## ARCHITECTURE
### What can I do with this degree?

#### AREAS

**RESIDENTIAL ARCHITECTURE**
- Single Family Housing
- Multiple Family Housing

**COMMERCIAL ARCHITECTURE**
- Private Industry
- Public/Government

#### EMPLOYERS

**RESIDENTIAL ARCHITECTURE**
- Architecture firms
- Real estate developers
- Construction firms
- Individual homeowners
- Self-employed

**COMMERCIAL ARCHITECTURE**
- Architecture firms
- Large corporations
- Manufacturers
- Research institutions
- Transportation companies
- Universities and colleges
- Local and state government
- Federal government agencies
  - Department of Defense
  - Department of Interior
  - Department of Housing & Urban Development
  - General Services Administration
- Preservation firms
- Self-employed

#### STRATEGIES

**RESIDENTIAL ARCHITECTURE**
- *Description: Designing new homes or renovating existing ones for either single or multiple families.*
- Gain experience in an architect's office. Obtain an internship while in school.
- Develop strong communication skills and patience which are important when working with individuals in designing their homes.
- Study houses and architecture styles.
- Read books and magazines about architecture.
- Develop computer skills.

**COMMERCIAL ARCHITECTURE**
- *Description: Designing office buildings, factories, laboratories, malls, schools and other commercial or government facilities.*
- Get hands-on experience while in school.
- Learn the technical side of preparing construction documents; spend time in the field to understand the mechanics of construction.
- Important to understand the various jobs and processes that will take place in the buildings.
- Advanced training may be helpful if specializing in a certain typology such as historic preservation and renovation or a certain type of building such as schools or hospitals.
- Get involved in leadership roles on campus; architect may serve as project leader coordinating the work of engineers and contractors.
- Take computer classes.
- Writing skills are necessary for advancement in firm.
### AREAS

**EDUCATION**
- Teaching
- Research
- Part-time Instruction
- Special Collections Libraries

**RELATED PROFESSIONAL**
- Urban Planning
- Real Estate Developing
- Contracting
- Property Assessment
- Interior Design
- Architectural Engineering
- Consulting
- Facilities Management
- Product Development/Marketing
- Law
- Insurance Liability
- Writing

**EMPLOYERS**
- Colleges and universities

**STRATEGIES**
- Graduate degree in architecture desirable for full-time professorships.
- Professional experience in the field of architecture beneficial.
- Specialized training or advanced degrees may be required, i.e., master's in urban planning.
- Learn about real estate market and supply and demand in area for developing.
- A contractor's license is considered valuable for working in the design/build area of architecture.
- MBA degree may open more opportunities within business and industry.
- Many large corporations employ architects to serve as client representatives when working with architectural firms.
- Design and organizational skills are helpful.
- Earn JD for law practice. Hands-on-experience in architecture and construction will help prepare one for contract negotiation and litigation.
- Take courses in English and journalism. Develop writing skills. Get involved with campus publications.

**Employers**
- Federal, state, local government
- Real estate firms
- Developers
- Contractors
- Self-employed
- Design firms
- Corporations
- Architecture departments
- Law firms
- Magazines, journals, publishers
To gain entry into the field of architecture, one must receive either a Bachelor's or Master's degree from an accredited school of architecture, complete a full-time internship (three to five years) and pass a licensing examination.

- Architecture is a combination of art and science.
- Architecture involves much more than designing buildings. Talk to architects and visit their offices to learn more about the field.
- Students of architecture must be able to conceptualize and understand spatial relations and be detail-oriented. Develop creativity, analytical skills, and a sense of quality.
- Take many art and photography classes but not mechanical drawing classes.

- Oral and written communications skills are important, particularly when working with clients, construction crews or government officials. Good writing skills are valuable for developing architectural proposals.
- Computer Aided Design and Drafting (CADD) and other computer technologies are becoming more prevalent in the field of architecture. Develop as many computer skills as possible.
- The job market for architects, especially residential, varies with changes in economy as demand is often tied to level of construction.
- One third of architects are self-employed as either partners or running their own firms.
- Most architects work in firms of fewer than five people.

- Related fields include graphic, interior, or industrial planning, real estate development, civil engineering, and construction management.
- Some architects specialize in a particular building type. Graduate study in the field may be helpful for specializing. Other architects may specialize in a certain function of the firm such as project management or specification writing.
- Areas of specialization include: historic preservation/renovation, healthcare facilities, sports facilities, educational facilities, master planning and interior design.
- Students should design a portfolio to use when interviewing. Include freehand drawings, final drawings by hand and computer, process sketches, photos of study models and finished models, a sample of writing, and work from technical courses.

Prepared by the Career Planning staff of Career Services at The University of Tennessee, Knoxville. (1998)

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