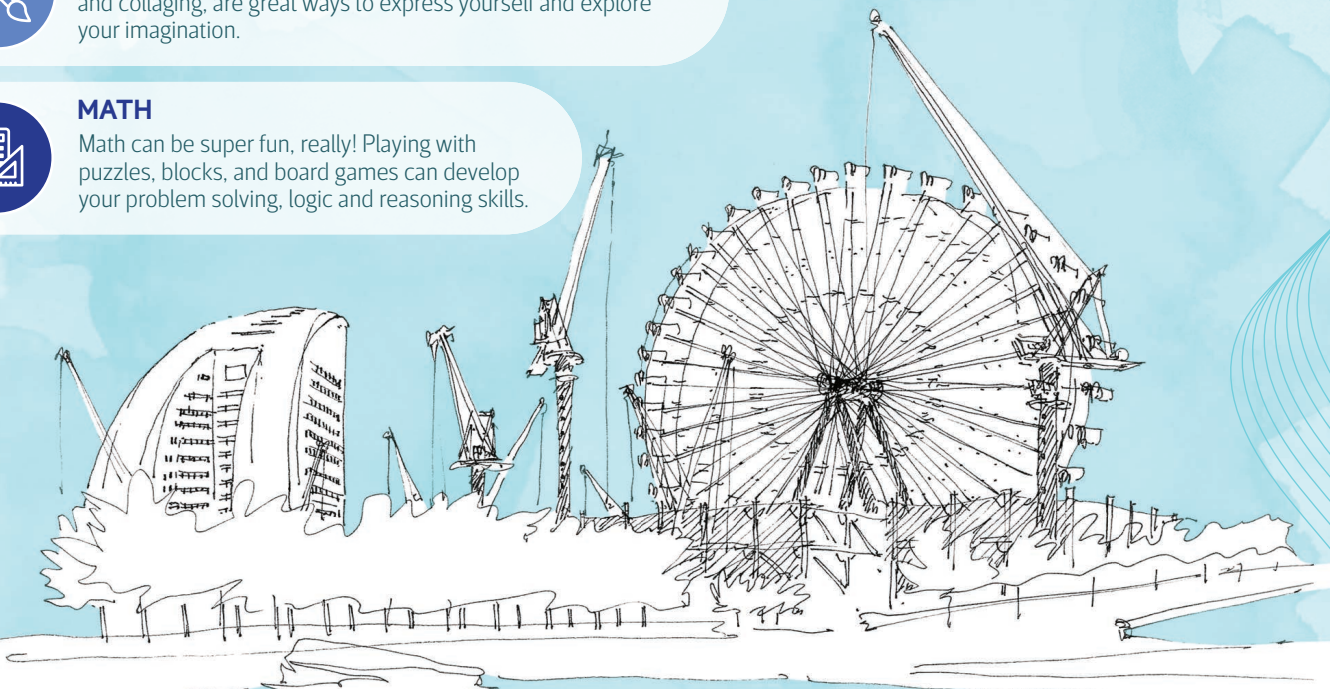
ART

Creating art, including origami, drawing and sketching, painting, and collaging, are great ways to express yourself and explore your imagination.



MATH

Math can be super fun, really! Playing with puzzles, blocks, and board games can develop your problem solving, logic and reasoning skills.



Middle School

If you just started middle school and you're curious about what's ahead, here's the scoop on the STEAM curriculum. Imagine diving into science, getting your hands on engineering basics, trying out some coding, tackling foundational math, and unleashing your creative side with art! You'll work on simple but cool projects that are all about training your brain to solve problems and grasp fascinating concepts.



Science classes can help you learn about the physical properties of materials and how they are used in construction. Explore topics like the ecosystem, matter, energy, and the scientific method.



Dive into coding basics, digital tools, and how technology shapes our daily lives. Explore apps that allow you to experiment with design such as pinterest, canva, or world-building video games.



Focus on fundamental engineering principles through building models and using critical thinking, which are important for architects to understand how buildings are built and function.



Visual arts, music, and drama all encourage self-expression and discovery while exploring the connection between science and art. Architects need to be able to visualize their ideas, making drawing and sketching essential skills. Try sketching your neighborhood, school, or house!



Work on algebraic thinking, geometry, and data analysis to understand special concepts and proportions and how math is applied in real-world contexts.

