

# CAREERS IN ARCHITECTURE & BEYOND



**ARCHITECTURAL  
PRACTICE**

**OUTSIDE ARCHITECTURAL  
PRACTICE**

**BEYOND  
ARCHITECTURE**

# CAREERS IN ARCHITECTURE & BEYOND

## FORWARD

### Architects of Many Things

This guide, *Careers in Architecture and Beyond*, is meant to help you both to wonder and to wander. If you are reading this, then you are wondering about a career in architecture. There are tried and true successful pathways explained and explored here. But as the title suggests, there is a lot you can do with an architectural education to go beyond the expected boundaries. This guide helps you wander through lots of examples and resources of where else architectural training can take you. As J.R.R. Tolkien famously advised, "Not all those who wander are lost." With this guide, perhaps you can find yourself on a path to success that is all your own.

As you read this, you will learn it is sort of a portal. Each of the individuals interviewed here become resources, each career mentioned is a term to search, every career identified is a rabbit hole to fall into. Like Alice in Wonderland, you will find one point of curiosity can lead to almost any other. If you are really into the realm of architecture and design, you will find those points are connected like a web and one strand might grab hold to offer you a lifetime of learning, adventure, and opportunity. This resource provides methods and models on how to map your explorations. There are links here to explore, especially to **ARCHCareersGuide.com** – an ever-expanding guide to not only what is the future of architecture, but also to what else you can help to make it become.

But be warned, like anything worth achieving, you will find obstacles. Sometimes those obstacles will seem like they are trying to do you a favor. As with anything like that, you must learn to look deeper. For example, in 2012 a media report spread wildly through the AIA and especially the AIAS. According to experts, architects had terrible job prospects. The journalists seemed to take glee in the angst and worry the report caused. The obvious conclusion was that the students should look elsewhere for a good future.

At that time, I was a Public Director on the AIA National board. As a Futurist, I had keyed many AIA and AIAS events. Unlike the journalists, I spent a lot of time listening to the students. The dreary report and the weary advice instilled fear, but the students also expressed a good amount of optimism. One way or another, they knew their dreams of the future would survive that momentary report.

To capture all of that, I surveyed AIAS members: "If you don't become an architect, what else might you do?" Their answers, submitted to Wordle.net <wordle.net>, created this word cloud. The more any word showed up in their answers, the bigger that word got. This cloud revealed their hope. Their hopeful sense put **DESIGN** at the center of their future.

If you don't become an architect, what else might you do?  
(AIAS: 292 responses)



AIAS/Pew 2012 Survey | David Zach

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And their visions of the future proved to be true. Design is at the center of today's economy. Those with design skills and the means by which to articulate and apply those skills had and still have nearly unlimited prospects. They can become a licensed architect, or they can even connect those skills in different, unique ways to invent their own career. Skills in architecture can be applied to almost any occupation and applied to almost anything.

Which brings us back to this guide: ***Careers in Architecture and Beyond*** that explores the variations of those with architectural talent and interviewed them to find out how and why they did it. From elected AIA leadership, user-experience designers, to cake decorator in each of the case examples, those trained as architects have found a home for their unique set of skills and dreams.

Speaking of dreams, we all know how odd and unexpected they can be. Surprises are a constant in dreams. Many, great, practical ideas first show up in our dreams. And, as the saying goes, those who still dream when they're awake are the ones who not only get to change the world, they're also the ones who get to preserve and protect it.

David Zach  
Futurist

*David Zach is a Futurist who has spoken to over 1500 audiences and keynoted over 100 design conferences. He served two terms on the board of AIA-WI and was a Public Director on the AIA National Board.*

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

To a certain extent, *Careers in Architecture and Beyond* has been in the making for nearly 30 years. Not really, but as you can see from the image in the Introduction, the publication draws its inspiration from the AIAS booklet, *Career Options: Opportunities through Architecture* (1993). We can only hope that it does not take another 30+ years to publish the next iteration.

First, ARCHCareersGuide.com wishes to express our extreme appreciation to the over 30 professionals profiled through the publication. Without exception, all of them were more than willing participants to this project and are as much the authors of this publication. In addition, a special note of appreciation is extended to **David Zach**, Futurist for his Forward and support of the publication.

Finally, we thank all the architecture students (former, present, and future) and professional colleagues within the architecture discipline with whom we have interacted with over the last plus 25 years; you have been the reason we so much enjoy our work and wrote this publication.

**ARCHCareersGuide.com**  
*archcareersguide@gmail.com*

*ARCHCareersGuide.com helps you launch your journey in becoming an architect; we provide resources such as outlining the path, links to valuable websites including the architecture programs, career information, and architecture summer programs.*

*As well as there are career profiles of architecture students, emerging professionals, educators, and practitioners in both traditional careers and beyond.*

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# CAREERS IN ARCHITECTURE & BEYOND

## INTRODUCTION

With inspiration from its predecessor, ***Career Options: Opportunities through Architecture*** (AIAS, 1993) edited by Christine West (Malecki), ***Careers in Architecture and Beyond*** is the updated guide to careers in architecture and beyond for architecture students, recent graduates, and emerging professionals. More than anything, it provides insight to the myriad of career paths one can pursue with a degree in architecture. ***Careers in Architecture and Beyond*** is just the latest of publications, articles, and resources that highlight careers beyond traditional practice.



Cover Design of ***Career Options: Opportunities Through Architecture*** (1993) published by American Institute of Architecture Students (AIAS).

Before its predecessor, ***Career Options***, the topic of “non-traditional” or “alternative” careers have been highlighted in journal articles, association publications, along with books.

In the early 1990s, both *Progressive Architecture* and *Architecture* magazines dedicated content to the topic of alternative careers. *Architecture* magazine dedicated an entire issue to the topic of “Practice Alternatives.” As well, AIAS published CRIT 28 (Spring 1992) entitled, alternatives in architecture.

In the Fall 1994 edition of the GSD News (Graduate School of Design – Harvard University), over 25 alumni of the GSD are highlighted with their non-traditional career. Among the profiles a myriad of careers is represented – national politics, film production, land planning, investment banking, third world development, highway design, clothing design – to name a few.

Articles through the years on the topic – Besides Bricks and Mortar (Consulting for Architects, 1997); Careers Opportunities – An Abundance of Choices (ICARA, 1997); Inner Strength (Architecture Minnesota, 2000); Architects on Alternative Paths (Architecture California, 2005); it’s a wonderful life (AIA Pittsburgh, 2008); Architects Branch Out (The Architect’s Newspaper, 2012).

***The Survival Guide to Architectural and Career Development*** (Kim, 2006) and ***Professional Practice 101*** (Pressman, 1997) both dedicated an entire chapter to the topic. Two recent books – ***what kind of architect are you*** (Greinacher, 2021) and ***Architects after Architecture: Alternative Pathways for Practice*** (Harris, et. al, 2021) both provide insight what one can do with a degree in architecture.

An architectural education prepares an individual for a vast array of career possibilities. Many of these are within architectural practice, but just as many are available outside architectural practice and beyond architecture. Regardless of the path, it is critical to pursue licensure to open as many careers as possible.

Within each of the career categories listed are profiles of professionals who have pursued careers in architecture and paths beyond architecture. As well, there is a list of career / occupational titles to consider. Beyond the career categories are strategies for career success along with a list of resources and professional associations.

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archcareersguide@gmail.com

# CAREERS IN ARCHITECTURE & BEYOND

## ARCHITECTURAL PRACTICE

Prior to the challenges of 2020, the architecture profession had almost fully rebounded from the challenging economic turmoil of the late 2000s; but 2020 has again challenged the profession. The employment of architects is projected to only grow one percent (1,100) from 126,700 in 2020 to 130,700 in 2030 --

[bls.gov/ooh/architecture-and-engineering/architects.htm](https://bls.gov/ooh/architecture-and-engineering/architects.htm)

Regardless of one's chosen career path, the pursuit of licensure should be accomplished to maximize career potential. According to NCARB by the Numbers, there are 121,603 architects across 55 jurisdictions, a 7% increase from the previous year. NCARB by the Numbers 2022 – [ncarb.org/nbtn2022](https://ncarb.org/nbtn2022).

But as you approach graduation, how does a career in architecture begin? How do you progress from graduation to become an architect? Following the AIA Definition of Architect Positions, the path seems linear, progressing from an intern to architect; once licensed (and depending on the firm), the path continues to Architect I (3-5 years) and Architect/Designers III (8-10 years). From there, the path progresses to project manager, department head or senior manager, junior principal/partner and concludes with senior principal/partner.

Of course, the path of a career in architecture is not strictly linear; however, it is helpful to understand these titles with the knowledge and responsibility associated with them as outlined in Dana Cuff's ***Architecture: The Story of Practice***. Upon entry into the profession, an architectural associate or design professional builds upon their educational foundation through practical experience under the supervision of an architect; they track their experience through the Architectural Experience Program (AXP), an essential step in becoming an architect.

Once licensed, an architect is demonstrating competence, gathering responsibility, gaining autonomy, and management tasks. When at the full-fledged stage, the architect is gaining fiscal responsibility on a widening sphere of influence.

***Architects are broadly qualified to practice in a wide variety of roles and settings within the architecture profession and building enterprise.***

– David Haviland, Hon. AIA

### Architecture Firm Positions\*

- CEO / President
- Senior Principal / Partner
- Senior Architect
- Project Architect
- Staff Architect
- Architectural Associate\*\*
- Design Professional\*\*

\* AIA Definition of Architect Positions  
\*\* AIA's new position statement supports two titles for anyone working for a firm while pursuing licensure.

