ARCHITECTURE
What can I do with this major?

AREAS

COMMERCIAL/INSTITUTIONAL ARCHITECTURE
Private industry:
- Office buildings
- Convention centers
- Medical offices
- Health clubs
- Motels, hotels, resorts
- Casinos
- Restaurants
- Shopping centers
- Supermarkets
- Theaters
- Arenas

Public/Government:
- Schools, colleges, universities
- Government facilities
- Military facilities
- Libraries
- Hospitals
- Recreational facilities
- Churches
- Museums
- Environmental design
- Disaster response/Management

RESIDENTIAL ARCHITECTURE
- Single family housing
- Multiple-unit residential
- Tract homes
- Senior/Assisted living
- Remodeling/Renovations
- Research

EMPLOYERS

COMMERCIAL/INSTITUTIONAL ARCHITECTURE
- Architecture firms
- Large corporations
- Manufacturers
- Research institutions
- Transportation companies
- Universities and colleges
- Local and state government
- Federal government:
  - Architect of the Capitol
  - Department of Defense
  - Department of Interior
  - Department of Housing & Urban Development
  - General Services Administration
- Preservation firms
- Self-employed

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

STRATEGIES

COMMERCIAL/INSTITUTIONAL ARCHITECTURE
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.
- Familiarize yourself with the various jobs and processes (e.g., hospitality, healthcare) that take place in the buildings to design effectively for clients' needs.
- 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.

RESIDENTIAL ARCHITECTURE
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 clients designing their homes.
- Study houses and architecture styles and read books and magazines about architecture.
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<th>AREAS</th>
<th>EMPLOYERS</th>
<th>STRATEGIES</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>HISTORIC PRESERVATION</strong></td>
<td>Architecture firms particularly those specializing in historic preservation</td>
<td>Pursue experience in the construction and contracting field.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Architectural history</td>
<td>Federal, state, local government</td>
<td>Seek knowledge about construction of buildings during earlier periods.</td>
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<td>Curating</td>
<td>Consulting firms</td>
<td>Gain technical experience in problems that occur with historic buildings.</td>
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<td>Architectural conservatory</td>
<td>Nonprofit preservation groups</td>
<td>such as complications from climatic and environmental conditions over time.</td>
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<td>Preservation</td>
<td>Educational institutions</td>
<td>Join the National Trust for Historic Preservation.</td>
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<td>Restoration</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research</td>
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<tr>
<td>Historic interior design</td>
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<td>Building inspection</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>RELATED PROFESSIONAL</strong></td>
<td>Federal, state, local government</td>
<td>Specialized training or advanced degrees in urban planning, landscape design, interior design, etc. may be required.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Landscape design</td>
<td>Architecture firms</td>
<td>Pursue a minor (sequence of courses) in related field as available.</td>
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<td>Interior design</td>
<td>Design firms</td>
<td>Gain experience working in fast paced environments and meeting deadlines.</td>
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<td>Forensic architecture</td>
<td>Consumer goods manufacturers</td>
<td>Plan to work on multiple projects at a time.</td>
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<td>Urban planning</td>
<td>Furniture stores</td>
<td>Build a network of contacts, especially if considering freelance work, to keep up with industry trends and build clientele.</td>
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<td>Furniture design</td>
<td></td>
<td>Join related professional associations such as ASLA, ASID, APA.</td>
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<td><strong>CONSTRUCTION</strong></td>
<td>Developers</td>
<td>A contractor’s license is considered valuable for working in the design/build area of architecture.</td>
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<td>Building surveying</td>
<td>Contractors</td>
<td>Develop strong verbal, written, teamwork, and problem-solving skills.</td>
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<td>Development</td>
<td>Construction firms</td>
<td>Consider a course in public speaking to enhance presentation skills.</td>
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<td>Planning</td>
<td>Self-employed</td>
<td>Plan to collaborate with others.</td>
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<td>Construction management</td>
<td>Architecture firms</td>
<td>Obtain relevant experience through co-ops or internships for industry-related careers.</td>
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<td>Project management</td>
<td>Design firms</td>
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<td>Facilities management</td>
<td>Engineering firms</td>
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<td>Architectural technology</td>
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<td>Contracting</td>
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<td>Property assessment</td>
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<td>AREAS</td>
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<td><strong>ENTERTAINMENT/ARTS/MEDIA</strong></td>
<td>Writing/Journalism, Set design, Advertising design, Illustration, Graphic design, Photography</td>
<td>Publishers including book, magazine, journals, Entertainment industry</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY</strong></td>
<td>Real estate development/Appraisals/Brokerage, Consulting, Law, Insurance liability, Product development/Marketing</td>
<td>Real estate firms, Appraisal firms, Apartment and condominium complexes, Developers, Large corporations: real estate departments, Law firms, Corporate architecture departments, Federal, state, local government</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>EDUCATION</strong></td>
<td>Teaching, Research, Administration, Information/Library science, Part-time instruction</td>
<td>Colleges and universities, Special collections libraries</td>
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Colleges and universities
Special collections libraries
GENERAL INFORMATION

- To become an architect in almost all states, one must receive a professional degree, Bachelor, Master, or Doctor of Architecture, from an architecture program accredited by the National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB), gain approximately two years of experience under the supervision of a licensed architect under Architect Experience Program (AXP), and pass the Architect Registration Examination (ARE). Contact NCARB to research your state’s requirements for licensure.
- Architects may also seek certification by the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB), which makes it easier to become licensed across states via reciprocity.
- Consult the Survey of Architectural Registration Boards for the number of architects licensed in the United States and trends in the field.
- Graduate degree programs (Master of Architecture) exist for individuals who did not major in architecture at the undergraduate level. A strong background in the physical sciences and math is recommended.
- Architecture involves much more than designing buildings. Conduct informational interviews with 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.
- Building Information Modeling (BIM), Computer Aided Design and Drafting (CADD), 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.
- Two-thirds of licensed architects in the U.S. are in private practice. Most (over 75%) architects work in firms of fewer than ten individuals.
- Related fields include graphic, interior, or industrial design, 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, corporate facilities planning, project management, city planning, interior design or other related fields.
- Students need to design a portfolio (traditional and digital format) to use when interviewing. Include freehand drawings, process sketches, final drawings by hand and computer, photos of study models and finished models, a sample of writing, and work from technical courses.