High School

High school takes STEAM to the next level, adding a dash of awesomeness. Think specialized courses in science, tech, engineering, arts, and math. Tracks aligning with career paths start to become available at this stage, be it computer science, engineering, medical sciences, visual arts, or others. High school projects are more complex, mimicking real-world challenges and demanding comprehensive research and solutions.



Consider taking advanced science courses with primary focuses on biology, chemistry, physics, and environmental science. These classes can help aspiring architects understand the forces that act on buildings and the materials that are used in construction.



Dive deep into programming languages, web development, data analysis, 3D modeling, and robotics. Computer-aided design (CAD) classes can teach you how to use computer software to create and visualize architectural designs.



Consider taking specialized mechanical and electrical engineering courses where you will get experience collaborating on solving real-world design challenges.



From digital design to theater production, art classes can help you develop your creativity and understanding of composition, color, and form. Advanced drawing classes can help you develop your ability to represent 3D objects in 2D, an architectural skill that you'll use throughout your career.



Get ready for the exciting world of calculus, statistics, algebra II, and in-depth geometry! Advanced math courses are essential for architects, as they need to be able to understand and calculate complex structures.

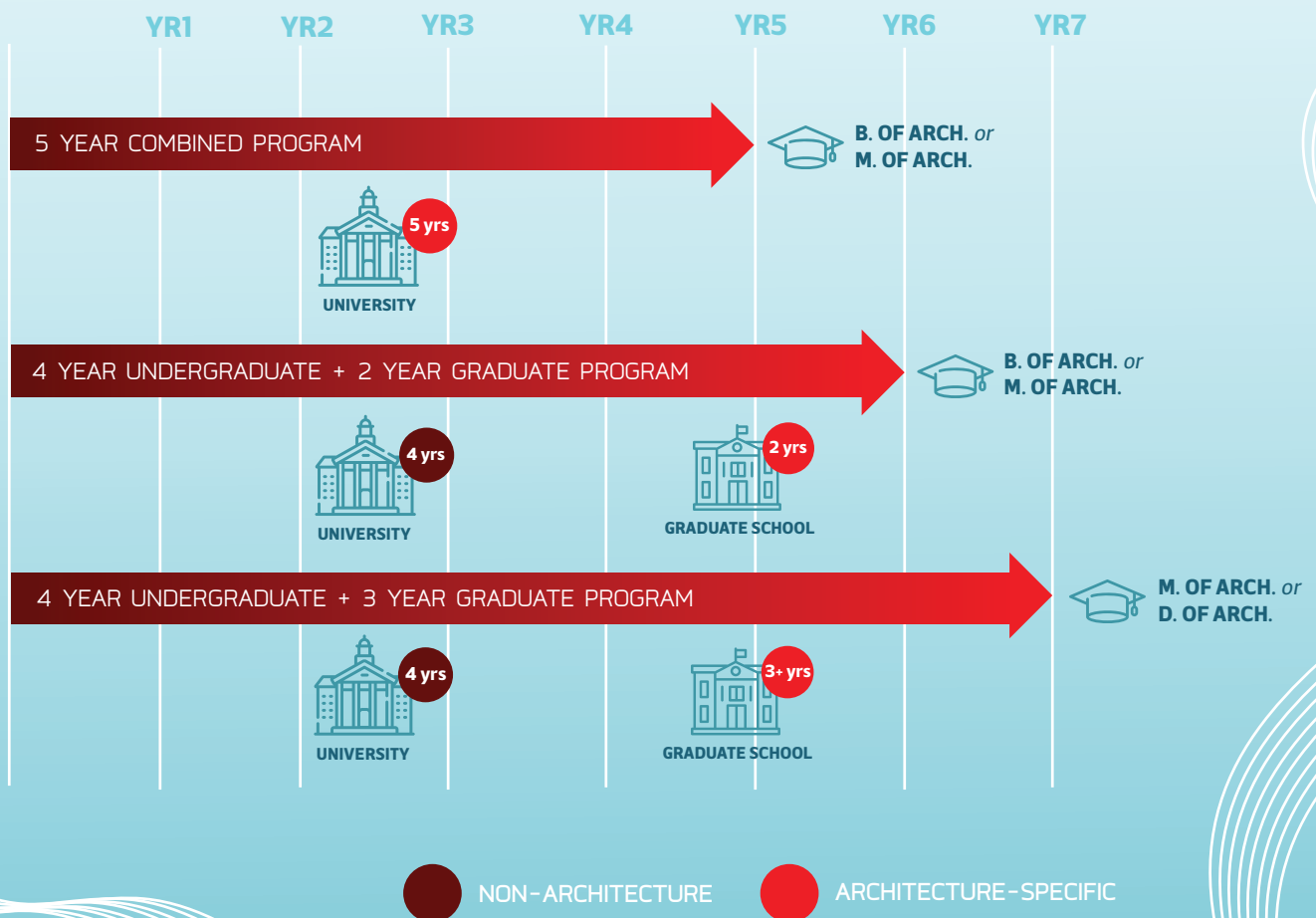
Becoming an Architect

Becoming an architect requires three steps: *Education, Experience, and Exams*

EDUCATION

After graduating high school, the next step in becoming an architect is attending a college architecture program. Types of architecture degrees can vary across schools, so understanding the different paths you can take is important in selecting the best program for you. The overall path to licensure requires three key components: a degree from an accredited university, architectural work experience, and passing six standardized exams. The National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB) is the official organization that accredits professional degrees in architecture, and they accredit three specific kind of degrees: Bachelor of Architecture (B. Arch), Master of Architecture (M. Arch), and Doctorate of Architecture (D. Arch).

Below are the three most common education paths for aspiring architects, but exceptions may apply depending on your unique circumstances and other factors.



EXPERIENCE

Architecture Experience Program (AXP) is your ultimate training program for aspiring licensed architects. This comprehensive journey covers the essentials and skills to thrive in the architectural world. Let's break it down! The AXP comprises 96 tasks totaling a minimum of 3,740 hours, across six vital experience areas:

