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# A Sneak Peek Into Architecture

# What is Architecture?

Architecture is the art and science of designing buildings and spaces where people live, work, learn, and heal.

Architects:

- Shape communities
- Protect public health, safety, and welfare
- Blend creativity with technical knowledge
- Solve complex, real-world problems

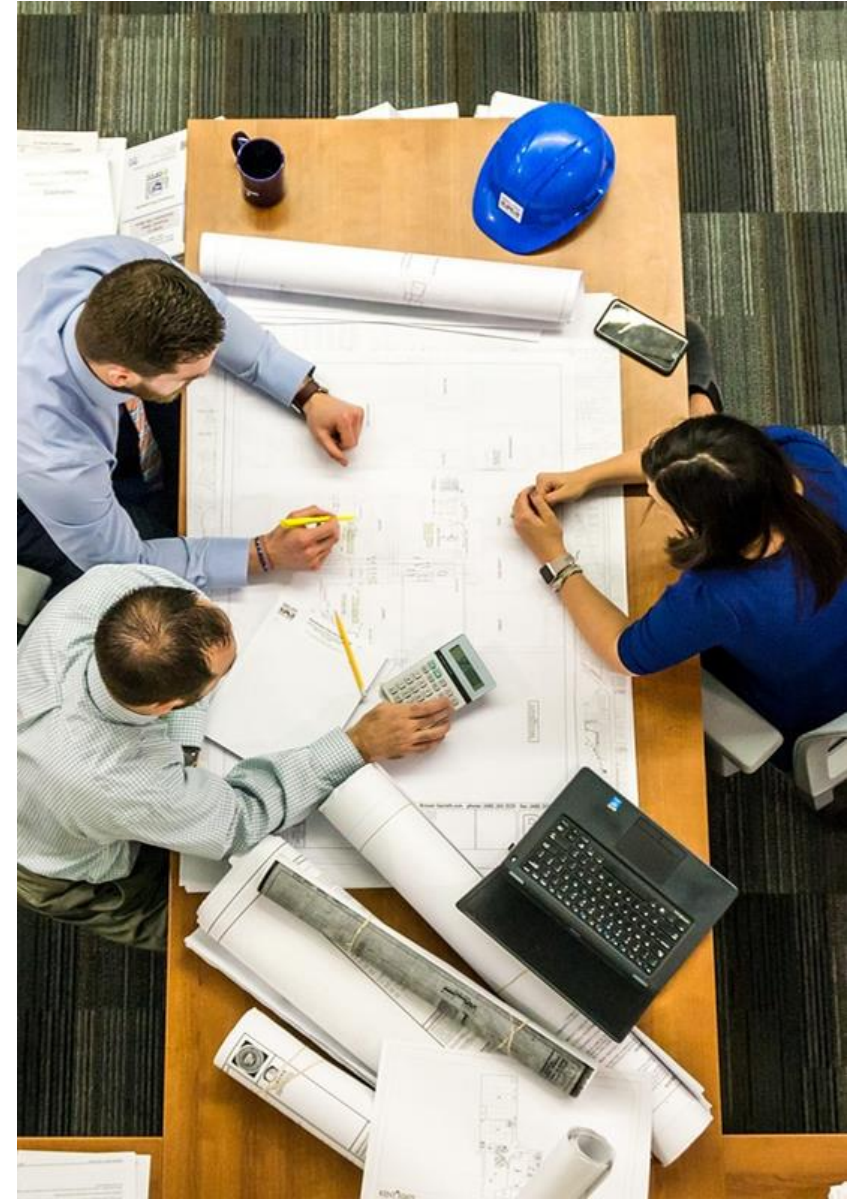
Architecture is a licensed profession similar to law or medicine.

