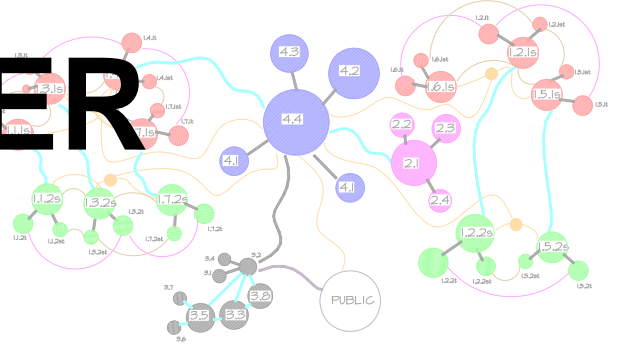




A CAREER IN ARCHITECTURE



IMAGES:
Johnson Collegiate, Regina (P-MGM Arch)
Ottawa Airport, (Stantec Arch)
Museum of Civilization, Hull, Que. (D. Cardinal Arch)
Greenhouse Gas Technology Centre, Regina (P-MGM Arch)

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ABSTRACT:

Architecture as a profession is both rewarding and demanding. In order to take the building of space and form beyond utilitarian construction into the realm of artistic, social, and environmental consciousness, comprehensive knowledge and skills are required in areas such as humanities, technology, design, and management.

RAIC Syllabus, Student Handbook

Architecture is the profession that combines **Art** and **Science** in a permanent structure.



Figure 1: Canadian War Museum (A.Isozaki Arch.)

Artistic Side –

- **Aesthetics:** How it looks, feels, is like to work in and experience.
- **Organization:** Flow within the building in planning.
- **Forms/Envelope:** What presence does it give – is it a church, bank, courthouse, leisure centre??
- **Environment:** Space and use, ideas of these, interior spaces and exterior allowances, personal space.

Scientific side –

- **Building Technology:** contained systems and operations.
- **Building Materials and Performance:** brick expansion, block compression, air barriers, etc.
- **Construction Methods and Technical Features**

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The main benefit related to practicing architecture is the realization of physical creation of an idea. Your ideas and vision of the building can actually be constructed and used. There is a great satisfaction realized in creation of a built environment for the users.

Architecture is the only art form requiring dynamite to remove it (or at least some real heavy equipment and a lot of dust!).



Figure 2: National Gallery of Canada (M. Safdie Arch.)

WAGES:

There is a great variance between starting out and retirement. The greatest determinant in how much money a person may make is how hard one works – you get out what you put in.

Starting wages: \$1,900 / month for Technicians
 \$2,400 / month for Graduate Architects right out of University

Note: these are only estimates provided for a frame of reference. Actual wage will vary depending on office type, size, location, and position you enter the firm at).

There is no limit to the salary that can be achieved; once again, it all depends on how hard one works and the type of business structure that you are involved in.

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PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES:

- 1) Private Practice:
 - Join an existing firm; move up in the ranks to senior levels.
 - Start your own firm, once registered, and be your own boss.
- 2) Private Sector / Construction:
 - Administrative role, project managers
- 3) Distributors / Product Representative:
 - Working with existing suppliers/distributors and designers, supplying experience and services to them.
- 4) Government:
 - Administrative role in project and construction management, programming, and facility maintenance.
- 5) Teaching:
 - Academic role and opportunity for invention, discovery, and passing on knowledge.
- 6) Computer Programming:
 - Integration into the architectural field.
 - There is a new field being created in programming, consulting, and computer animations.
 - Computer experience is now a requirement – the more you have, the better off you will be. The majority of offices are using computers exclusively.



Figure 3: RSM Children's Gallery (P-MGM Arch)

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EDUCATION:

High School:

General Ed courses are a standard.:

- Sciences: Chemistry, Biology, Physics, Math, Computer Science, Geo-Trig, Shop
- Arts: English, Music, Fine Arts

** It should be noted that everyone must check with the institution that they plan to attend in order to get a full listing of required subjects and base grade-point average that must be achieved.

Post-Secondary:

Three methods are available to allow for eligibility to practice – University, University Co-op, and Syllabus.

- 1) University This method is the standard, full term, semester type program. It is the most common method of securing a degree. The benefits to attending a full University program are group interaction, established curriculum, experienced educators, and studio facilities in place.
- 2) Co-ops (Waterloo, Dalhousie and Carleton). This method is a University program that has work-terms alternated with full-time study. The benefits of this type include those noted for general university as well as you can gain professional experience during the work-terms that may help secure future employment.
- 3) Syllabus This is a combined work/schooling format, similar to an apprentice program. Students work full time in a professional office and attend night design studio courses and self-study academic exams. The benefit of this program is that it will provide solid experience while gaining an education. This gives a developed portfolio of work by the end of it all. The crucial drawback is that there is no peer group; students are often alone and have to fend for themselves. This leaves a very large gap in the social professional development of the student. They won't be exposed to a wider variety of design styles, solutions and discussions.

After graduating, students must work for an internship period in a professional office, keeping a log-book of their experience. The length of time for an Intern Architect is 36 months, depending on the provincial regulations. Some persons are allowed to credit hours earned while studying due to Co-op programs or Syllabus work experience.

All these methods lead to registration exams, known as ARE's (Architectural Registration Exams) which are a series of 9 exams required for all graduates in order to register and practice in any province. These exams are written after completing the internship.