- 1. Practice Management (160 hours - 16 tasks):** Learn about running an architecture firm, handling business management, marketing, project acquisition, client collaboration, and fostering a professional environment.
- 2. Project Management (360 hours - 32 tasks):** Master the art of delivering projects, excelling in budgeting, coordination, oversight, and seamless execution.
- 3. Programming & Analysis (260 hours - 18 tasks):** Dig into pre-design research, client needs evaluation, code analysis, and site exploration, shaping project feasibility and setting the stage for architectural creativity.
- 4. Project Planning & Design (1,080 hours - 17 tasks):** Study building layouts, navigate complex codes, collaborate with consultants, and artistically communicate design concepts during the schematic design phase.
- 5. Project Development & Documentation (1,520 hours - 7 tasks):** Transitioning from schematic design, you'll start creating construction documents and navigating regulatory approvals for your project.
- 6. Construction & Evaluation (360 hours - 6 tasks):** It's time to put on your hard hat and step into project construction, engaging with contractors, clients, and building authorities, while managing punch lists and post-construction intricacies.

EXAMS

Embarking on the next phase of your journey involves putting your skills to the test. The Architect Registration Exam (ARE) stands as a litmus test, gauging a candidate's preparedness to practice architecture within the United States. Administered by the National Council of Architecture Registration Board (NCARB), this series of exams is your ticket to licensure.

Tackling the ARE is an impressive feat comprised of six distinct exams, broken down into two categories:

1. The Professional Practice Exams

Practice Management (PcM): Navigating the initiation and management of an architectural business.

Project Management (PjM): Skillfully juggling budgets, timelines, consultants, and contracts.

Construction Evaluation (CE): Navigating bidding, construction processes, and project wrap-up.

2. The Technical Exams

Programming and Analysis (PA): Unveiling the core issue your design will address.

Project Planning and Design (PPD): The schematic design phase of the project.

Project Development and Documentation (PDD): Transforming designs into construction documents.

While exams are typically the last step to becoming an architect, you may need to meet additional unique requirements, which could include endorsements around reciprocity for practicing in states outside those in which you hold a license. Check with your local AIA chapter for guidance.

Picking the Best School for You

Picking the right architectural school can seem overwhelming, but don't stress, we've got your back! Here are some questions to ask yourself while navigating this big decision:

Accreditation

Does this program have a relevant architectural accreditation?
National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB) accreditation is the primary means by which professional degree programs in architecture assure quality to students and the public.