# Day in the life of an Architect

Every day is different for an architect, and careers can be tailored to an individuals unique skillset

Daily tasks could include:

- Project Coordination
- 3D Modeling and Documentation
- Client Presentations
- Site Visits
- Design/Programming



# What makes a Good Architect?

There are many skills architects use, but the key traits that make a great architect include skills such as:

- Design Thinking
- STEAM Learning
- Sketching/Drawing
- Organization
- Public Speaking



# Design Thinking

Design is never a linear process, it is an endless pursuit of research, analysis, and exploration

That process breaks down into these 6 key steps:

1. Identify Problem
2. Constraints Established
3. Brainstorm and discussion
4. Feedback
5. Refinement and testing
6. Solution Discovered



# STEAM

Science

Technology

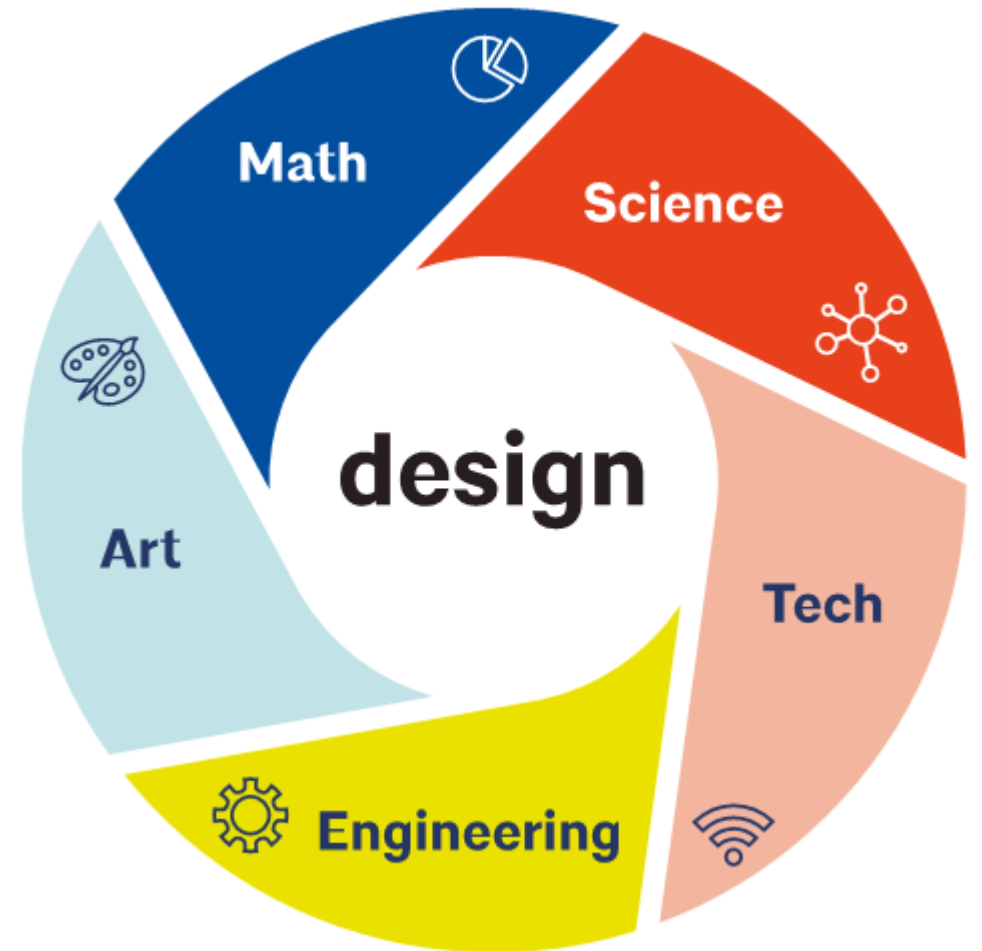
Engineering

Arts

Mathematics

The “**A**” is included for artistic focuses like design.

Many people are drawn to architecture because of its overlap of **technical** and **artistic** qualities.



# Architecture is more than houses

Architects work in many sectors, including:

- Healthcare (Hospitals & Clinics)
- Education (K-12 & Higher Education)
- Civic & Government Buildings
- Commercial & Workplace
- Science & Research Facilities
- Justice & Public Safety

This career offers a wide range of impact and specialization opportunities.



# What Student Thrives in Architecture?

Students who often succeed in architecture are:

- Strong in critical thinking, problem solving, and creativity
- Curious and analytical
- Visual thinkers
- Good communicators
- Detail-oriented
- Collaborative
- Interested in how buildings are constructed

Important: Students do **NOT** need to be exceptional artists. Design thinking and problem-solving are more important than drawing ability alone.