### Additional Positions

- Architectural Illustrator
- Architectural Photographer
- Architectural Renderer
- BIM Manager
- BIM Specialist
- Computer Presentation Designer
- Digital Model Maker
- Director of Strateg
- Physical Model Maker

### Areas of Focus of Firms

- Corporate / Workplace
- Interiors
- Hospitality / Resorts
- Residential
- Senior Living
- Multi-Family
- Office / Industrial
- Government
- Education
- Retail / Restaurant
- Health & Wellness / Healthcare

# CAREERS IN ARCHITECTURE & BEYOND

## ARCHITECTURAL PRACTICE

### **Sara Kathryn Beardsley, Associate Principal**

Solomon, Cordwell, Buenz [SCB], Chicago, IL  
Bachelor of Architecture, Illinois Institute of Technology

I became interested in architecture through living near Chicago as I grew up and being in awe of the downtown skyline which I could see from miles away.

As an associate principal at SCB with four offices and over 300 employees, I focus on large scale projects: mid to high-rise hotel, office, and residential towers in the U.S. along with some cultural buildings. In my role, I set the direction of the team (architects, interior designers, and a variety of expert consultants), to make sure there is good quality control, assign tasks, help find solutions to design and technical challenges, prepare presentations, and mentor others. I also participate in firm-wide initiatives like detailing, sustainability, and training of staff. Communication is very important, as is having broad knowledge about the entire design process, from the overall vision to the details.

I started interning after my freshman year and was able to work part-time at various firms throughout my college career. Switching from the 'work' environment to the school environment daily helped me appreciate all that goes into making an architectural project. By graduation, I knew my way through a drawing set, and more importantly, how to collaborate with others as part of a team. This helped me succeed on large, fast-paced projects after graduation. In my experience, the best projects are the ones that take advantage of a collaborative group working together toward a common goal.

### **Andre A. Vega, AIA, NOMA, LEED AP, Project Manager**

Moody Nolan, Boston, MA  
Bachelor of Architecture, Wentworth Institute of Technology

As a young child, my uncle was in the graduate architecture program at MIT; he would come visit and showed me his drawings and models; seeing what he was working on really excited me. I decided then and there that architecture was the path for me. I studied architecture at Wentworth Institute of Technology in Boston Massachusetts.

As Senior Project Manager for Moody Nolan I oversee the design and production teams for multiple large-scale projects in the Northeast Region. The projects vary in typology and include affordable & market rate housing, office and lab buildings and mixed-use buildings. Previously, I served as Director of Capital Projects & Construction for Suffolk University; in that position I managed all the construction projects on campus. For 24 years, prior to working at my current position, I worked in a handful of firms on many projects ranging in size and scope. Over the years I found that I have an aptitude for project management and specifically construction administration.

At its core, architecture is creative problem solving. This is what you learn in architecture school. As you evolve as an architect your knowledge of construction technologies and your architectural vocabulary expands and allows you to grow within the profession.

***People need to be educated with an openness to other careers. The attitude in schools is that if you do not work in a firm, you are nothing.***

– Christine Malecki West (1993)



## ARCHITECTURAL PRACTICE

### **Kimberly Nicole Dowdell, AIA, NOMAC, LEED AP BD+C, Principal**

HOK, Chicago, IL

Bachelor of Architecture, Cornell University

Master of Public Administration, Harvard University

Growing up in Detroit, I experienced firsthand the need for urban revitalization and chose to become an architect in response. As an architecture student, I came up with an idea to help address the kinds of disparities that I witnessed in my community. The idea was to acknowledge the impact that development projects can have on communities relative to socio-economic issues, both positive and negative. Like how LEED promotes high-impact projects from an environmental standpoint, I sought a way to elevate the work of development projects that successfully address triple bottom line issues. From this thought grew the SEED Network (Social, Economic, Environmental Design). The mission of SEED is to advance the right of every person to live in a socially, economically, and environmentally healthy community.

Upon graduation from Cornell University, I worked in the public sector before going into private practice with various design firms and a project management firm. After earning my license to practice architecture, I studied public administration at Harvard University. I believe that buildings are important public assets and I wanted to better understand how government, the private sector and non-profit organizations could all work together to improve the quality of life for people living in cities. As a mid-career professional, I returned to my hometown in 2015 to support urban revitalization efforts. While in Detroit, I worked in city government before launching into real estate entrepreneurship and teaching at the University of Michigan. To broaden my impact on the profession of architecture, in 2019-2020, I served as National President of National Organization of Minority Architects (NOMA) and will serve as the National President of the American Institute of Architects in 2024.

My career with HOK spans from 2008-2011 and 2019 to the present. I started in New York and am currently in the Chicago studio, where I am a Marketing Principal and a member of the Chicago Management Committee. I also serve as a Co-Chair of the firmwide Diversity Advisory Council. Beyond my role with the firm, I have become embedded within the Chicago community as a board member of the Chicago Central Area Committee (CCAC) and Ingenuity Chicago. I also serve on the board for the Architects Foundation and the Cornell University board of trustees.

### **Kevin G. Sneed, FAIA, Senior Principal / Senior Director of Architecture**

OTJ Architects, Washington, DC

Bachelor of Science. Architecture, The University of Texas at Arlington

From a young age, I focused on art, design, and drawing skills. I began to comprehend the role of architecture in a community and its environs from my grandmother. She explained how architects were obligated to participate in the community using their talents. A significant component to what drew me to being an architect was the notion that architecture provided such a breadth of opportunity for giving back.

As the senior principal, I focus on the best practices in the project management and leadership direction of the firm. Second, as the senior director of architecture, I am responsible for my office's quality assurance / quality control plan, which institutes policies and procedures to guide projects through all phases of design, the production of contract documents, and construction administration. I also manage the office studio review process and assist overall project delivery while serving as team leader on several projects.

Through my profession, I have gained knowledge about the business aspect of architecture. A successful practice depends on having the necessary expertise in finance, negotiating, and strategic planning. Concentrating solely on the design will not suffice; if you do not comprehend how a project is negotiated, funded, and successfully managed, you will not comprehend how it is constructed.

# CAREERS IN ARCHITECTURE & BEYOND

## GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC AGENCIES OUTSIDE ARCHITECTURAL PRACTICE

Another career opportunity for architects is Federal, state, and local governments. Surprisingly, these government agencies commission more than one-quarter of construction annually. In addition to traditional skills / tasks of an architect, those within a government position may manage facilities and projects along with overseeing construction. From the June 2015 Public Architect's Survey of the AIA, 78% of respondents were from federal agencies; 14% from city / municipal agencies; 4% from state; and 4% from other public agencies.

### **Catherine Chakola-Thomas, Architect / Project Manager**

NASA Goddard Space Flight Center / Self-Employed, Greenbelt, MD  
Bachelor of Science in Architecture, University of Maryland  
Master of Architecture, Illinois Institute of Technology

Having both an undergraduate and graduate degrees in architecture have been extremely beneficial in my career trajectory. In my experience, the architect is the master coordinator between the many parties involved in the design and construction of a building today. As my career path continues to develop, I can modify the skill set of an architect for different positions.

For over 10 years, I served as an architect/project manager at NASA Goddard Space Flight Center. Working for our nation and an agency that has such a tremendous role in science, our daily lives and our world was an honor. In this role, I served as the liaison between the architectural and construction contracts at Goddard and our senior management. As a civil servant, I was responsible for all coordination between the architect of record and the contractor and to ensure NASA's contractual, sustainability goals and quality standards were met and that all safety procedures were followed. Many other NASA projects followed, and all came with their own challenges and being in this role during the early years of my career was truly invaluable.

After NASA, I served as the project management of a mobile application in the transportation sector. Although government service at NASA was very different from the private industry and transportation sector, the process remains the same. Our team took a concept (even hand sketched from the beginning!) and worked with developers and coders, UX/UI designers and with the input of many stakeholders to create a product for users on the road today.

In more recent years, I have collaborated and designed a handful of restaurants and residential interiors and I have advised larger companies and organizations on better ways to design and build. I find having these different scales and diversity of work throughout my career has kept my passion for architecture very strong.

***As a profession, architecture offers a myriad of possibilities  
for rewarding careers***

-- Irene Dumas-Tyson

### **Government Careers**

City Planner  
City Architect  
State Architect

### **Other Related Careers**

Building Inspector  
Geological Survey Contractor  
Government Housing Advisor

### **Military Careers**

Army Corp of Engineers  
Navy, Marines, Army, or Air Force  
Architect

### **Careers**

Architect of the Capitol  
Associate Vice Chancellor,  
Capital Planning and Special  
Projects  
Campus Architect  
Chief, Planning Branch, HQ US  
Army Corp of Engineers  
City Manager  
Construction Manager  
Deputy Director, Housing  
Authority  
Development Director  
Facility Manager  
In-House Architect (Municipality)  
Program Manager  
Senior Program Manager  
State Architect  
Zoning / Permit Reviewer

# CAREERS IN ARCHITECTURE & BEYOND

## GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC AGENCIES OUTSIDE ARCHITECTURAL PRACTICE

### **Fatima Benhaddou, Project Manager**

Preservation of Affordable Housing (POAH), Chicago, IL  
Bachelor of Science in Architectural Studies, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
Master of Architecture and Master of Urban Planning, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

As a Project Manager at POAH, I work on all aspects of the development of a project from identifying project opportunities and financial feasibility, managing pre-development, and closing, and monitoring construction through project close-out and lease up. Previously, I worked at IFF Real Estate Solutions as an owner's representative, providing thorough condition analyses of facilities for non-profits while managing multiple building improvement projects through their full life cycle. Additionally, I was a Housing Rehabilitation Manager with the City of Milwaukee's Department of City Development, overseeing the rehabilitation of homes through the City's Strong Homes Loan and HOME programs.

I knew I was not well-suited for the typical architecture firm; I want to integrate community development and housing specific reinvestment into my work. I always wanted to approach architecture with a comprehensive and sustainable view that included a review and response to neighborhood conditions. My work allows me to cater architectural improvements to the individual resident's need, which then improves their block and encourages their neighbors to care for their homes as well. Our cities are comprised of neighborhoods, and I want to make sure every resident can maintain their home in a neighborhood of their choice.

