

Architecture & Interior Design



career exploration center
your future in focus

Career Options for Architecture and Interior Design Majors

This booklet contains specific information about majoring in architecture or interior design at The University of Texas at Austin, as well as career opportunities related to these majors. The careers listed typically require a bachelor's degree, and special certification or training requirements are noted. Please use this booklet of career titles and career descriptions as an idea generator, rather than as a comprehensive list of all career options for architecture and interior design majors.

For architecture and interior design majors, there are many career options that require a master's or doctoral degree but do not require any particular undergraduate degree. Examples of these include law, international affairs, museum administration, library and information studies, hospital administration, and many more. For careers requiring graduate education, please visit our library or speak to a career counselor.

The CEC offers many other services and resources to help you with your career planning. These include:

- Career Counseling
- Career Testing
- Career Information Library
- Internship Information
- Graduate School Planning Assistance

Visit our website at www.utexas.edu/student/cec
or call 471-1217 for more information

MAJORING IN ARCHITECTURE AND INTERIOR DESIGN AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

Departmental Website: soa.utexas.edu

Campus Location: GOL 2.308

Phone Number: 471-1922

DESCRIPTION OF MAJORS

Architects are professionals trained in the art and science of building design and licensed to protect public health, safety, and welfare to transform these needs into concepts and then develop the concepts into building solutions that can be constructed by others. Modern architects must concern themselves not only with traditional design issues, but also with such emerging concerns as accessibility, the preservation and adaptive use of older buildings and neighborhoods, sustainability, and the form of rapidly expanding urban centers.

Interior Designers perform services related to interior spaces, including programming, design analysis, space planning, and aesthetics, using specialized knowledge of interior construction, building codes, equipment, materials, and furnishings. They also prepare drawings and documents in relation to the design of interior spaces in order to enhance and protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public. Students learn basic architectural principles and how interior spaces function within an architectural context.

EXAMPLES OF COURSES

ARC 318K History of Architecture, Survey I

Comparative study of the architecture of the ancient world, including Asia, Africa, the Americas, and Europe

ARC 333 Site Design

History, theory, and technique of landscape design, with emphasis on the relationship of a building to its landscape

ARI 310K Design I

Introduction to studio design, with an emphasis on foundations in form, space, scale, human aspects of design, movement, structure, and place-making

ARI 318K Interiors and Society

Concepts, principles, and elements of interior design, presented in artistic, philosophical, and professional contexts. Includes a basic historical overview of the development of interior design.

Skills Gained by Architecture and Interior Design Majors

Identifying and creatively solving problems

Focus on form and function

Conceptualizing spatial relationships

Ability to visually communicate ideas to others

Knowledge and awareness of related industries

Technical and analytical skills

OVERVIEW OF THE FIELD OF ARCHITECTURE

Building architects, interior designers, landscape architects, urban and environmental planners, and specialists in areas such as historic preservation and sustainability design all contribute to the field of architecture. Professionals who have any of these backgrounds may find themselves working on the same projects as professionals with other architectural specializations, along with professionals from complementary fields, such as engineering, archeology, geography, urban studies, and environmental science.

EXAMPLES OF JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Architect

Manage healthcare architectural projects. Maintain day-to-day contact with the partner-in-charge and have overall project management responsibility, including client contact, scheduling, budgeting and team coordination. Participate in upfront marketing activities, such as providing assistance in the RFP process, development of presentations and participation at interviews.

Requires licensure.

Architectural Historian

Work for a consulting firm specialized in environmental and cultural resource compliance, permitting, and management. Assist with marketing, research, project coordination and quality control for historic preservation projects throughout the state and expand the firm's professional reputation in historic preservation.

Architecture and Design Sales Representative

Use marketing, project management and sales skills to work with architect, design and developer/builder communities, developing new business within a specific territory and managing long term projects.

Architecture Intern/ Store Design

Collaborate with the project team focusing directly on the production of design development and construction documents for retail clients, taking design ideas to production documentation. Research code requirements for specific jurisdictions and produce complete sets of drawings with all client requirements, code requirements, standards, and necessary site adjustments.

City Planner, Preservation and Design

Serve as a resource for property owners, applicants, architects, consultants, boards and commissions, and the general public on a variety of zoning, land use, and preservation-related services. Report to the Planning Director and make regular presentations to the Heritage Preservation Commission, Board of Adjustment, City Council, and other committees.

Design Manager

Evaluate potential store sites for a commercial pharmacy corporation. Manage the city entitlement process. Design new stores and remodels. Manage projects to assure compliance with interior image standards, site development standards and exterior design criteria.

Easement Administrator

Administer the Easement Program for a national non-profit organization. Work with the Law Department to develop or revise easement policies, evaluate new easement properties, regularly inspect easement properties, and serve as the primary representative of the organization for communication with easement property owners.