Program Focus & Duration

Does their program match your interests and goals?
Some schools are strong in areas like sustainable design, urban planning, or historic preservation. Some programs are five years, and some are six. Pick one that lines up with what you want and need.

Tuition and Financial Aid

How much does tuition cost? And can you get financial aid, scholarships, or grants to help?
It's important to balance cost with the support available.

Studio Culture

Does this university have a healthy studio culture?
The studio is your home base. Think about the vibe, how they teach, class sizes, and how much you'll interact with others.

Location

Where do you want your school to be located? Does location matter to you? Where the school is matters. Think about your lifestyle and the kind of projects you want to tackle.

Faculty and Facilities

What do you know about their teachers and facilities? What is the the faculty-to-student ratio? Modern resources, like design studios, labs, and libraries, are a must for a holistic education.

Career Services

Does this institution have a robust career services program?
Local firm connections and internship support can start your career.

Portfolio Requirement

Does this school need a portfolio for admission?
Check their requirements and see if your skills and style align.



Prepping Your Portfolio

Portfolio prep can be tricky, but chances are high that you already have a lot of great work to showcase. Don't forget that the items you include in your portfolio aren't confined to architecture alone. You can showcase drawings, sketches, paintings, graphic design, photography, videos, web design, sculptures, ceramics, fashion design, or even furniture design. What truly matters is that your portfolio reflects your curiosity and creativity. Take a look below for some portfolio tips!



Portfolio Tips:

Be Concise with Words: This is an opportunity to show your best work; the best thing you can do is let your portfolio speak for itself.

Pay Attention to Grammar and Spelling: Take some extra time to proofread and make sure your portfolio is error free.

Ensure Typeface and Formatting Consistency: One of the easiest ways to create a cohesive portfolio is by ensuring that the way you display and represent your work is consistent and not distracting. We recommend sticking with one font or font family and using a software that allows you to view your portfolio all together.

Tell a story: The way you order and display your work communicates something to your viewer. Take it as an opportunity to represent your development by showing earlier works that progress to later pieces or perhaps start with pieces that say the most about who you are as an aspiring architect.

Mediums To Consider Including:

Drawings & Paintings: Displays an ability to represent and understand spatial proportions, perspective, and lighting.

Architectural Models, Sculpture, Ceramics, Furniture Design and other three-dimensional mediums: Demonstrates an ability to work holistically and craft within your work.

Photography: Will become a useful skill later on in the way that you represent your architectural models.

Graphic Design: Displays experience with design principles and software.

Sketches and Process Work: Allows you to show your creative process, early iterations of your work, and concept development.



Local Architecture Degree Programs

Washington University in St. Louis

<https://samfoxschool.wustl.edu/archprograms>

- Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Art in Architecture
- Master of Architecture
- Master of Landscape Architecture*
- Master of Urban Design*
- Master of Science in Advanced Architectural Design
- Master of Science in Architectural Studies*
- Doctor of Philosophy in Sustainability*

Southern Illinois University – Carbondale

<https://academics.siu.edu/design/architecture/>

- Bachelor of Science in Architectural Studies
- Master of Architecture

Drury University

<https://www.drury.edu/architecture>

- Bachelor of Science in Architecture
- Master of Architecture

University of Kansas

<https://arcd.ku.edu/>

- Bachelor of Science in Interior Architecture
- Master of Architecture (2 or 3-year)
- Master of Art in Architecture
- Doctor of Philosophy in Architecture

University of Missouri – Kansas City

<https://sse.umkc.edu/academics/programs/>

- Architecture Studies (with transfer to K State)
- Bachelor of Arts in Urban Planning + Design

University of Illinois Urbana – Champaign

<https://arch.illinois.edu/>

- Bachelor of Science in Architectural Studies, Minor in Architectural Studies
- Master of Architecture (and 2+ year option)
- Master of Science in Architectural Studies
- Master of Urban Planning

University of Illinois at Chicago

<https://arch.uic.edu/>

- Bachelor of Science in Architecture
- Bachelor of Art in Architectural Studies
- Master of Architecture
- Master of Arts in Design Criticism
- Master of Science in Architecture

University of Arkansas

<https://fayjones.uark.edu/academics/architecture/>

- Bachelor of Architecture
- Bachelor of Science in Architectural Studies
- Bachelor of Interior Architecture and Design*
- Bachelor of Landscape Architecture*
- Master of Architecture