### **Allison Hennie, RA, NCARB, LEED AP, Manager of Urban Design and Architecture**

City of Cleveland, Cleveland (OH)  
Principal, Studio Hennie LLC, Cleveland/Akron, OH  
Bachelor of Architecture, Carnegie Mellon University  
Master of Arts, Applied Anthropology (Urban), The University of Memphis.

In fourth grade, I read *The Phantom Tollbooth* (Norton Juster, 1961); through the adventures of Milo, this book helped shape my passion for people and place, and the impact one can have in shaping the built environment. As such, I pursued a Bachelor of Architecture degree from Carnegie Mellon University; later, I pursued a graduate degree in applied anthropology.

In my current position I serve as Manager of Urban Design and Architecture, City Planning Commission in the city of Cleveland. In this role, I provide leadership and supervision to the urban design and infrastructure section in the planning department of the city. Our main objective is preparing urban design plans to facilitate appropriate development. Efforts primarily occur in neighborhood business districts, the central business district, and along the city's lakefront. As well, I facilitate the creation of design guidelines and streetscape guidelines for the design review process and for public use by developers, commercial owners, and residents.

In addition, I own and manage Studio Hennie, LLC ([studiohennie.com](http://studiohennie.com)), an architecture, urban design, and public art consulting firm. We navigate the public process to create diverse solutions with a positive social impact. Our services include designing and managing new construction, adaptive re-use, and renovation projects; establishing project budgets and schedules; facilitating public art projects and maintenance; developing arts-focused youth workshops; consulting on public art and gallery exhibits; creating marketing and graphic design packages; drafting mission statements and strategic plans among others.

My architectural education and professional experience have taught me to 'expand the box' and blur boundaries between professions that interface with people and the built environment. Through my professional and educational experiences in both architecture and anthropology, I developed skill sets in communication, design, and advocacy. These skills serve me well to balance aspired permanence and inevitable change through policymaking and design. The hope is to inspire others to appreciate and influence the design of the built environment around them.

# CAREERS IN ARCHITECTURE & BEYOND

## EDUCATION AND RESEARCH OUTSIDE ARCHITECTURAL PRACTICE

For some architects, a substantial career path is teaching and research. According to the 2019 National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB) Annual Report, there are 6,698 faculty teaching in NAAB accredited programs of architecture, many of whom (46%) are adjunct faculty. Additionally, with over 300 programs in architectural technology at the community college level, many more opportunities exist for architects to teach at this level. In addition to teaching, architects serving as faculty pursue research interests to test ideas that connect education and practice. Besides teaching future architects, many faculty members also maintain a practice.

### **Ayonna Marie Patterson, Elementary School Art Teacher**

Chicago Public Schools, Chicago, IL  
Founder, Program Director, amp Career Events  
Bachelor of Science in Architectural Studies, Florida A&M University  
Master of Architecture, Florida A&M University

From 8:00am – 4:00pm, I teach art to elementary aged children; I absolutely love having the opportunity to introduce the students to art! In terms of teaching, I am conscious about how different projects and concepts help motivate the students to be more creative. With every project, I am always encouraging my students to think about how different aspects can relate back to career choices. In the evenings, I am a community advocate; I plan and coordinate a Career Day Workshop (Architecture Barbie) to encourage career exploration for 7 to 9-year-old girls. Soon, my goal is to create a second income from this venture – amp Career Events.

My architecture experience gave me people and program management skills that help me successfully tackle my community and entrepreneur goals. The experience ties directly into planning and coordination skills. Being able to think strategically is very important. After an architectural education, we can tackle many different careers – creating a business, graphic designer, furniture designer, etc. because it teaches you how to be a strategic thinker.

### **Kaitlin Rossi, Technology Education Teacher**

Adlai Stevenson High School, Lincolnshire, IL  
Bachelor of Science in Architectural Studies, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign  
Master of Science in STEM Education and Leadership, Illinois State University  
Master of Arts in Educational Technology and Leadership, Concordia University

Currently I teach architecture to high school students – grades 9-12. I teach three different architecture courses: 1) Architectural Design – focuses on smaller scale design and how to properly layout a home to increase efficiency and functionality. 2) Civil Engineering and Architecture – focuses on the different construction systems and green design for both residential and commercial structures; it is an Honors Level course and a part of the Project Lead the Way curriculum; and 3) Advanced Architectural Design – prepare students for studying architecture in college.

For me, architecture school taught me how to think outside the box and solve real world problems in a variety of new and different ways. In addition, it taught me how to effectively communicate with others. From studio, you constantly present your work and justify why your design works and should be considered. I tell anyone who will listen that even though I did not become an architect I would never change my academic pathway for the world.

### **Architectural Education**

Architectural Historian  
Academic Dean  
Department Head / Chair /  
Program Director  
Educator – Architecture in the  
Classroom  
Librarian – Special Collections  
Professor (Full, Associate,  
Assistant, and Adjunct)  
Professor of the Practice  
Researcher  
Technology Education Teacher  
(High School)

# CAREERS IN ARCHITECTURE & BEYOND

## EDUCATION AND RESEARCH OUTSIDE ARCHITECTURAL PRACTICE

### **Thomas Fowler IV, FAIA, DPACSA, NOMA, Professor and Director**

Graduate Architecture Program, Architecture Department  
College of Architecture & Environmental Design  
California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, CA

My primary motivation for pursuing architecture began with an interest at a very early age a desire to understand how everything worked, by taking things apart and getting them back together (not always). After my undergraduate degree, I pursued a graduate degree to expand my knowledge of design and the profession.

As an academic whose practice of architecture has always been embedded in working with students, and as a result I cofounded the Design Collaboratory with a colleague in Structural Engineering, that provides opportunities for work on different scales of multi-disciplinary community design and construction projects (full-scaled mockups, temporary / portable structures and larger-scaled ongoing projects) with a range of industry partners.

The most important aspect regarding my responsibilities as both a teacher and an architect is the focus on the story telling / making aspects of design along with helping students to see the magical powers of this creative method. Teachers need to provide a safe learning environment that encourages these magical spell experiments to happen.

***You can look at alternative careers in two ways – necessary to survive in trying times or viable options for the growing boundaries of a once more strictly defined profession.***

*-- Leigh Chatham Hubbard (AIAS Crit Magazine)*

# CAREERS IN ARCHITECTURE & BEYOND

## CORPORATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS OUTSIDE ARCHITECTURAL PRACTICE

As you may not realize, many business types employ architects in-house. McDonald's, Walt Disney, and other corporations may have architects on staff to serve the mission of the organization. One specific example is a facility manager who integrates architecture, engineering, and the environmental services. Further, positions may exist within museums and associations.

### **R. Corey Clayborne, FAIA, CAE** **Senior Vice President, Knowledge & Practice**

American Institute of Architects (AIA), Washington, DC  
Bachelor of Architecture, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State Univ.  
Master of Business Administration, Liberty University

In my role at the AIA, I work with my team to offer knowledge-rich opportunities for members to increase their value to clients, employers, and communities. We support professionals in all career-stages ranging from those on the path to licensure to principals navigating through firm ownership succession.

Prior, I worked in private practice for local, state, and federal clients before becoming the executive vice president of AIA Virginia. There I was responsible for the success of the advocacy, education, outreach, and member services portfolios while coaching staff to tap into their fullest potential. During my tenure we cultivated impactful industry and government relationships and established AIA Virginia as a reliable, authentic resource on the built environment to city councils, mayors, the general assembly, and the governor.

In 2020, I became the youngest African American member of the AIA College of Fellows to achieve fellowship. I still serve as a "Citizen Architect" and am the current vice chairman of the Albemarle County Planning Commission. Ultimately, my career in architecture has best prepared me for what I am doing now – leadership, service, and improving the built environment.

### **Elizabeth (EB) (Kinkel) Srygley, Associate AIA, LEED AP** **Business Development Manager**

Pliteq, Inc., Washington, DC  
Bachelor of Architecture, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State Univ.

In business development for Pliteq, a global innovator in recycled rubber for commercial sound control and leader in structure borne acoustical engineering, I advise owners and design teams on acoustic best practices, most effective use of their budgets, and acoustic building code.

My chosen career path allows me to marry my passion for architecture with my love for business development and engaging with others. Who knows, I may go back to traditional practice in the future, but for now, I am thankful to be on this non-traditional path.

After starting in a traditional firm, the economy faltered, I was let go and dabbled in retail sales. This first taste of sales opened my eyes to a love of helping others find what they need and a natural understanding of business development. Through the back and forth of sales and architecture, I learned, as an architect you have a question or need and are seeking a creative solution; in sales, you have the creative solution and are seeking who has the question or need.

### **Corporate Architects**

Architect, Corporate Facilities  
Corporate Architect  
Corporate Consultant  
Cost and Construction Analyst  
Design Project Manager  
Marketing Manager - Strategic Accounts  
Operations Project Manager  
Program Manager  
Project Specialist  
Real Estate Director

### **Facilities Management**

Asset Manager  
Business Development Manager  
Capital Project Coordinator  
Director of Facilities Management  
Environmental Compliance Manager  
Facilities Architect  
Physical Plant Manager  
Project Designer  
Strategic Facilities Planner  
University Design Manager

### **Related Corporate Careers**

Building Products Technology Development  
Building Products Industry Officer  
Market Researcher  
Marketing and PR – Design and Communications

# CAREERS IN ARCHITECTURE & BEYOND

## ENGINEERING AND TECHNICAL BEYOND ARCHITECTURE

As architecture is both an art and a science, many architects may pursue careers in engineering or more technical fields. Many will pursue dual degrees in architecture and engineering (civil or structural engineering). There are also other opportunities that exist if there is an interest in the technical side of the profession.

This is a broad field that accommodates many careers with a related technical focus. Engineering and technical careers may require additional formal training or specialized coursework, but some may also be learned on the job and later developed as an expertise. Consulting is sometimes very profitable for those with advanced knowledge in specialized areas and sometimes can lead to a full-time corporate position.

