# **ARCHITECTURE**

What can I do with this major?

# **AREAS**

#### **RESIDENTIAL ARCHITECTURE**

Single Family Housing Multiple-Unit Residential Tract Homes

Senior/Assisted Living Remodeling/Renovations

Research

## **EMPLOYERS**

Architecture firms
Real estate developers
Construction firms
Individual homeowners
Self-employed

#### **STRATEGIES**

Description: Designing new homes or renovating existing ones for either single or multiple families.

Shadow, volunteer, or intern in an architect's office to gain exposure to the field.

Develop strong communication skills and patience which are important when working with individuals in designing their homes.

Study houses and architecture styles and read books and magazines about architecture.

#### COMMERCIAL/INSTITUTIONAL ARCHITECTURE

Private Industry including:

Office buildings

Convention centers

Medical offices

Healthclubs

Motels, hotels

Casinos

Restaurants

**Shopping centers** 

Supermarkets

Theaters

Arenas

Public/Government including:

Schools, colleges, universities

Government facilities

Military facilities

Libraries

Hospitals
Recreational facilities

Churches Museums Architecture firms

Large corporations

Manufacturers

Research institutions

Transportation companies

Universities and colleges

Local and state government

Federal government agencies including:

Department of Defense

Department of Interior

Department of Housing & Urban Development

**General Services Administration** 

Preservation firms Self-employed Description: Designing office buildings, factories, laboratories, malls, schools and other commercial or government facilities.

Seek part-time jobs and/or internships to gain relevant experience.

Learn the technical side of preparing construction documents; spend time in the field to understand the mechanics of construction.

Research the various jobs and processes that will take place in the buildings.

Seek advanced training if specializing in a certain typology such as historic preservation and renovation or a certain type of building such as schools or hospitals.

Get involved in leadership roles on campus; architects may serve as project leaders coordinating the work of engineers and contractors.

Develop strong writing skills which are necessary for advancement.

**AREAS** 

**EMPLOYERS** 

**STRATEGIES** 

#### **RELATED PROFESSIONAL**

Forensic Architecture

**Urban Planning** 

Real Estate Developing

Contracting

**Property Assessment** 

Landscape Design

Interior Design

Engineering:

Architectural

Civil

Mechanical

Structural

Consulting

Project Management Facilities Management

Product Development/Marketing

Law

Insurance Liability

Writing/Journalism

**Set Designers** 

Federal, state, local government

Real estate firms

Developers

Contractors

Self-employed

Architecture firms

**Design firms** 

Engineering firms

Corporate architecture departments

Lawfirms

Magazines, journals, publishers

**Entertainment industry** 

Specialized training or advanced degrees may be required, e.g. master's in urban planning, degrees in landscape design, interior design, etc.

Learn about real estate market and local supply and demand.

A contractor's license is considered valuable for working in the design/build area of architecture.

MBA degree may open more opportunities within business and industry.

Many large corporations employ architects to serve as client representatives when working with architectural firms.

Earn JD for law practice. Experience in architecture and construction will help prepare one for contract negotiation and litigation.

Take courses in English and journalism to develop writing skills. Get involved with campus publications.

#### **EDUCATION**

Teaching

Research

Administration

Information/Library Science

Part-time Instruction

Colleges and universities Special Collections Libraries A doctoral degree in architecture is preferred and/or required for full-time professorships.

Professional experience and licensure in the field of architecture is beneficial.

Develop a working knowledge in the building design or construction industry, along with knowledge of CADD, project planning, and estimating.

Create a portfolio for faculty review.

## **AREAS**

# **EMPLOYERS**

## **STRATEGIES**

#### **HISTORIC PRESERVATION**

Architectural History
Curating
Architectural Conservatory
Preservation
Restoration
Research
Historic Interior Design

Educational institutions Private architectural firms Government agencies Get experience in the construction and contracting field.

Seek knowledge about construction of buildings during earlier periods. Gain technical experience in problems that occur with historic buildings such as complications from climatic and environmental conditions over time.

Join the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

#### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

- To gain entry into the field of architecture, one must receive either a Bachelor or Master of Architecture from a school of architecture accredited by the National Architectural Accrediting Board, complete a full-time internship (three to five years), and pass the Architect Registration Examination.
- There are master's degree programs for students who did not major in in architecture at the undergraduate level.
- Architecture involves much more than designing buildings. Talk to architects and visit their offices to learn more about the field.
- Architecture is a combination of art and science. Students of architecture must be able to conceptualize and understand spatial relations and be detail-oriented.
   Develop creativity, analytical skills, and a sense of quality.
- Supplement curriculum with art and photography classes.
- Oral and written communications skills are important, particularly when working with clients, construction crews, or government officials. Good writing skills are
  valuable for developing architectural proposals.
- Computer Aided Design and Drafting (CADD), Building Information Modeling (BIM), and other computer technologies are prevalent in the field of architecture.

  Develop as many computer skills as possible.
- The job market for architects, especially residential, varies with changes in economy as demand is often tied to level of construction.
- One third of architects are self-employed as either partners or running their own firms.
- Most architects work in firms of fewer than five people.
- Related fields include: graphic, interior, or industrial planning, real estate development, civil engineering, and construction management.
- Some architects specialize in a particular building type. Graduate study in the field may be helpful for specializing. Other architects may specialize in a certain function of the firm such as project management or specification writing.
- Areas of specialization include: historic preservation/renovation, healthcare facilities, sports facilities, educational facilities, master planning, and interior design.
- Students should design a portfolio to use when interviewing. Include freehand drawings, final drawings by hand and computer, process sketches, photos of study
  models and finished models, a sample of writing, and work from technical courses.