# What Should Students Take in School?

Encourage students to take:

- Algebra, Geometry, Pre-Calculus
- Physics
- Art and Design electives
- CAD, Engineering, or Technical Drawing courses (if available)
- Public Speaking or Communication classes

# What Should Students do in High School?

The most important thing a student could do in high school is gain exposure to architecture and start flexing the creative muscles in their brain. Activities like:

- Summer design camps
- Job shadowing architects
- Internship opportunities
- Developing a creative portfolio (sketches, photography, creative projects)

# The Path to Become an Architect

There are three required components in the journey to become a licensed architect:

1. Education
2. Experience
3. Examination

All three are **required** for licensure.

# #1 : Education

The most common first step in licensure is to attend a NAAB (National Architectural Accrediting Board) accredited school, and there are two common pathways:

## Option 1:

5-Year Bachelor of Architecture (B.Arch) or Masters of Architecture (M.Arch)

## Option 2:

4-Year Undergraduate Degree + 2-Year Master of Architecture (M.Arch)

Both pathways lead to the same outcome: an accredited professional degree.

Counselors can direct families to: [www.naab.org](http://www.naab.org) for accredited programs.

# Abbreviation Explanation

1. **NAAB:** National Architectural Accrediting Board
  - a. An independent 3rd party board that upholds the standards of architecture school
2. **NCARB:** National Council of Architectural Registration Boards
  - a. Licensing board that regulates the practice of Architecture in the United States



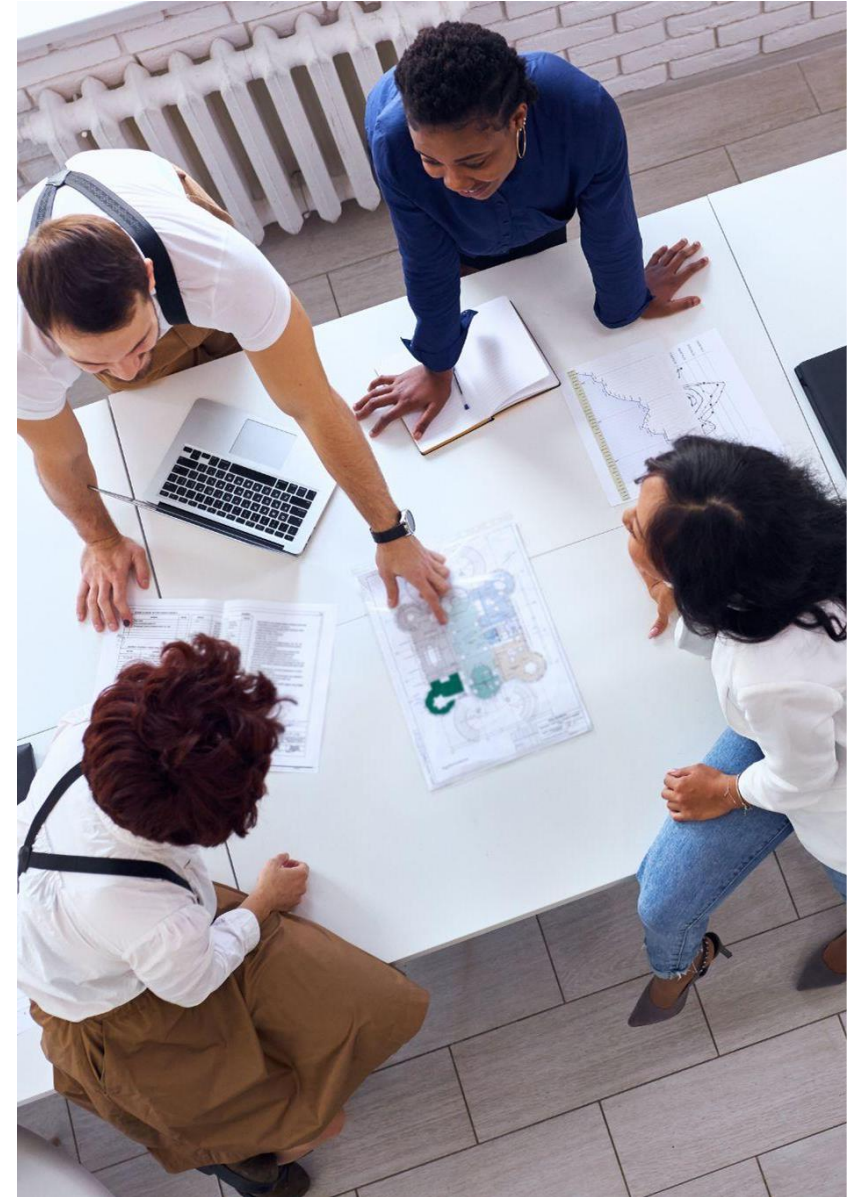
# #2 : Experience (AXP)

Students must complete the Architectural Experience Program (AXP) through the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB).