### **Robin Michael Ellerthorpe, FAIA, Senior Consultant**

PSMJ Resources, Inc., Grand Rapids, MI

Bachelor of Science in Architectural Building Construction Engineering  
Technology (ABCET), Architectural Engineering, Milwaukee  
School of Engineering

Bachelor of Architecture, University of Tennessee

For me, the problem-solving process that conformed to ordinate, abscissa and elevation could be substituted with other metrics e.g., space, finance and profitability and the problem could also be solved within those parameters. The result is often a client-centric solution that goes far beyond a floor plan, elevations, or model of a solution. Researching a paper on corporate architecture led me to think about how the buildings that already existed could better serve client needs without creating new space.

With over 42 years of experience in architecture, technology and business development and management across owner segments including power generation, manufacturing, retail, higher education, and institutional, I integrate my knowledge of architecture, engineering, computer application development, organizational design, and strategic planning to acquire and work with clients to increase functional and operational use while lowering total cost of operations and ensure effective facility use.

### **Caitlin Mulligan-Ankony**

#### **Senior Specification Sales, Dir. of Business Development**

Southern California Illumination, Los Angeles, CA

Bachelor of Science in Architecture, University of Michigan

Being in specification sales in the lighting and electrical field, I work directly with top architects, electrical engineers, and lighting designers on projects ranging from small residential projects to multi-building campus projects; with the designers, I compile fixture schedules, view different types of lighting, and keep them educated on the latest technology and products. I enjoy the lighting and electrical industry because like architecture, it is a balance between aesthetics and function.

I enjoy the lighting and electrical industry because parallel to architecture, it is a balance between aesthetics and function. The success in my current career would not be possible without my education in architecture. The motivation, technical knowledge, and creative problem-solving skills obtained throughout my architecture education have been invaluable.

### **Engineering Careers**

- Civil Engineer
- Electrical / Illuminating Engineer
- Marine Architect
- Materials Engineer
- Mechanical Engineer
- Planning Engineer
- Solar Energy Engineer
- Specifications Engineer
- Structural Engineer

### **Technical Careers**

- Architectural Acoustics
- Architectural Programmer
- BIM Consultant
- Building Pathologist
- CAD Coordinator
- Cartographer
- Computer Systems Analyst
- Construction / Building Inspector
- Construction Software Designer
- Energy Consultant
- Environmental Consultant
- Fire Protection Designer
- Games Developer
- Graphics Consultant
- Land Surveyor
- Preconstruction Estimator

# CAREERS IN ARCHITECTURE & BEYOND

## RELATED PROFESSIONAL BEYOND ARCHITECTURE

Because the education of an architect is design, many architecturally trained individuals pursue the related career fields of landscape architecture, interior design, urban design, and others. Many architects pursue careers in interior architecture or space designing while others pursue the profession of landscape architecture to design outdoor spaces. Others still combine their talents in design to focus on urban design.

### **Scott Conwell, FAIA, FCSI, CDT, LEED AP** **Director of Industry Development & Technical Services**

International Masonry Institute (IMI), Chicago, IL  
Bachelor of Architecture, Illinois Institute of Technology

At IMI, I draw on my experience as a licensed architect, but in a very specialized way. I have become an expert in the design, specification, and construction of masonry materials; I work closely with bricklayers, tile setters, plasterers, terrazzo mechanics, tuckpointers, and stone masons to provide technical support to architects and to advocate the use of union-installed masonry materials. I deliver AIA-registered educational seminars on a weekly basis on a myriad of topics at various venues. I field technical calls and emails daily from architects, as well as review plans, wall sections, details, and specs.

The most fulfilling part of my work is that while I may not be involved in a single project from start to finish, I am involved in the masonry design of many notable projects. Every day, I learn, even after 25 years!

### **Megan S. Chusid, RA, Principal**

Urban Projects Collaborative, LLC, New York, NY  
Bachelor of Architecture, Syracuse University

As a registered architect, I have over 20 years of real estate experience working in architecture, construction, and facility management for both corporate and non-profit organizations.

Currently, I work for Urban Projects Collaborative, a collective of real estate industry professionals that provides owners representative, project management, and facilities oversight services to non-profit, institutional, and commercial clients. With a staff of architects, engineers, builders, and financial experts, UPC supports every aspect of capital and real estate development. Our process is based on a team approach that results in a better quality of life and the optimal built environment.

My architecture education and previous experience in practice was the groundwork for the career I find myself in today. The process in which a building is put together, designed, documented, and built allows me to communicate better with consultants on a project.

#### **Careers**

Landscape Architect  
Interior Designer  
Urban Designer  
Urban Planner  
Preservationist  
Real Estate Agent  
Real Estate Project Manager  
Golf Course Architect  
Architectural / Construction  
Lawyer  
Public Relations  
Property Assessor  
Environmental Planner  
Building Pathologist  
Loan Officer  
Property Assessor  
Industrial / Product Designer  
Lifestyle Design/Consulting



## RELATED PROFESSIONAL BEYOND ARCHITECTURE

### **Dan Reed, Regional Policy Director, Writer and Urban Planner**

Greater Greater Washington, Washington, DC

Bachelor of Science in Architecture, Bachelor of Arts in English, University of Maryland

Master of City Planning, University of Pennsylvania

I wanted to be an architect since I was a little kid following my mother, who is a real estate agent, around open houses. After graduating from an architecture program, I worked for a county councilmember on land use and transportation issues and became interested in city planning. That led to graduate school and ten years working as an urban planner. My career has come full circle in a way, as now I work at a nonprofit that advocates for sustainable transportation and abundant housing. I'm also a freelance writer, having appeared in publications including the New York Times, CityLab, and Washingtonian Magazine.

Architecture school taught me how to think about space, as the same principles apply whether you are designing a building or a city street. It also showed me the need for communicating design ideas in a way that anyone can understand whether it's for an article, giving a presentation, or speaking at a public hearing. Even though I have never practiced as an architect, my words can serve as a bridge between the built environment, the decision-makers who shape it, and the public.

### **Allison J. Schneider, RID, IIDA, LEED AP, NCIDQ**

#### **Senior Interior Designer | Senior Associate**

Pfluger Architects, Austin, TX

Bachelor of Science in Architectural Studies, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Associates of Science in Interior Design, Penn Foster College

As a union of the right brained creativity and left brained analytics, architecture presented itself to me as my perfect career path. After graduating with an architecture degree, I became intrigued by the work of the interior designers from working in an architecture firm. After a few years, I earned a degree in interior design and pursued NCIDQ licensure. With my background in architecture, I can easily interface with the architects and engineers I work with every day, speak the language, understand coordination issues, and participate as a fully integrated team member with a specialization in interior design.

My passion lies in creating the day-to-day experiences a space provides to the end users; for me, interior design was the direct avenue for that influence. Specifically, I have found working on educational projects (K-12 and higher education) incredibly rewarding. I am able to shape students' ability to learn through designing engaging environments via scale, acoustics, lighting, graphics, texture, color, and materials. The excitement and curiosity students exhibit while interacting with their new space for the first time is truly inspirational.

***Architecture provides ample opportunities for creative problem solving, -- a skill that is incredibly helpful in a variety of professions. – Grace H. Kim, FAIA***

# CAREERS IN ARCHITECTURE & BEYOND

## DEVELOPMENT AND CONSTRUCTION BEYOND ARCHITECTURE

Because of the connection between design and construction, many architects pursue careers in construction as construction managers, general contractors and/or related associates. Architecture firms are expanding their services to include design-build and construction management bridging the two disciplines together.

### **Stephanie Adamczyk, Director of Construction**

Ryan Companies US, Inc., Naperville, IL  
Bachelor of Science in Architectural Studies, Master of Architecture,  
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

As a director of construction, I work with a large team of construction managers, architects, engineers, operating and capital partners, asset managers, and developers to design and build large-scale, complex projects. Aside from directing overall project success, my responsibilities include negotiating business terms within contracts, onboarding, and mentoring construction managers, and aligning financial goals and resources with the project pipeline.

Design-build construction involves constant problem-solving and creativity to ensure that a project is on schedule and on budget. Visiting construction sites frequently is critical to developing an understanding of constructability, scheduling, and sequencing. The technical knowledge gained through an education in architecture, combined with field experience, makes a well-rounded construction professional.

### **Jeff Kayce, Managing Director**

Bozzuto Development Company, Greenbelt, MD  
Bachelor of Science in Architecture, University of Maryland

While pursuing an undergraduate degree in architecture, I co-founded the RED (Real Estate and Development) Club; I also pursued the many entrepreneurial opportunities including taking part in the Hinman CEO Program. Now, I am in my 18th year as a developer of mixed-use and multifamily projects. I appreciate the strong design-based foundation that my architectural education provided.

Although the financial skills associated with underwriting are important, my architectural education has made a lasting impact that has contributed to my success. Over the past couple decades, much of the real estate community has embraced the value of good design, and a renewed focus on urban infill and emotionally resonant experiences has provided opportunity to strive for innovative, non-commodity product.

### **Careers**

Analyst  
Carpenter – Trades  
Construction Coordinator  
Construction Inspector  
Construction Manager  
Construction Manager  
Construction Project Manager  
Construction Specifier  
Contractor  
Design Build Team Manager  
Managing Director  
Marketing – Construction  
Owners Representative  
Property Manager  
Real Estate Developer  
Senior Analyst  
Senior Associate  
Vice-President

***The great potential for the profession is outside of the box,  
outside of the traditional firm.***

*– Richard W. Hobbs, FAIA*

## DEVELOPMENT AND CONSTRUCTION BEYOND ARCHITECTURE

### Joy Day, Owner + Designer

Day House, Boulder, CO

Bachelor of Science in Architecture, University of Maryland

Master of Architecture, Pratt Institute

Master of Science (Structural Engineering), New York University

Since I was a little girl, I had a passion for math and design. When deciding on a college major, I gravitated towards architecture – the blend of technical and creative. At University of Maryland, the focus was hand drawing and hand-built models. During a summer position after my 2nd year, I learned that the architecture industry was begging for another skill set: 3D modeling. I dove into learning Sketchup and Revit, and later, I tackled Rhino, Maya, 3ds Max, and some of the photorealistic rendering programs. I quickly became the go-to 3D modeler in that position and that continued in every architecture position I held afterwards.

