

English for Architects 3 April

Level : Semester two

Weekly hours : 1h45

Meeting time : Friday 9-10.45

Instructor : Pr.K.Saadani

The work of the architect is very closely connected with life. It is the architect who is to decide in what surrounding the people will live and work. He must take into account such functions of modern cities as work, transportation, dwelling and recreation, biological and social needs of the population. Therefore apart from architectural design which is, of course, the main subject for architecture students, the young people study mathematics, physics, structural mechanics, history of architecture and art. It is essential for a future architect to be able to draw and to be acquainted with fundamentals of sculpture and painting.

An architect designs and supervises the construction of residential, commercial and public buildings. Architects study a wide range of academic disciplines, including art history, design, math, physics and civil engineering. Their goal is to design attractive, useful and structurally sound buildings. Because of the heavy course load, bachelor of architecture programs typically last five years. A number of architects will also pursue a master of architecture degree to better their employment prospects and pay.

Usually, architects collaborate with many people and oversee construction projects. They need to be excellent communicators with leadership and persuasion abilities. They should be outstanding project managers and adapt quickly. Customer service skills can be useful so they can balance their client's wishes with what is feasible.

QUESTIONS ASKED FOR HIRING ARCHITECTS

- Imagine a client shows you a picture from a magazine and asks you to design their home exactly like that. How would you respond?
- If an engineer's study was delayed, how would you handle it?
- If you were assigned the study or design of a structure you don't have experience with, how would you go about completing it?
- Which is the project in your portfolio you're most proud of?

- What architecture or other magazines do you read?
- Do you have experience in working with different material like metal, wood etc.?
- What are some criteria you'd use for choosing materials?
 - Is creativity more important than practicality?
 - Tell me about a time you had difficulty coordinating different parties on a construction project. How did you manage?
 - Recall a time you found it difficult to gather all information needed for a study. How did you do it in the end?
 - Give me an example of a creative idea you had that resulted in an improvement
 - Tell me about a time priorities changed during a project. How did you handle it?
 - Tell me about a time you had difficulty coordinating different parties on a construction project. How did you manage?

Reasons why I decided to go freelance

1. Freedom

Freelancing gave me the freedom to work anytime I want and for as long as I want. I usually work 2-3 hours a day now, sometimes even less. This gives me more time to spend on what really matters. Unlike employees, who work 9-5, plus 2 hour commute to the office. I get to spend time for myself.

2. No boss and no office politics

Since I work for myself on a per-project basis, there is no boss hovering over my desk all the time. My profile is checked I and if am qualified for the task, they contact me and I give them a quote. They are the ones asking for my services, and it is up to me to decide if I want to take the project.

3. I make more money

As a freelancer, you are basically handling your own business and you can potentially make more money than you would at a salaried position. It is up to you to promote and to market your services much like what you would do as a business owner.

4. Minimal expenses

As a freelancer, my main expense is my internet connectivity. I don't have to spend money on commuting or business attire that would be necessary for a corporate setting.

5. I love what I do

Unlike what some people think, there is freelance work available in a variety of professional fields. As a freelancer I still do what I love to do, which is architecture. I still work on challenging design problems, from schematics design, to full construction drawings.

6. The world is my oyster

Freelancing opens up my work to "a whole new world". The whole world is my client. I am not limited to working on very specific types of architectural projects. As a freelance architect, I am able to take on more interesting projects .

7. I get paid multiple times a month

As an employee, I would get paid once a month for an entire month's work; on freelance work, I am paid on a per-project basis. Two weeks after the order is marked complete, I receive payment. As I have multiple projects that are completed in various timelines, I don't even notice the 2-week clearing period and get payments throughout the month.

8. I can work anywhere and everywhere

I usually just work from home, in my bed, in my jammies. But there are times I go to coffee shops, or co-working space, or to a park. I just pack my laptop and I can go wherever I want, whenever I want.

9. No stress

When you take away the boss, the office politics, the traffic, and replace them with higher income, more freedom and more ME time...they all add up to no stress and more happiness.

Self-Employed Architect

Architects are self-employed and design buildings on a contract basis for a wide variety of customers. Most self-employed architects specialize in residential or commercial construction, but some do both, and a few specialize in other

architectural fields. Self-employed architects also have to run their business operations, which include marketing, general office support and billing -- or find contractors to help with these tasks.

Junior Architect

A junior architect is typically a recent graduate who is hired at an established architectural firm. Joining an established firm gives you a chance to gain professional experience. A junior architect often does a good bit of hands-on drawing work, including converting sketches into technical blueprints using CADD software. Depending on experience, background and personality, new architects are typically given project management or project support responsibilities.