This includes:

- Documented professional hours
- Internships
- Full-time employment under a licensed architect

Students can begin earning experience while in school.



# #3 : Examination (ARE)

Students must pass the Architect Registration Examination (ARE).

The ARE:

- Is a multi-division professional exam
- Tests knowledge of building systems, contracts, construction, and practice
- Ensures protection of public health, safety, and welfare

After completing Education + Experience + Examination, candidates can become licensed architects.



# Career Outlook & Salary

Architecture offers strong long-term career stability.

According to the AIA Compensation Calculator ([salarycalculator.aia.org](https://salarycalculator.aia.org)) the average salary for a new graduate in the West North Central region (encompassing Kansas and Missouri) is around \$63,000






# How can Counselors Help?

You play a critical role by:

- Identifying students who balance creativity and analytical thinking
- Explaining that architecture is a licensed profession
- Helping families understand accredited degree pathways
- Encouraging early internships and exposure
- Connecting students to local professionals

Many students are unaware architecture is a structured professional path — your guidance makes a difference.



# Scholarships & Local Support

The Kansas City Architectural Foundation awards:

- 15 scholarships annually
- Awards ranging from \$1,000–\$5,000

Encourage students to:

- Visit architecture firms
- Attend outreach events
- Seek mentorship
- Explore accredited programs early



# So, What are the next steps?

## Review local options

### MISSOURI

#### DRURY COLLEGE

Hammons School of Architecture

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

- Masters of Architecture (5 years)
- B.S. in Architectural Studies (2-3 years post bachelor)

#### WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY IN ST. LOUIS

Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts

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

- B.S. in Architecture
- B.A. in Architecture
- Masters of Architecture (2-3 years post bachelor)

#### UMKC

Department of Architecture, Urban Planning & Design

<https://architecture.sse.umkc.edu/>

- Bachelor of Architecture (going through accreditation)
- Historic Preservation
- Urban Planning + Design (4 years BA)

### KANSAS

#### KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

College of Architecture, Planning and Design

<https://apdesign.k-state.edu/arch/academics/index.html>

- Masters of Architecture (5 years)
- Master of Architecture (2-3 years post bachelor)
- Master in Science of Architecture (2 years)

#### Incoming Freshman Requirements

The admission decision will be based on cumulative high school grade point average and composite ACT or SAT scores without the writing portion. If you apply before the **Feb. 1 deadline** and have a 3.5 GPA and a 25 ACT or 1200 SAT or above, you will be offered early admission to AP Design.

#### UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS

School of Architecture & Design

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

- Master of Architecture (5 years),
- Master of Arts in Architecture, (2-3 years post bachelor)
- Doctor of Philosophy in Architecture (Ph.D.), (2-3 years post bachelor)

#### Incoming Freshman Requirements, see page 17

<https://architecture.ku.edu/undergraduateadmissions>

#### Deadlines

- For Spring semester: Oct. 1
- For Fall and Summer semesters: Nov. 1  
*Applications received after Nov. 1 are reviewed on a rolling basis until final deadline Feb. 1*

### TRANSFER PROGRAMS

#### JCCC – JOHNSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

<https://www.jccc.edu/academics/credit/architecture/>

- With 28 to 31 hours of architecture classes, you can transfer to a four-year university.
- JCCC works with KU and KSU on a transfer programs

## Evaluate College Options!

There are many local universities with excellent architecture programs

## Do the Research!

Every college has their own unique approach to architecture school, find what interests you the most!

# Local Resource: AIA Kansas City

AIA Kansas City offers:

- Education outreach programs
- Firm tours
- Classroom presentations
- Mentorship opportunities
- Career pathway guidance

Contact:

[education@aiakc.org](mailto:education@aiakc.org)

816.221.3485

# Questions?



We are happy to support you and your students as they explore careers in architecture.

Thank you for the work you do in guiding the next generation.