After a few years practicing architecture, another architecture degree, and many, many hours in 3D modeling programs – I found myself at SketchUp. While there as a product manager, I drew from my personal experience in architecture; I worked with a team of software engineers to make 3D modeling in SketchUp even better.

I enjoyed building software for about five years, but throughout this time, I missed building with my hands. After flipping our own personal residence, I decided to start a design-build home renovation company (dayhouserenovations.com) with my husband – a tradesman with electrical, machining, mechanical, and automotive experience. With complimentary skillsets from our respective backgrounds, we provide clients with the full experience from concept to delivery of their dream home.

***I am certain that architectural graduates who are in command of the powerful problem defining and problem-solving skills of the designer, will be fully capable of designing their own imaginative careers by creating new definitions of meaningful work for architects that are embedded in the social landscape of human activity and life's events."***

*– Leslie Kanés Weisman*

# CAREERS IN ARCHITECTURE & BEYOND

## ART AND DESIGN BEYOND ARCHITECTURE

Because much of what architects do is creative / design, it is no surprise that many architects pursue careers in art and design; this extends from fine arts – painting to applied arts – graphic design and furniture design. Some will determine a way to combine their background in architecture more directly with art while others truly move away from architecture to pursue their art.

### **Heather Brown, Co-owner / Producer / Editor**

Rusty Dog Films, Inc., Chicago, IL

Bachelor of Science in Architecture, Ryerson Polytechnic University

Over the past 20 years, we have grown our video production company (rustydogfilms.com) into a full production house, enabling us to work on large events and projects for Fortune 100 companies, experiential marketing campaigns, and television shows.

The lateral thinking approach taught in architectural education was invaluable and set me up for success in this industry. The dynamic nature of our projects is constantly challenging us to come up with unique creative solutions.

For me, architectural design and video production are very similar, mostly because they are both technical, creative puzzles. Like a well-designed building, a well-produced video also has structure, aesthetic, and flow. As an architecture student, I learned to question – What is the end goal? How should it make the viewer feel? In practice, it is a matter of piecing together the project to create the best outcome possible, the experience.

### **Megan Clark, Brand Manager | Associate**

ROSSETTI, Detroit, MI

Bachelor of Science in Architecture, University of Maryland

Master of Fine Arts in Graphic Design and Visual Experience, Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD)

I knew I wanted to design for people after serving as the editor-in-chief of my high school yearbook and seeing my fellow students cherishing it. I pursued an architectural degree to learn how to design spaces. I chose to be a graphic designer and stay within the design field instead of choosing to become an architect. Mixing the two fields has allowed me to fit in a specialized niche.

With my degree in architecture, I understand and appreciate architectural design, but as a graphic designer, I know how to visually communicate and tell a story about the design. This allows me to represent the ROSSETTI brand through various media, such as publications, the website, social media, and other marketing and communication efforts. I also know how to brand individual projects and help design teams organize their content for better storytelling and communication.

During my career, I mix the two fields by designing experiential graphics (signage and wayfinding), utilizing my knowledge of experiencing three-dimensional space as well as clearly communicating information to people in a visual way.

### **Design Careers**

- Art/Creative Director
- Fashion / Clothing Designer
- Fine Artist (painter, sculptor, etc.)
- Furniture Designer
- Graphic Artist / Designers
- Jewelry Designer
- Lighting Designer
- Photographer
- Prop Designer
- Set Designer
- Textile Designer
- Toy Designer
- Urban Art Designer
- Web Designer

### **Related Careers**

- Animator
- Bookbinder
- Creative Director
- Environmental Artist
- Exhibit Designer
- Filmmaker
- Fine Arts Appraiser
- Illustrator
- Museum / Gallery Curator
- Printmaker
- Production Designer
- Technical Illustrator

## ART AND DESIGN BEYOND ARCHITECTURE

### **Melissa Mandelbaum, Senior Interaction Designer**

Google, New York, NY

Bachelor of Science in Architecture, University of Maryland

Starting at a young age, I dreamed of becoming an architect. I was the kid who loved Lego and drew endless floor plans on the backs of restaurant menus.

I graduated with my architecture degree during the recession; because of an interest in entrepreneurship, technology, and innovation, I took a position at a technology startup in New York City. Quickly, I realized the many parallels between software design and architecture. Although the mediums are different, the underlying processes and principles are parallel.

Pursuing architecture in college taught me how to solve a design problem from start to finish. Thanks to this foundational knowledge in architecture, it has been a relatively easy transition into product design. Although I am now designing software rather than buildings, my work is influenced by architecture principles and process each day.

### **Ada Rose Mancusi, Graphic Designer**

CBRE, Phoenix, Arizona

Bachelor of Arts in Architectural Studies, University of Washington

Master of Architecture, Taliesin, The Frank Lloyd Wright School of Architecture

Because I was passionate about home design, loved to draw and excelled in art and mathematics during my early education, I chose to study architecture. The idea of becoming an architect was appealing because I viewed it as a well-respected profession and felt that it was the perfect combination of my artistic and technical abilities. My education in architecture also allowed me to develop a very useful set of skills that I promoted to explore an alternative creative career.

At the end of my graduate program at Taliesin, I felt that the typical architectural path was not quite right for me. Plus, I graduated in 2010 and there were very few architectural positions available due to the recession. My expanded search led to my first full-time position as a marketing specialist for a large commercial real estate and development firm. While there I discovered my background in crafting custom presentations for design projects and attention to detail translated very well into marketing proposals and presentations. Thus, I have remained with the same company and worked my way to the role of graphic designer. In this position I utilize my design skills and create custom graphics, ads, websites, marketing packages, proposals, and presentations.

***It is thus extremely important that the myriad of opportunities outside traditional practices available to graduates of architecture programs and registered architects be an integral part of the education and counseling process.***

– Gil Cooke, AIA

# CAREERS IN ARCHITECTURE & BEYOND

## ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND CONSULTING BEYOND ARCHITECTURE

There is tremendous potential for success in forming a company offering innovative or specialized services or products. There are substantial risks in starting a venture, but these risks translate into higher potential rewards. It is wise to have training or advice in business and financial matters, as well as performing thorough market and production research.

### **Marc Teer, Founder & CEO**

Black Spectacles, Chicago, IL

Bachelor of Science in Architectural Studies, University of Illinois at  
Urbana-Champaign

Master of Architecture, Clemson University

As the founder & CEO of Black Spectacles ([go.blackspectacles.com](http://go.blackspectacles.com)), the leading online learning platform built for architecture and design, I have learned that studying and practicing architecture is the perfect training for creating a new business. In 2010, I had an idea and was compelled to start working on it. In 2012 we launched, and now many years later, after many ups and downs, we are well on our way to supporting the architecture community throughout their entire careers.

When you start a new business, you need to have unwavering conviction and drive. You start from only an idea, and then build, one piece at a time, iteration after iteration, until you have something that's successfully solving problems for the people whom you serve.

Building a new business has been a life changing experience – I would highly recommend it!

### **Lori Steenhoek, Owner**

#### **Creative Director / Jewelry Designer**

Capital Pixel ([www.capitalpixel.com](http://www.capitalpixel.com)), Takoma Park, MD

Love Lori Michelle ([www.lovelorimichelle.com](http://www.lovelorimichelle.com)), Takoma Park, MD

Bachelor of Science in Architecture, University of Maryland

Master of Fine Arts in Animation & Visual Effects, Academy of Art Univ.

I became interested in architecture as a design solution for the improvement of every part of our daily lives, from the way we live and work, to how we travel, relax, and communicate. Now, I own my own small business (Capital Pixel), and visually communicate ideas and designs to the world before they are built in real life.

Eventually, this line of work creating 3D models and renderings led to another pursuit (Love Lori Michelle): making 3D-printed jewelry. I found myself looking for a creative outlet for my own design ideas. The process I could use to make 3D jewelry would give me the chance to experiment in a different, much smaller scale, and produce a wearable product. I was thrilled at the idea of making something tangible after so many years of working digitally.

### **Careers**

Related Careers

Furniture and Material Inventor  
and Fabricator

Architectural Inventor

Construction Company Founder

CEO – Corporate

Product Inventor

Sale Manager

### **Architectural Products and Services**

Computer Presentations

Building Products

Graphic Supplies

Solar Technology

Office Systems

Environmental Products

Prefabricated Housing

Low-Income Community Housing

# ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND CONSULTING BEYOND ARCHITECTURE

### **Elizabeth Lindemann, Food Blogger | Recipe Creator | Owner**

Bowl of Delicious LLC (bowlofdelicious.com) (Self-Employed), Barrington, RI  
Bachelor of Science in Architecture, Master of Architecture, University of Maryland

I studied architecture at the University of Maryland; when I graduated during the recession, my job search led me down the path of teaching art and design in high school. I realized I no longer had an interest in pursuing a traditional career path; I loved the hands-on approach of teaching and the creative liberties it allowed. But it was extremely demanding, and I knew I did not want to do it long term.

While still teaching, I began food blogging in 2013 as a side hustle and as an experiment to see if it could turn into a lucrative business. It took off, and I am now a full-time professional food blogger. I must wear many hats as a business and website owner, such as writing detailed and user-friendly recipes, taking beautiful food photography, marketing, branding, and the design and technical side of running a website. I credit a lot of the success of my business to the problem-solving skills my architecture education taught me, as well as the aspect of implementing feedback with the goal of constant improvement. These foundational skills of my architecture education have been so important as an entrepreneur.