Entry Level Ecological Designer

Provide support for senior landscape architects/ecological designers, and cartographer/GIS specialists, as well as ecologists, engineers and other professionals in the company on national and international restoration, planning and ecological design projects. Participate in office and fieldwork.

Forensic Architect

Provide specialized expertise in forensic investigation, construction defect litigation and code interpretation for a national construction consulting firm.

Health Care Planner

Carry out responsibilities for planning and programming patient, ambulatory and diagnostic facilities on schedule and within budget. Coordinate with team members and consultants, and handle programming projects, site visits, and all necessary communications and documentation needed to ensure successful completion of projects.

Historic Preservation Specialist

Develop condition assessments, historic structure reports, inventories and design guidelines for buildings, neighborhoods and towns. Engage in forensic puzzle-solving and restoration, rehabilitation, and adaptive reuse, from barns to fine interiors. Provide guidance for clients working within disciplines imposed by grants and historic tax credit regulations.

Interior Designer

Draft construction documents for assigned projects. Oversee and plan all interiors of construction projects including but not limited to furniture, fixtures and equipment, interior elevations, cabinet and millwork design, lighting design, and selection and coordination of colors, materials, and finishes. Handle final specifications, approval of submittals, and overall guidance on objectives and concepts.

Landscape Designer

Under the direction of licensed landscape architecture staff, design and plan for the development of parks, urban spaces, natural areas, and historic facilities. Coordinate with other team members including staff from other disciplines. Prepare plans, specifications, and cost estimates. Conduct site inspections and investigations. Assist in community meetings. Educate the public and other professionals on City design standards.

Long Range Planner

Assist in formulating a long-range plan for a county's future growth, services and building needs. Work with the Board of Commissioners and the various department heads and court administration to identify current and future space needs. Assist the board in prioritizing these needs among the various entities. Assist the Board in achieving its goals through efficient utilization of available funding.

Physical Planner

Develop physical planning (design and landscape) guidelines and campus standards for use by university staff and external consultants; develop digital and graphic tools (2- and 3-dimensional) and reference documents to support ongoing physical planning efforts; support planning staff in deployment of these tools and resources.

Regional Landscape Director

Work under the direction of the Director of Property Redevelopment to both assist and support the landscape operations of all properties in an assigned region. Supervise new and ongoing landscape projects, advise and assist leadership with landscape issues, and work with landscape vendors to ensure that the most ideal products and services are rendered at the best value for the client company.

Sales Person Project Design

Use an interest in design and an ability to demonstrate sales, negotiation, communication, organization and problem solving skills in a fast-paced business environment. Combine sales skills with interior design skills, including proficiency in AutoCAD, in a home furnishings environment.

Senior Architectural Sheet Metal Estimator

Assist architects and general contractors with budgeting, material options and final design details that align with the architect's vision and cost parameters. Promote the company's services and products to clients and perform analysis of documents to provide customers with cost saving ideas and benefits.

Space Planner

Prepare functional space programs to meet the needs of a hospital's new and expanded clinical services. Translate available resources into clearly defined functional space programs with regard to project scope, estimated costs and schedules. Partner with administrative and clinical leadership, perform best-use analyses, and develop single-line, test-fit concept diagrams to support optimal delivery of patient care.

Spec Writer

Manage and create construction documentation and construction detailing. Maintain and update office master specs, consulting with architectural and interior design staff to write project specifications, review construction documents, and provide technical guidance.

Sustainable Building Consultant

Provide sustainability consulting services, including LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Green Building Rating System) project management, LEED assessing, computational modeling, and policy development. Make presentations for both project delivery and business development purposes. Build and maintain client relationships.

Theatre Consultant

Create designs for seating and stage layouts and performer and production support spaces, for use by architects and co-consultants, in AutoCAD format. Develop technical specifications and ensure the final documents meet quality standards and program needs for each project. Participate in final decisions in the field regarding modifications to design to conform to field conditions.

Urban Designer

Develop proposals and publications that demonstrate innovative urban design strategies for urban design projects in the city. Initiate and organize educational and informational activities such as conferences/symposia, exhibitions and lectures. Promote community outreach and collaborative participation involving civic organizations, the design profession, and citizens. May require licensure.

SOURCES

Careers in Architecture by Blythe Camenson. VGM Professional Careers Series. 2002.

Architecture Careers, brochure produced by the American Institute of Architects

American Institute of Architects Career Center: careercenter.aia.org

American Planning Association: www.planning.org/jobsonline

American Society of Landscape Architects, Joblink: online.asla.org

InteriorDesignJobs.com: interiordesignjobs.com

PreserveNet: www.preservenet.cornell.edu

MyMajors.com: www.mymajors.com

North Carolina State University: www.ncsu.edu/majors_careers



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Services

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Hours

Monday-Friday
9 am - 5 pm

Tuesday
9 am - 7 pm