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OTHER RELATED CAREER PATHS:

Architecture is one of many linked professions dealing with the urban landscape. Several others which relate to the basis of architectural development include:

Interior Design

University backgrounds leading to private practice or public/institutional work similar to that noted for architects.

Landscape Architecture:

University backgrounds leading to private practice or public/institutional work similar to that noted for architects.

Urban & Regional Planning:

University background, generally leading to work in the public sector, although there are some independent consulting firms around.



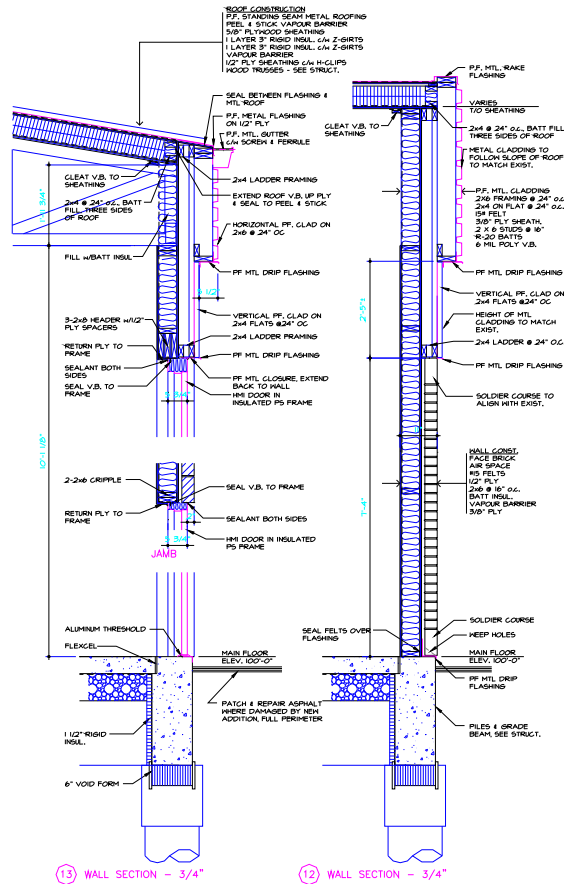
Figure 4: Proposed Technology Centre (P-MGM Arch)

All of these avenues allow for private or public occupations, similar to that noted for architects.

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TECHNICAL EDUCATION:

There are several technical institutes and colleges that provide training in Architectural Technology. These include S.I.A.S.T. (Palliser Campus, Moose Jaw), S.A.I.T. (Calgary), N.A.I.T. (Edmonton), Red River College (Winnipeg), British Columbia Institute of Technology (B.C.I.T.), and many more.



Diplomas can be achieved in technical disciplines similar to those noted above – Architectural Technology, Interior Design Technology, Landscape Architecture Technology, Urban & Regional Planning Technology. These diplomas are technical diplomas that would allow you to work as a draughtsman, site supervisor, estimator, product rep, etc. These diplomas are not the equivalent to the professional degree that is required to practice Architecture.

For specific descriptions and course entry requirements, it is best to contact the institution of your choice and get one of their calendars.

A CAREER IN ARCHITECTURE

CANADIAN SCHOOLS OF ARCHITECTURE

CARLETON UNIVERSITY, Ottawa, Ontario

The Office of Admissions – Room 315, Administration Building

1125 Colonel By Drive

Ottawa, ON K1S 5B6

Telephone: (613) 788-3663 / Fax: (613) 520-2849

www.arch.carleton.ca

School of Architecture

Room 202, Arch. Bldg.

(613) 788-2855

MCGILL UNIVERSITY, Montreal Quebec

Admissions Office

845 Sherbrooke Street West

Montreal, QC H3A 2T5

Telephone: (514) 398-3910

www.mcgill.ca/architecture

School of Architecture

McGill University

815 Sherbrooke Street West

Montreal, QC H3A 2K6

(514) 398-6701

DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY, SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE, Halifax, Nova Scotia

P. O. Box 1000

Halifax, NS B3J 2X4

Telephone: (902) 494-3973 / Fax: (902) 423-6672

www.dal.ca/architecture

UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA, Winnipeg, Manitoba

Department of Architecture

201F Russell Building

Winnipeg, MB R3T 2N2

Telephone: (204) 474-6424 Fax: (204) 474-7532

www.umanitoba.ca/faculties/architecture

UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA, Vancouver, B.C.

Registrar's Office

2075 Wesbrook Mall

Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z2

Telephone: (604) 228-2779 Fax: (604) 822-3808

www.architecture.ubc.ca

School of Architecture

6333 Memorial Road

Vancouver, BC V6T 1W5

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY, Calgary, Alberta

2500 University Drive NW

Calgary, AB T2N 1N4

Telephone: (403) 220-6601 Fax (403) 284-4399

www.ucalgary.ca/evds/

Faculty of Environmental Design

(403) 220-5098

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO, Toronto, Ontario

School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture

230 College Street

Toronto, ON M5S 1A1

Telephone: (416) 978-5038

www.ald.utoronto.ca

UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO, Waterloo, Ontario

Office of Admissions

Waterloo, ON N2L 3G1

www.architecture.uwaterloo.ca

Department of Environment

and Resource Studies

(519) 885-1211, ext 3621