### **Stacy Morton Callighan, Co-Founder | Design**

PinPoint Collective (pinpointcollective.com), Chicago, IL  
Bachelor of Architecture, Illinois Institute of Technology  
Master of Architecture, Harvard University

When I was seven, I dreamt of becoming an architect; while studying alongside some of the most well-known architects at Harvard, I realized I never wanted to become one. In reflecting back on my seven-year-old self, I came to realize my passion for architecture stemmed from my desire to make the lives of people better and it is that drive that has led me to where I am today.

I may not be designing buildings, but every day I wake up and make an impact in the world. As co-founder of PinPoint Collective, I have the honor of supporting business owners (especially women) by researching and designing what is needed in their communities. Architecture taught me how to research people and envision a future not yet created. With that knowledge, I have helped universities define the future of education, financial institutions define the future of banking and cities define the future of libraries. I like to think my seven-year-old self would be proud!

***Architecture has long given graduates the skills, knowledge,  
and modes of thinking to work in many contexts.***

*– Justine Clark, Co-Founder, Parlour*

## SOCIAL IMPACT DESIGN BEYOND ARCHITECTURE

Social impact design—one term that refers to the practice of design for the public good, especially in disadvantaged communities—has attracted powerful interest in recent years. Increasingly, both practicing designers and students are seeking opportunities in this burgeoning discipline. But are the professional and academic structures in place to support them? And how might such structures be improved?

### Fern Gookin, LEED AP

#### Director of Sustainability, Revolution Recovery Co-Founder, Recycled Artist-In-Residency (RAIR)

Philadelphia, PA

Bachelor of Science in Architecture, University of Maryland

Master of Science in Sustainable Design, Thomas Jefferson University

I have been interested in the built environment for as long as I can remember. My father worked in construction, so I grew up enamored with watching job sites transform into new spaces. I have always appreciated how architecture is tasked with delicately balancing the needs of people with the technical aspects of functionality.

My graduate thesis project brought me to a construction and demolition waste recycling facility. Seeing this side of the built environment was completely eye-opening; waste is a complex problem that touches everyone and needs creative solutions from all sectors. I co-founded an arts non-profit at the recycling facility ([www.rairphilly.org](http://www.rairphilly.org)) to challenge the perceptions of waste culture. I also started working at the for-profit recycling company around the same time, where I am now serving as director. Both organizations are focused on keeping building materials out of landfills but tackle the problem from different angles. The dynamic education I received in my architecture programs very much prepared me for the holistic thinking needed to scale and integrate these organizations, which I hope will create a lasting impact.

***Career paths beyond traditional practice tap into the creative-thinking and problem-solving skills developed from an architectural education. The interest in these paths is growing; emerging professionals indicate that nearly one-fifth do not plan on pursuing a traditional career in architecture although they still plan to obtain their license.***

– Archinect, “Working out of the Box”

### Careers

Architect Activist  
Associate Director for  
Opportunities Fund and  
Innovation  
Chief Executive Officer (CEO)  
Community Design Center  
Director  
Curator of Socially Responsible  
Design  
Design Strategist  
Executive Director, Social Impact  
Non-Profit  
Non-Profit Leader  
Program Officer  
Social Entrepreneur  
Vice-President of Creative  
Vice-President of National Design  
Initiatives

### Opportunities

1% Program  
Center for Social Design - MICA  
Design Corps – Structures for  
Inclusion  
Design without Borders  
Enterprise Rose Architectural  
Fellowship  
Mass Design Group  
SEED Network



## SOCIAL IMPACT DESIGN BEYOND ARCHITECTURE

**Ceara O'Leary, Co-Executive Director, Detroit Collaborative Design Center  
Professor of Practice, School of Architecture, University of Detroit Mercy**  
Detroit, MI

Bachelor of Arts, Architectural Studies, Brown University

Master of Architecture, Master of City & Regional Planning, University of California, Berkeley

As a freshman in college, I learned about the work of Samuel Mockbee and Rural Studio and lightning struck as I gained an understanding of how design and architecture can contribute to community development. In graduate school, I added a city planning degree and community development focus to my architecture masters in the interest of better situating design within a broader planning and policy context.

After working at bcWorkshop, a community design office based in Dallas, I moved to Detroit as an Enterprise Rose Architectural Fellow and began work at the Detroit Collaborative Design Center (DCDC), a nonprofit multidisciplinary community design office based in the University of Detroit Mercy School of Architecture.

At DCDC, I evolved into the role of Co-Executive Director and Professor of Practice, where I also teach courses in public interest design and community development. With a focus on community engagement and participation in the design and planning process, we believe that local stories and experiences enhance the design process and the best design strategies lie at the intersection of discipline and community expertise.

There are several models for community design centers nationwide, and the field of public interest design is growing to include a greater diversity of practices – an exciting sign for an expansion of the sector.

***An architectural education is so broad with a strong liberal arts base, that it provides a firm foundation for a wide array of exploration. This comes from the content of the curriculums, but also from the methodology.***

***The design studio, which is the core of the curriculum, provides a method to take pieces of intellectual information and apply it within the design process. The movement from thinking to doing is powerful.***

***The ability to integrate hundreds of pieces of information, issues, influences and form and find a solution is a skill that any professional needs to solve problems, whether they are building issues or life issues.***

– Katherine S. Proctor, FCSI, CDT, AIA

# CAREERS IN ARCHITECTURE & BEYOND

## USER EXPERIENCE DESIGN BEYOND ARCHITECTURE

User experience (UX) design is the process design teams use to create products that provide meaningful and relevant experiences to users. This involves the design of the entire process of acquiring and integrating the product, including aspects of branding, design, usability, and function.

### **Alice Chiang, Senior UX Designer**

EnergySage, Cambridge, MA

Bachelor of Science in Architecture, University of Maryland

Master of Architecture, University of Cincinnati

Currently, I am a senior user experience (UX) designer at a technology company in the renewable energy industry. After nearly a decade of architectural training and experience, I realized that I was drawn to a particular segment of the architectural practice. I specifically enjoyed the research and strategy portion of architectural practice more so than the heavy documentation and technical coordination. After some soul searching, I discovered I was drawn to opportunities in the digital space, so I made the transition towards designing people's experiences with technology. This process involved quitting my job in architecture and taking additional classes to educate myself on user experience design. I was able to successfully transition into the field about six months later and have not looked back since.

I believe my ability to think through solutions holistically and strategically from architecture was easily applied towards user experience design. Architects that can focus their skillset on developing a design sensibility alongside with business and research data will have a tremendous impact in the technology and business sector, however, there is competition.

***I suppose one could say I have had a non-traditional career path, or one could say I took the strengths of an architectural education and applied them liberally to the opportunities that came my way.***

*– Deborah Weintraub, Chief Deputy City Engineer and Architect  
City of Los Angeles Bureau of Engineering*

### **Careers**

- Behavior Designer
- Customer Experience Designer
- Digital Interactive Designer
- Information Architect
- Interaction Designer
- Motion Designer
- Principal UX Designer
- Senior UX Designer
- Senior Visual Designer
- UI Designer
- Usability Engineer
- User Experience Designer
- User Experience Strategist
- User Interface / Interaction Designer
- UX Designer
- UX Engineer
- UX Researcher
- UX Strategist
- Visual Designer

# CAREERS IN ARCHITECTURE & BEYOND

## RESOURCES

Books and websites that will be of assistance in your quest to pursue a career in architecture and beyond.

**Occupational Outlook Handbook** - [bls.gov/ooh/](https://bls.gov/ooh/)

**Architect** - [bls.gov/ooh/architecture-and-engineering/architects.htm](https://bls.gov/ooh/architecture-and-engineering/architects.htm)

### BOOKS

**Becoming ... series from John Wiley & Sons.**

Waldrep, L. (2014). *Becoming an Architect: A Guide to Careers in Design*.

Bayer, M., Frank, N., and Valerius, J. (2010) *Becoming an Urban Planner: A Guide to Careers in Planning and Urban Design*.

Foster, K. (2009). *Becoming a Landscape Architect: A Guide to Careers in Design*.

Heller, S. & Vienne, V. (2015). *Becoming a Graphic and Digital Designer: A Guide to Careers in Design*.

Henderson, H.. (2012). *Becoming a Green Professional: A Guide to Careers in Sustainable Architecture, Design, Engineering, Development, and Operations*.

McKeon, J. & D'Agostino, B. (2012). *Becoming a Construction Mgr: A Guide to Careers in Construction*.

Piotrowski, C. (2008). *Becoming an Interior Designer: A Guide to Careers in Design*.

Springsteel, L. (2013). *Becoming a Fashion Designer: A Guide to Careers in Design*.

Bolles, Richard. (2022). *What Color is Your Parachute?* New York: Ten Speed. [www.parachutebook.com/](http://www.parachutebook.com/)

Career Paths of an Architect (2014). *AIA Handbook of Professional Practice*. Hoboken NJ: John Wiley

Burnett, Bill and Evans, Dave (2016). *Designing Your Life: How to Build a Well-Lived, Joyful Life*. New York: Knopf.

Greinacher, U. (2021). *what kind of architect are you?* Navato, CA: ORO Editions

Harris, H., Hyde, R., Marcaccio, R. (2021). *Architects after Architecture: Alternative Pathways for Practice*. Routledge.

