This brochure has been prepared by the Australian Institute of Architects to help you decide if architecture is the career for you. It covers information on the application process and what architects actually do.

I want to be an architect because...
What is Architecture?

Architecture is one of the most influential professions in our global society. It influences the way in which the built environment is planned, designed, made, used and maintained. Architecture brings together the arts, environmental awareness, sciences and technology.

PERSONAL QUALITIES OF AN ARCHITECT
The role of an architect is quite diverse, and so are the skills and personal qualities required:

• Imaginative and creative thinking skills
• An ability to analyse and critically assess problems
• An ability to see the big picture, as well as giving attention to the smallest detail
• An ability to communicate effectively
• An understanding of history, cultural and environmental concerns

Through their professional work architects develop:

• A practical and technical understanding of building materials and elements, structures, construction and services
• Coordination and interpersonal skills to manage a complex project team of consultants
• Negotiation skills to resolve complex building issues
• Lateral thinking skills to solve complex problems
• The ability to mediate and administer a building contract fairly

HOW TO BECOME AN ARCHITECT

Secondary education
The usual first step is the completion of Year 12 to enable entry into a degree program in architecture. Articulation from TAFE courses varies according to different university requirements.

We suggest that you contact individual architecture schools to check if they have any pre-requisites before selecting your Year 11 subjects and before applying to a program.

There are a number of secondary school subject areas that can give a good background to the study of architecture. These include: art, design, graphic art, environmental studies, history, geography, physics, mathematics, business studies, communications and information technology. Students interested in a career in architecture are encouraged to develop broad interests in many areas.
An ability to draw or use computer aided drawing software is not essential.

Work experience
If you are interested in a career in architecture you might consider doing work experience in an architect’s office.

Tertiary education
The next step is to enrol in an accredited architecture program. Your Careers Advisor can help you with information on how to enrol at a university. Architecture courses vary in content, flexibility and duration (typically 10 semesters of study over a 5 year period). You can obtain up to date information directly from the universities or visit www.architecture.com.au. The Institute office in your state/territory can put you into contact with architecture students to find out what it is like to study architecture. Shop around and find the program which suits your interests and needs.

Post-tertiary training and registration
Graduates of architecture programs must complete 2 years’ practical work experience before they can apply to become a registered architect. Prior to registration, it is expected that graduates can undertake an architectural project competently through all its project phases and have a sound knowledge of legal and contractual issues related to the practice of architecture. For further information about registration contact the Architect Registration Board in your state/territory. Contact details are available from the Architects Accreditation Council of Australia website at www.aaca.org.au.

ARCHITECTURE AWARD
For information about the Architects Award (code MA000079) governing the salaries and employment conditions of students and recent graduates of architecture visit the Australian Government Fair Work Ombudsman Award Finder at awardfinder.fwo.gov.au.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES
Many graduates will take up a career in private practice or government. Many become specialists in heritage, sustainable design or commercial products. However, because an architect’s skills and training are so broad, there are also many opportunities outside mainstream architecture practice.

Urban design
Urban planning
Project management
Construction management
Asset management
Property development
Interior design
Furniture design
Theatre design
Construction law
Conservation
Teaching
Research
Industrial design
Disaster relief
WHAT ARCHITECTS DO

Architects are professionally trained designers who work on small buildings, groups of buildings and large or complex buildings, as well as the places in and around them. They combine creative design with a wide range of technical knowledge to provide integrated solutions for built and natural environments. During the five typical phases of a project the architect has a variety of roles.

Starting the project
The architect talks with the client about expectations, project requirements and budget. This information forms the design brief.

Design phase
The architect analyses the design brief and the building site conditions, and determines the best location and orientation. The architect then develops ideas through rough plans, sketches and models. These ideas are brought together into concept design drawings.

Design development, documentation and building approvals
The architect compares the concept design drawings with the design brief and develops the technical detail for the project with the project team. Detailed drawings and specifications are prepared for the builder. The drawings are lodged to obtain local authority building approval. The method of engaging a builder for the project is determined.

Construction
The architect works with the builder and other project team members to ensure that the project is constructed in accordance with the drawings and specification.

After construction
Projects have a warranty period called the defects liability period. It is the architect’s responsibility to follow up any issues or outstanding work with the client and the builder.

ABOUT THE AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

The Institute is a professional membership organisation which promotes the value of architecture to the public, governments, the building industry and other organisations. It has an office in every state and territory in Australia. The Institute provides many services for its members and has an active student arm called SONA. Visit www.sona.com.au.
Schools/programs of Architecture in Australia

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY
University of Canberra
Faculty of Arts and Design
www.canberra.edu.au/faculties/arts-design

NEW SOUTH WALES
University of Newcastle
School of Architecture and Built Environment
Faculty of Engineering and Built Environment
www.newcastle.edu.au/schools/arbe

University of New South Wales
Faculty of the Built Environment
www.be.unsw.edu.au

University of Sydney
Faculty of Architecture, Design & Planning
www.arch.usyd.edu.au

University of Technology, Sydney
School of Architecture
Faculty of Design, Architecture and Building
www.utsarchitecture.net/

NORTHERN TERRITORY
Charles Darwin University
School of Creative Arts and Humanities
www.cdu.edu.au/creative-arts-humanities

QUEENSLAND
Bond University
Sohel Abedian School of Architecture
Institute of Sustainable Development
& Architecture
www.bond.edu.au/

Griffith University
Griffith School of Environment (Architecture)
Science, Environment & Engineering Technology Group
www.griffith.edu.au

Queensland University of Technology
School of Design
www.qut.edu.au

University of Queensland
School of Architecture
www.architecture.uq.edu.au

SOUTH AUSTRALIA
University of Adelaide
School of Architecture and Built Environment
www.architecture.adelaide.edu.au

University of South Australia
School of Art, Architecture and Design
www.unisa.edu.au/aad

TASMANIA
University of Tasmania
School of Architecture & Design
Faculty of Science Engineering & Technology
www.arch.utas.edu.au

VICTORIA
Deakin University
School of Architecture and Built Environment
Faculty of Science, Engineering and Built Environment
www.deakin.edu.au/scitech/ab

Monash University
Faculty of Art, Design and Architecture
www.artdes.monash.edu.au/architecture

RMIT University
School of Architecture and Design
www.rmit.edu.au/architecture/design

University of Melbourne
Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning
www.abp.unimelb.edu.au

WESTERN AUSTRALIA
Curtin University
School of Built Environment
Department of Architecture and Interior Architecture
humanities.curtin.edu.au/schools/BE/

University of Western Australia
Faculty of Architecture, Landscape and Visual Arts
www.alva.uwa.edu.au

Contact information for architecture programs is subject to change. The Institute website: www.architecture.com.au has up to date information.
The Architects Accreditation Council of Australia (AACA) maintains a listing of accredited architecture courses at www.aaca.org.au.

MORE INFORMATION
For further information on careers in architecture and related topics visit the Institute’s website www.architecture.com.au or contact the Institute office in your state or territory.

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