Kansas State University

<https://apdesign.k-state.edu/arch/degree-paths/>

- Master of Architecture
- Master of Art in Architecture
- Doctor of Philosophy in Architecture

Judson University

<https://www.judsonu.edu/academics/architecture-department/>

- Bachelor of Art in Architectural Studies
- Bachelor of Art in Interior Design
- Master of Architecture

Illinois Institute of Technology

<https://arch.iit.edu/>

- Bachelor of Architecture
- Master of Architecture
- Master of Landscape Architecture
- Master of Science in Architecture



*Dual and Joint Degree

More Information

Want to take a deeper dive into the world of architecture? These resources will help you on your journey.

ST. LOUIS RESOURCES

AIA St. Louis

<https://www.aia-stlouis.org/>

AIA St. Louis Scholarship Fund

<https://www.aia-stlouis.org/page/Education>

Washington University in St. Louis – Pre-College Programs

Programs that introduce architecture and design to high school students

<https://samfoxschool.wustl.edu/academics/pre-college-programs/>

COCA

Art and design-focused education and programs

<https://www.cocastl.org/>

Building Futures

Design and build workshops

<https://buildingfuturesstl.org/>

K-12 PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES

National Organization of Minority Architects

6th-12th grade architecture camps

<https://www.noma.net/project-pipeline/>

Arch Careers Guide

Resources for architecture programs, career info, and reading lists

<https://www.archcareersguide.com>

AIA New York Center for Architecture

K-12 Self-guided Architecture and Design Activities

<https://www.centerforarchitecture.org/k-12/resources/>

NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS

The American Institute of Architecture Students

<https://www.aiaas.org/career/scholarships/>

Architects Foundation

National architecture scholarships for high school and college students

<https://architectsfoundation.org/our-programs/architecture-scholarships>

The Hip Hop Architecture Camp Scholarship

Scholarship opportunity for minority students entering architecture programs

<https://www.hiphoparchitecture.com/scholarships>

Female Design Council

Design-focused grant program to support women of color

<https://www.femaledesigncouncil.org/grants>

National Council of Architectural Registration Boards

Resources and guides to becoming an architect

<https://www.ncarb.org/>

Canon Creative Park

Build your own paper architecture models

<https://creativepark.canon/>

Study Architecture

Discover K-12 summer and architecture programs near you

<https://studyarchitecture.com/>

There are many more resources available online to help you learn more about a career in architecture, connect you with the architecture community, and provide information on financial assistance. For a more comprehensive list, including summer and pre-college camps across the country, visit this link:



HILLMAN HALL
WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY
ST. LOUIS, MO

Architecture in the Community

The skills that architects and designers acquire through years of education and experience aren't just useful in a professional capacity. These same skills can be used on a volunteer basis to improve our communities. Civic engagement not only help us become more informed on the issues affecting society, but they also make us better citizens and architects!

Some of the ways you can make an impact:

- Volunteer for nonprofits and public organizations to help plan and design their spaces, including for youth groups, public schools, parks, and cultural institutions.
- Join service events important to the natural and built environments, such as neighborhood clean-up events, habitat for humanity, community gardening, and Earth Day festivals.
- Provide architecture tours of your community, thus building appreciation for architecture and increasing awareness for sustainability, smart design, and preservation.
- Participate on public committees and boards to advocate for a range of positive changes, including for smart development and construction, public policy and laws, building codes, historic preservation, environmental issues, and community building.
- Become a community resource for topics related to architecture!

For more information on ways to get involved with your community through architecture, take a look at our local resources and more information pages!



Reviving a Neighborhood

For decades, Mackey Mitchell's John Burse has been an unwavering advocate for the urban revitalization of St. Louis' historic Old North district, a once vibrant neighborhood that suffered over 50 years of decline and deterioration.

After serving as Old North's "resident architect," and providing pro-bono design assistance to residents, churches, and other community organizations, Old North has realized a population increase of 28 percent, the first positive growth in decades.