### WEBSITES

**Architects of Other Things** — [architectsofotherthings-blog.tumblr.com/](https://architectsofotherthings-blog.tumblr.com/)

**Association of Architecture Organizations (AAO)** is an international member-based network that connects organizations around the world. [aaonetwork.org](http://aaonetwork.org)

**ACE (Architecture, Construction, Engineering) Mentor Program:** is a mentoring program for high school students and inspiring them to pursue careers in design and construction. [acementor.org](http://acementor.org)

**Center for Understanding the Built Environment (CUBE)** is the marketplace for ideas on built environment education. [cube-education.org/](http://cube-education.org/)

**Chicago Architecture Foundation (CAF)** is dedicated to advancing public interest and education in architecture and related design. [architecture.org](http://architecture.org)

**Design Disciplines, Whole Building Design Guide** — [wbdg.org/design/design\\_disciplines.php](http://wbdg.org/design/design_disciplines.php)

**Great Diverse Designers Library** is a collection of almost 900 diverse designers from around the world. [www.beyondthebuilt.com/great-diverse-designers-library](http://www.beyondthebuilt.com/great-diverse-designers-library)

**Madame Architect** is a platform celebrating women in architecture from different generations, countries, and corners of the industry. [madamearchitect.org/](http://madamearchitect.org/)

**National Building Museum** transforms understanding of the history and impact of architecture, engineering, landscape architecture, and design. [nbm.org](http://nbm.org)

## CAREER DESIGNING

***The building of a career is quite as difficult a problem as the building of a house, yet few ever sit down with pencil and paper, with expert information and counsel, to plan a working career and deal with the life problem scientifically, as they would deal with the problem of building a house, taking the advice of an architect to help them. – Frank Parsons***

AS STATED IN THE ABOVE QUOTE, the building of a career — the process of career designing—is a difficult, but important task, yet he also notes that few individuals prepare for their careers in a thoughtful, careful, and deliberate manner. Regardless of where you are along the path to becoming an architect, you should pursue deliberate career designing to maximize career success.

You may argue that a career is not something you create or plan, that it just happens. However, as with architectural projects, careers should be carefully planned. In many ways, designing a career is parallel to designing a building.

### ASSESSING

Assessing is learning about yourself. Assess where you want to be; analyze what is important to you, your abilities, the work you would like to do, and your strengths and weaknesses. Assessment helps determine what you want from your career. This ongoing process should be reiterated throughout your entire career. The details of assessment include values, interests, and skills.

**Values:** Values are feelings, attitudes, and beliefs you hold close to your heart. They reflect what is important to you; they tell you what you should or should not do. Work values are the enduring dimensions or aspects of our work that you regard as important sources of satisfaction. Values traditionally held in high esteem by architects include creativity, recognition, variety, independence, and responsibility.

**Interests:** Interests are those ideas, events, and activities that stimulate your enthusiasm; they are reflected in choices you make about how you spend your time. In simplest terms, interests are activities you enjoy doing. Typically, architects have a breadth of interests because the field of architecture encompasses artistic, scientific, and technical aspects.

**Skills:** Unlike values and interests, skills or abilities can be learned. There are two primary types of skills — functional and self-management. A functional skill means being able to perform a specific type of activity, action, or operation with a good deal of proficiency; according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, an architect needs the following skills: analytical, communication, creativity, critical-thinking, organizational, technical, and visualization. In contrast, self-management skills are your specific behavioral responses or character traits such as eagerness, initiative, or dependability.

The importance of knowing your skills is echoed by Richard Bolles in his book, **The Quick Job-Hunting Map**, “You must know, for now and all the future, not only what skills you have, but more importantly, what skills you have and enjoy.”



## CAREER DESIGNING

### EXPLORING

Even if you already have chosen architecture as a career, it is still a valuable and necessary process. Instead of exploring careers, you can explore firms, possible career paths within architecture, and other areas that impact your architectural path; understanding exploring will help you be flexible and adaptable when needed due to the economy or other legitimate reasons.

How do you explore? In *Career Planning Today*, the author describes a systematic process that includes collecting, evaluating, integrating, and deciding. Following these four steps guarantees the highest possible level of career awareness.

To begin, collect career information from a variety of sources, both people and publications. Conduct an information interview – interviewing someone to obtain information. People to interview might include a senior partner in a local firm, a faculty member, a classmate or colleague, or a mentor. Use research skills to access all information you need on a career. Resources to access include the internet and professional associations (see end of publication).

### DECISION-MAKING

Decision-making means selecting alternatives and evaluating them against a predetermined set of criteria. How do you make decisions? Whatever your method of deciding, you should be aware of it. While some decisions can be made at the drop of a hat, others, including career designing, require more thought.

Decision-making can be difficult and time-consuming but knowing that the quality of decisions is affected by the information used to make them, you will quickly realize that making informed decisions is an important skill to learn.

### PLANNING

Planning is key to fulfilling your career goals. Planning, as part of the career designing process, ensures that a successful career will be realized.

In its simplest form, planning is the bridge from dreams to action; it is merely an intention to take an action by a certain time. At its fullest, planning is creating a mission statement, developing career goals, and preparing action plans.

The final step in planning is to review your action plans and goals regularly. Cross out the goals you have accomplished and revise, add to, or delete others. Be honest with yourself. Are you still committed to achieving your goals? You can change them but remember that the magic road to achievement is persistence. Abandon goals only if they have lost meaning for you—not because they are tough, or you have suffered a setback.

As you now understand the career designing process: assessing, exploring, decision-making, and planning, you can implement it. As you progress through your professional career, you will realize that this process is never-ending and cyclical. As soon as you have secured an ideal position in a firm, you will wish to assess your new life situation and adjust your career design accordingly.

Designing your career is one of the most important tasks during your lifetime. Yet if career designing is so important, why do most people spend such little time on it? Think about it!

# CAREERS IN ARCHITECTURE & BEYOND

## PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Professional associations are a tremendous source of helpful resources on the careers / profession they represent; many will provide lists of schools with programs in their field, training, requirements, and other related information. Listed below are the collateral organizations that represent the profession of architecture along with many others. If you do not see a profession represented, simply do an internet search on that profession and association.

### **Professional Associations (Collateral)**

Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture – [acsa-arch.org/](http://acsa-arch.org/)

American Institute of Architects – [aia.org](http://aia.org)

American Institute of Architecture Students (AIAS) – [aias.org](http://aias.org)

National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB) – [naab.org](http://naab.org)

National Council of Architectural Registration Boards – [ncarb.org](http://ncarb.org)

**Education:** Study Architecture - [studyarchitecture.com/](http://studyarchitecture.com/)

**Experience:** Architectural Experience Program (AXP) – [ncarb.org/gain-axp-experience](http://ncarb.org/gain-axp-experience)

**Examination:** Architect Registration Examination (ARE) – [ncarb.org/pass-are](http://ncarb.org/pass-are)

### **CAREER CATEGORIES**

#### **ARCHITECTURAL PRACTICE**

National Organization of Minority Architects (NOMA) has as its mission the building of a strong national organization, strong chapters, and strong members for the purpose of minimizing the effect of racism in our profession. [noma.net](http://noma.net)

Society of American Registered Architects (SARA) is a vibrant professional organization of architects and industry related partners. [sara-national.org](http://sara-national.org)

Society for Design Administrators has been providing accredited education, best management practices, and training on professional standards to help design firm personnel grow professionally. [sdanational.org/](http://sdanational.org/)

Society for Marketing Professional Services (SMPS) is a diverse community of marketing and business development professionals working together to move the A/E/C industries forward. [smps.org](http://smps.org)

#### **OUTSIDE ARCHITECTURAL PRACTICE**

##### ***Government and Public Agencies***

Public Architects Committee – AIA promotes excellence in public architecture and enhances the role of the public architect as an essential element in the planning, design, construction, and management of public facilities. [network.aia.org/publicarchitectscommittee](http://network.aia.org/publicarchitectscommittee)

##### **Education and Research**

The Architectural Research Centers Consortium (ARCC) is an international association of architectural research centers committed to the expansion of the research culture and a supporting infrastructure in architecture and related design disciplines. [arcc-arch.org/](http://arcc-arch.org/)

##### ***Corporation and institutions***

The Association of University Architects is special group of architectural professionals focused on the development and enhancement of our university campuses. University architects plan and carefully build and renovate facilities for current needs. [theaua.org/](http://theaua.org/)

# CAREERS IN ARCHITECTURE & BEYOND

## PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

### BEYOND ARCHITECTURE ENGINEERING AND TECHNICAL

The mission of the Acoustical Society of America (ASA) is to generate, disseminate, and promote the knowledge and practical applications of acoustics. [acousticalsociety.org](http://acousticalsociety.org)

American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) stands at the forefront of a profession that plans, designs, constructs, and operates society's economic and social engine – the built environment – while protecting and restoring the natural environment. [asce.org](http://asce.org)

Association for Computer-Aided Design in Architecture is an international network of digital design researchers and professionals. [acadia.org](http://acadia.org)

The International Masonry Institute (IMI) is a strategic alliance between the International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers and the contractors who employ those members. Our renowned education, technical support, research, and training support the architecture, engineering, and construction community throughout the project lifecycle, from new construction to renovation and restoration projects. [imiweb.org](http://imiweb.org)

The National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE) stands today as the only national organization committed to addressing the professional concerns of licensed PEs across all disciplines. [nspe.org](http://nspe.org)

Society of Building Science Educators (SBSE) is an association of university educators in architecture and related disciplines who support excellence in the teaching of environmental science and building technologies. [sbse.org](http://sbse.org)

### RELATED PROFESSIONAL

The American Planning Association (APA) brings together thousands of people—practicing planners, citizens, elected officials—committed to making great communities happen. [planning.org](http://planning.org)

The American Society of Architectural Illustrators (ASAI) is an international non-profit organization dedicated to the advancement and recognition of the art, science, and profession of architectural illustration. [asai.org](http://asai.org)

The American Society of Golf Course Architects is composed of leading golf course designers actively involved in the design of new courses and the renovation of older courses. [asgca.org](http://asgca.org)

The American Society of Interior Designers (ASID) is a community of people – designers, industry representatives, educators, and students – committed to interior design. [asid.org](http://asid.org)

The American Society of Landscape Architects is the national professional association representing landscape architects. [asla.org](http://asla.org)

The Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning (ACSP) is a consortium of university-based programs offering credentials in urban and regional planning. [acsp.org](http://acsp.org)

The International Interior Design Association (IIDA) is committed to enhancing the quality of life through excellence in interior design and advancing interior design through knowledge. [iida.org](http://iida.org)

The Heritage Documentation Programs (HDP), part of the National Park Service, administers HABS (Historic American Buildings Survey), the federal government's oldest preservation program, and companion programs HAER (Historic American Engineering Record), HALS (Historic American Landscapes Survey), and CRGIS (Cultural Resources Geographic Information Systems). [nps.gov/hdp/](http://nps.gov/hdp/)

# CAREERS IN ARCHITECTURE & BEYOND

## PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

The National Council for Preservation Education (NCPE) encourages and assists in the development and improvement of historic preservation education programs and endeavors in the United States and elsewhere. [ncpe.us](http://ncpe.us)

Society of Architectural Historians promotes the study, interpretation and conservation of architecture, design, landscapes, and urbanism worldwide for the benefit of all. [sah.org](http://sah.org)

### DEVELOPMENT AND CONSTRUCTION

American Council for Construction Education is a leading global advocate of high-quality construction education programs, and to promote, support, and accredit quality construction education programs. [acce-hq.org](http://acce-hq.org)

The mission of the Architecture + Construction Alliance is foster collaboration among schools that are committed to fostering interdisciplinary educational and research efforts between the fields of architecture and construction. [aplusca.org/](http://aplusca.org/)

The Construction Management Association of America (CMAA) promotes professionalism and excellence in the management of the construction process. [cmaanet.org](http://cmaanet.org)

The Construction Specifications Institute advances building information management and education of project teams to improve facility performance. [csiresources.org](http://csiresources.org)

Design Build Institute of America By pushing the boundaries of project design and construction, providing advocacy and support to further the cause, and attracting professionals like you to harness change, we inspire innovative design-build thinking and create long-lasting industry impact. [dbia.org/](http://dbia.org/)

National Association of Women in Construction (NAWIC) is dedicated to enhancing the success of women in the construction industry by building educations, careers, futures, and lives. [nawic.org](http://nawic.org)

### ART AND DESIGN

American Institute of Graphic Arts (AIGA) is the place design professionals turn to first to exchange ideas and information, participate in critical analysis and research, and advance education and ethical practice. [aiga.org/](http://aiga.org/)

International Society of Furniture Designers (ISFD) is an international, non-profit, professional organization dedicated to advancing, improving, and supporting the profession of furniture design and its positive impact in the marketplace. [isfd.org/](http://isfd.org/)

Industrial Designers Society of America (IDSA) promotes the practice of industrial design through education, information, community, and advocacy. [idsa.org](http://idsa.org)

International Association of Lighting Designers (IALD) creates a better world through leadership and excellence in lighting design. [iald.org](http://iald.org)

Organization of Black Designers (OBD) is a national professional organization of interior, industrial, architectural, fashion and graphic designers dedicated to promoting the visibility, empowerment, education and interaction of its membership and the understanding and value that diverse design perspectives contribute to world culture and commerce. [obd.org/](http://obd.org/)

Society for Experiential Graphic Design (SEGD) is an association of people who create content-rich, emotionally compelling, experiential spaces for a wide range of environments. [segd.org](http://segd.org)



# CAREERS IN ARCHITECTURE & BEYOND

## PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

### ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND CONSULTING

Entrepreneurs' Organization: Entrepreneurs' Organization is a high-quality support network of 14,000+ like-minded leaders across 61 countries. We help entrepreneurs achieve their full potential through the power of life-enhancing connections, shared experiences, and collaborative learning. [hub.eonetwork.org/](http://hub.eonetwork.org/)

The Indus Entrepreneurs (TiE) is a nonprofit organization devoted to entrepreneurs in all industries, at all stages, from incubation, throughout the entrepreneurial lifecycle. <https://tie.org/>

### SOCIAL IMPACT DESIGN

AmeriCorps is a network of national service programs that engage more than 50,000 Americans each year in intensive service to meet critical needs in education, public safety, health, and the environment. [americorps.gov](http://americorps.gov)

Association for Community Design (ACD) is a network of individuals, organizations, and institutions committed to increasing the capacity of planning and design professions to better serve communities. [communitydesign.org](http://communitydesign.org)

Design Corps creates positive change in traditionally underserved communities by using design, advocacy, and education to help them shape their environment and address their social, economic, and environmental challenges. [designcorps.org](http://designcorps.org)

Peace Corps has shared with the world America's most precious resource—its people. Collaborating with local community members, volunteers serve in 72 countries around the world in areas like education, youth outreach and community development, the environment, and information technology. [peacecorps.gov](http://peacecorps.gov)

Public Architecture is a key founder in the contemporary social impact design movement. We offer a venue where architects and designers can work for the public good. [greenbuildingelements.com/publicarchitecture/](http://greenbuildingelements.com/publicarchitecture/)

The Enterprise Rose Fellowship partners emerging architectural designers and socially engaged arts and cultural practitioners with local community development organizations to facilitate an inclusive approach to development that results in green, sustainable, and affordable communities. [enterprisecommunity.org/solutions-and-innovation/rose-fellowship](http://enterprisecommunity.org/solutions-and-innovation/rose-fellowship)

Social Economic Environmental Design (SEED)® is a principle-based network of individuals and organizations dedicated to building and supporting a culture of civic responsibility and engagement in the built environment and the public realm. [seednetwork.org/](http://seednetwork.org/)

### USER EXPERIENCE (UX) DESIGN

User Experience Professional Association (UXPA): supports people who research, design, and evaluate the user experience (UX) of products and services. [uxpa.org/](http://uxpa.org/)

Interactive Design Association: Incorporated in 2005, IxDA addresses the needs of the emergent field of interaction design. [ixda.org/](http://ixda.org/)

# CAREERS IN ARCHITECTURE & BEYOND

## CAREER PATHS

Below are a series of **Career Paths** in each of the career categories; more than the list under each category, these paths / titles are from actual professionals. Gleaned from LinkedIn profiles, journal articles and other resources, these **Career Paths** demonstrate the full myriad of possibilities you can pursue with your career.

### **ARCHITECTURAL PRACTICE**

Building Information Specialist  
CAD Specialist  
Digital Content Manager  
Director of Design  
Director of Marketing and Communication  
Environmental and Codes Specialist  
Façade Designer  
Full Spectrum Designer  
Workplace Strategy Expert

### **OUTSIDE ARCHITECTURAL PRACTICE**

#### **Government and Public Agencies**

Associate Director for Architectural History and Historic Preservation  
Asst. Secretary for Housing  
Attorney, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development  
Chief of Technical Preservation Services  
Design and Historic Preservation Planner  
Director of Development and Environmental Services  
Mayor  
Planner, Bureau of Planning and Zoning  
State Government Minister for Sport and Recreation, Minister for Youth Affairs  
Urban Designer

#### **Education and Research**

Professor  
Associate Vice Chancellor for Campus Design and Facilities  
Executive Director / CEO  
4th Grade Teacher  
Architectural Historian  
Director of Building Research Laboratory

#### **Corporation and Institutions**

Chief Sustainability Officer  
Co-Founder and Director  
Director of Development and Communications  
Executive Director  
President

### **BEYOND ARCHITECTURE**

#### **Engineering and Technical**

Building Pathologist  
Chief Deputy City Engineer  
Chief Technology Officer  
Corporate Marketing Manager  
Design Technology Consultant  
Environmental and Codes Specialist  
Game Designer  
Highway Designer  
Inventor (Hendo Hoverboard)  
Lighting Consultant  
Senior Development Manager  
Senior Space Architect  
Structural Engineer

#### **Related Professional**

Building Codes Manager  
Environmental Designer  
Owner's Representative and Project Manager  
Preservationist

#### **Development and Construction**

Cabinet Maker  
Carpenter  
Design Coordinator  
Development Project Manager  
Director of Real Estate Development  
Director of Research  
Founder / President  
Land Planner  
Investment Banker  
Pro Lego Builder  
Project Manager  
Real Estate Agent  
Real Estate Consultant  
Welder

#### **Art and Design**

Art Director  
Asst. Director for Public Arts  
Concept Designer  
Conceptual Artist  
Craft Artisan  
Environmental Artist

# CAREERS IN ARCHITECTURE & BEYOND

## CAREER PATHS

### **Art and Design (cont.)**

Fashion Designer  
Filmmaker  
Flower Girl  
Furniture Designer  
Illustrator  
Information Designer  
Jewelry Designer  
Metal Artist  
Mosaic Artist  
Motion Graphics Artist  
Music Data Visualizer  
Photographer  
Product Designer  
Public Arts Designer  
Public Design Instigator  
Sculptor  
Set Designer  
Shoe Designer  
Textile Artist  
Visualization Designer  
Web Designer

### **Entrepreneurship and Consulting**

District Sales Manager  
Founder, Cannabis infused fair trade chocolate Company  
Founder, Dayware Clothing  
Founder, Spirare Surfboards  
Owner, Coolhaus  
Social Media Founder (Pinterest)

### **Social Impact Design**

Global Social Impact Design & Innovation Program Mgr., Social Impact & Community Design  
Social Impact and Design Strategist  
Social Impact Design Researcher  
Social Impact Designer  
Social Impact Developer

### **User Experience Design**

Information Architect  
User Experience Designer  
User Interface Designer  
Senior Experience Designer

### **Other**

Architectural Critic  
Architecture Critic  
CEO, Chrysler Corporation  
City Manager  
Co-Founder, TED Conferences  
Editor  
Facilities Planner  
Head Cheesemonger  
Lawyer  
Managing Partner, Vineyard  
Mountaineer  
Poet  
Public Official (Mayor, etc.)  
Restaurateur  
Senior Tax Associate  
TV Show Host  
U.S. Representative