

## Career Profile: Architect

Architecture refers to the activities of designing and constructing buildings and physical structures which are used for diverse purposes. An architect uses the knowledge of mathematical and scientific, artistic and aesthetic principles to manipulate materials and forms that will result in the creation of structures that meet a variety of needs.

An architect offers a level of professional service and expertise different from that provided by other building professionals. The architect works with a multi-disciplinary team and usually takes on the role of project leader. S/he coordinates the process which includes research (gathering relevant information), design (integrating practical and aesthetic considerations), documentation (preparing working drawings, specifications and other legal documents), and supervision of the erection of the structure.

## Education Requirements

### National Senior Certificate (NSC)

For a career in architecture students are advised to select Science and Mathematics and to add to this a selection from the designated subjects. These are subjects that are particularly suitable for tertiary study.

### Bachelor Degree

**Bachelor of Science (Architecture) BSc(Arch)** (4 years - University of Pretoria)  
**Bachelor of Architectural Studies BAS** (3 years - University of the Witwatersrand)

#### Offered at:

- [University of Pretoria](http://web.up.ac.za/default.asp?ipkCategoryID=3229&sub=0&parentid=1068&subid=1069&ipklookid=7)<sup>1</sup> (Department of Architecture)
- [University of the Witwatersrand](http://web.wits.ac.za/Academic/EBE/ArchPlan/ArchitecturePlanning.htm)<sup>2</sup> (School of Architecture and Planning)

### National Diploma / BTech

The National Diploma is a three year course which includes gaining practical experience under the guidance of a professional engineer. The diploma is a pre-requisite for admission to a Bachelor of Technology - BTech.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://web.up.ac.za/default.asp?ipkCategoryID=3229&sub=0&parentid=1068&subid=1069&ipklookid=7>

<sup>2</sup> <http://web.wits.ac.za/Academic/EBE/ArchPlan/ArchitecturePlanning.htm>

### Offered at:

- [Tshwane University of Technology](#)<sup>3</sup> (Faculty of Engineering and the Built Environment)
- [University of Johannesburg](#)<sup>4</sup> (Faculty of Art, Design and Architecture)

Architectural qualifications are subject to accreditation by the SA Council for the Architectural Profession. They must meet the standards set through legislation and by the profession.

## Admission requirements

As admission requirements vary from one institution to another, find out what the specific requirements are by checking on the website and contacting the university if you have any queries.

## Possible Employers

- Architectural firms (they can range from 1 to 100 people)
- Own practice (only once registered as a professional with the South African Council for the Architectural Profession.)

## Find out more

Find out more about architecture and careers and qualifications in architecture:

- [The South African Institute of Architects\(SAIA\)](#).<sup>5</sup>
- [Information about the Bachelor of Architectural Studies degree \(BAS\) at WITS](#).<sup>6</sup>
- [Building Industry Directory](#).<sup>7</sup>
- A description of the [various roles an architect performs](#).<sup>8</sup>
- [An interesting view of architecture](#)<sup>9</sup> prepared by the Tshwane University of Technology.
- The [The guidelines for architects](#)<sup>10</sup> in this brochure gives you an insight into an aspect of their work.
- [Options for someone with an architectural qualification](#).<sup>11</sup>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.fe.tut.ac.za/CourseBrochures/a9713658-f307-4f81-ba36-10ec33860c80.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.uj.ac.za/fada/Courses/NationalDiplomas/Architecture/tabid/7759/Default.aspx>

<sup>5</sup> [http://www.saia.org.za/education\\_careers.php](http://www.saia.org.za/education_careers.php)

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.careerexpo.co.za/viewcourse.asp?code=4194%20>

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.saweb.co.za/sabuilding/Links/cat.asp?iCat=714&iChannel=5&nChannel=Links>

<sup>8</sup> [http://www.kznia.org.za/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=24&Itemid=7](http://www.kznia.org.za/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=24&Itemid=7)

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.architec.co.za/academic/prosstuwhat.htm>

<sup>10</sup> <http://www.pamgolding.co.za/lifestyles/docs/corelbeach/archgitectural%20guidelines.pdf>

<sup>11</sup> [http://www.careers.usyd.edu.au/students/careeropt/degree\\_arch.shtml](http://www.careers.usyd.edu.au/students/careeropt/degree_arch.shtml)

## Are you suited to this career?

This quick quiz can help you to identify whether you are suited for this occupation.

Quiz	Yes	No
Are you imaginative and creative?		
Are you able to organize your ideas and communicate them to others?		
Are you able to take the lead in a group and does the group have confidence in you ability to lead?		
Are you good at finding solutions to problems?		
Do you have an above average mathematical ability?		
Are you interested in working in a career that gives you many opportunities of influencing and shaping the environment in which people live?		
Are you well organized and do you work in a systematic way?		
Do you work carefully and pay attention to detail?		
Do you have a love of precision, geometry and order?		
Do you have perseverance and do you stick to a task until it is completed to your satisfaction?		

If you have mainly yes answers it may be an indication that this is an occupation to consider.