BEFORE



AFTER



ADOHI HALL
UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS
FAYETTEVILLE, AR

SPEED
LIMIT
25

Architecture Fun

P W U E D G D S S D U H U H M M O U E G M N H Z N C J W O D
C R M F P T T B I P K A N E N B N O R P T E P W D E S I G N
U X T C F B F J E F P A F D W Q J N E O C L A S S I C A L Z
S Q T K B G A L G V G E U S B X G Y A P G R E E N R O O F P
U L F D F A S L Y E S M R F F C B F C M O E Y V A M S S P J
K Q V U D B D U C Y O J Z S I W I R J M A C X H U Q Q S E M
R F J E B L M T S O K R X Z P P E H U X R D K H Y P D L R E
E M C R R E S X L T N U G A R E S Z T T C I P W W R A P G C
N O N E P N I D Q D A Y K I X Z C T C R A Y A B V O P B O O
O D J O V N A Q O O S I E J A L D T E S D L T F Y G C O L R
V E H I J I H C E R Z Q N A X N A M I E E H I T J R R Z A N
A R U M K H C M U X M K H A R A Y N T V P R O S L A U Y Z I
T N G D I P O N E L M E H P B C G W D W E L N G M M C P F C
I C I V S B L F H I A A R G T I H O G S L U E X H M U A D E
O A K E B K U L N A J R S R M K L Q T M C V A R F I A R E P
N L K G N B M S Y M M E T R Y E C I V H C A A V Y N D A E A
H T F F X U N H Q V E R R N H Y I I T H I J P M V G F P W V
W T P Z L T T J P E D E C X D S R Q S Y C C S E L I O E A S
P C M N J T L E E D O N M T N T C X Z R I E X U T L D T K O
W R B S L R K X A M O D C Q E O U L P R E S E R V A T I O N
T A I N T E R I O R R E O A T N L Z T A K S K E T C H Y N W
M H Q X F S H J S J W R G Q Z E A D V N T I M C J Q D Y K A
A A I H J S Q F I Q A I J T E Z T V Z J G K E X T E R I O R
S S K X L V V W V H Y N V Y R H I S C A L E E J H K Y C B T
S L A P D S I T E Q L G E H O H O Q W D A Z G S S V Q O N U
I L E L E V A T I O N J N S W I N T W C F E K H T D X L Q I
N H F T G M J B L S H O P K P C A N T I L E V E R X D O F F
G C Y B S C D O M E M T C O N T E M P O R A R Y X Z F R S V
Y R H D V N X A I Z M A T E R I A L S X E F V Q R K I L Q Y
L Q S X I E W I N D O W W X T U X H Z M H F G Z V C B T Q A

ARCADE
ARCH
BALCONY
BRUTALISM
BUTTRESS
CANTILEVER
CIRCULATION
COLOR
COLUMN
CONTEMPORARY
CORNICE
DESIGN

DOME
DOORWAY
DORMER
ELEVATION
EXTERIOR
GABLE
GEORGIAN
GOTHIC
GREENROOF
INTERIOR
KEystone
LANDSCAPE

LEED
MASSING
MATERIALS
MODERN
NEOCLASSICAL
NET ZERO
PARAPET
PATIO
PERGOLA
PERSPECTIVE
PRESERVATION
PROGRAMMING

RENDERING
RENOVATION
SCALE
SITE
SKETCH
STEEPLE
SUSTAINABILITY
SYMMETRY
VERNACULAR
WINDOW

*Architecture Fun Sticker Page
(in print version)*

Closing





CONNECT

Would you like to explore further?

Here at MMA we are always looking for new talent and are invested in enriching the education of young architects. If you're looking for internship opportunities, or interested in shadowing an architect, please feel free to get in touch!

MACKEY MITCHELL ARCHITECTS

info@mackeymitchell.com

314.421.1815

This guide has been crafted collaboratively by Mackey Mitchell Architects.

We extend our gratitude to the following individuals for their contributions to this guide:

Lillie Boero

Paola Badea, Assoc. AIA
Trey Bartsch
Emily Godefroid
Kathy Sciranko

Christina Brown, AIA
Tom Peterson, AIA
Jennifer Wilkins, AIA

All sketches used in this guide were created by Eugene J. Mackey III, our late founder, whose spirit of mentorship and leadership served as inspiration for this piece.

All project photography in this guide is owned by Mackey Mitchell Architects and represents projects designed, with various levels of involvement, by the firm.

© Mackey Mitchell Architects, P.C., 2023