CAREER OF THE MONTH

ARCHITECT

Design the future. Build your vision.



£31,000
STARTING SALARY

£60,000
EXPERIENCED SALARY

35-40
HOURS PER WEEK

> "Great architecture combines creativity, purpose and precision."

WHAT DOES AN ARCHITECT DO?

As an architect, you would design new buildings and help restore or improve existing ones. You would combine creativity, technical knowledge and problem-solving skills to create buildings that are safe, practical, attractive and suitable for their users.

The design of a building and choice in materials will affect how much energy it uses.

A DAY IN THE LIFE

- **Meet Clients** to discuss ideas, budgets and timescales
- **Design buildings** such as houses, schools, offices and hospitals
- **Use computer-aided design (CAD) software** to draw plans and create 3D models
- **Check Regulations and Requirements** against all designs
- **Prepare planning applications** and construction documents
- **Visit building sites** to check progress and solve design problems

Did you know? The world's tallest building is the Burj Khalifa in Dubai at 828 metres tall.

HOW DO YOU GET THERE?

- You will usually need 5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4, including English, Maths and Science, followed by 2–3 A levels or equivalent for university entry. Useful subjects include Art and Design, Maths, Physics and Design and Technology, but requirements will vary between universities.
- You will need to complete recognised architectural training, typically an architecture degree.
- Rather than University, you could take a Level 6 Degree Apprenticeship, combining paid work with university study.
- Throughout your studies, you can start to build a portfolio of your creative work, such as sketches, drawings, photographs and models.

IS THIS CAREER FOR YOU?

You might enjoy being an Architect if you:

- ✔ Enjoy Maths and Technology and would like using design software
- ✔ Are creative and can visualise designs
- ✔ Are interested in buildings and how they are constructed
- ✔ Have strong problem-solving skills
- ✔ Communicate ideas well

Fun fact: The Eiffel Tower was originally intended to be a temporary structure for the 1889 World's Fair in Paris.

WHERE COULD IT TAKE YOU?

With experience, you could progress to:

→ Become a Project Architect, Senior Architect, Associate Director or Partner in an architectural practice.

→ You could also become self-employed, and establish your own architectural business.

→ Rather than line management, you could choose to specialise in an area such as:

- Residential architecture — homes
- Commercial architecture — offices, shops and workplaces
- Historic building conservation and restoration
- Sustainable architecture — energy-efficient, environmentally friendly buildings
- Interior architecture — designing and improving internal spaces.

CAREER CHALLENGE

Could YOU be an Architect?
Design your dream home! Sketch a simple floor plan with three rooms. How would you arrange them to make the best use of the space?



Big opportunities await

DGGS CAREERS