

the architect's journey

Exploring a Future in Architecture



THE AMERICAN
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A blue-tinted photograph of wooden blocks stacked on a surface. The word "exploring" is written in a white serif font in the center of the image. The background shows several wooden blocks, some standing upright and some lying flat, creating a sense of depth and texture. The lighting is soft, casting gentle shadows on the surface.

exploring



a future



in architecture

I “designed” and drew my first house at the age of 10. It was round. Kitchen, laundry, and dining rooms were on the left, bedrooms to the right.

There were no bathrooms or closets, no entry!

The pool was in the back, with the house wrapped around it.

Suzanne Green Stevens, MA, Assoc. AIA
Institute of Classical Architecture and Classical America
Winnetka, IL

My grandparents' farm included an old unused chicken coop. When I was nine, I wanted to turn the chicken coop into a clubhouse. Since then I have sought homes to renovate and enjoyed taking part in hands-on remodeling.

Kate McCollum, Assoc. AIA
Broker
Denver

My great-aunt amassed an amazing collection of LEGO blocks. I tried to figure out how to turn what I did with those blocks into a job. Twenty-five years later, I am designing whole buildings and thanking my great-aunt every day.

Timothy Rice, Assoc. AIA
Horty Elving and Associates Inc.
Minneapolis

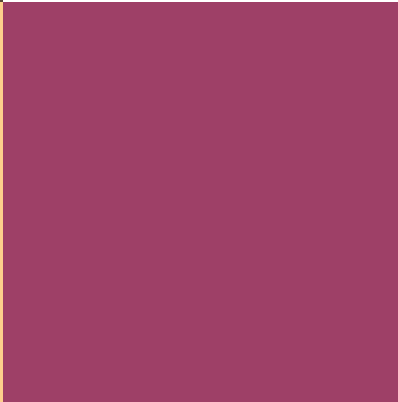
visit www.aia.org



Join us on the journey
to becoming an
architect . . .



THE AMERICAN
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Are you fascinated by how things work? Do you notice amazing

buildings and unique architectural elements? Do you love to

draw, create, design, or build? Do you think in three dimensions?

Are you a problem solver who can visualize things that others miss?

Do you want to make an impact in your community? Join us on

the journey to becoming an architect.



*The path to a profession in architecture
often begins when you're just a child.
And it continues as a lifelong journey.*

So what does an architect do?

Architects are conceivers of structures—professionals trained and licensed to design the spaces that people want and need. They are creative, analytical, curious, imaginative, artistic, and mathematical.

Architecture is a collaborative profession. You'll work with a vast array of other professionals to design and execute your vision. Along the way, you'll deploy the latest tools and technologies to get the job done.

Architecture blends art and science to create places where people live, work, play, learn, worship, meet, govern, shop, and travel: public spaces and private places; indoors and outdoors; on land, sea, and sky; in neighborhoods, towns, suburbs, and cities.

Architecture is a passion, a mission, a calling—a career.



Explorations

CREATIVE BEGINNINGS

Do you have a passion to create?

A fort maker, block stacker, bridge builder, tree house designer, sand box engineer, tunnel digger, dollhouse decorator, or cardboard box construction crew?

Were you forging creations from the toys of the trade: LEGO® blocks, Lincoln Logs®, Tinkertoys®, Erector Set®, and Playdough®?

An artist whose medium was crayons, finger paint, construction paper, paste, string, straws, paper clips, and anything else you could put to good use?

A kid with a talent for both art and science that continued to grow and thrive right along with you—all through elementary and middle school?

Look out—there's an architect in the house. Always in motion. A whirling dynamo of design, discovery, dimension, and creation.



*Behold the powers
of observation.*

*The young architect's
favorite phrase:*

*"Wow . . . look
at what I made."*





Education



PATHWAYS TO KNOWLEDGE

Are you ready to take your creative passion to the next level?

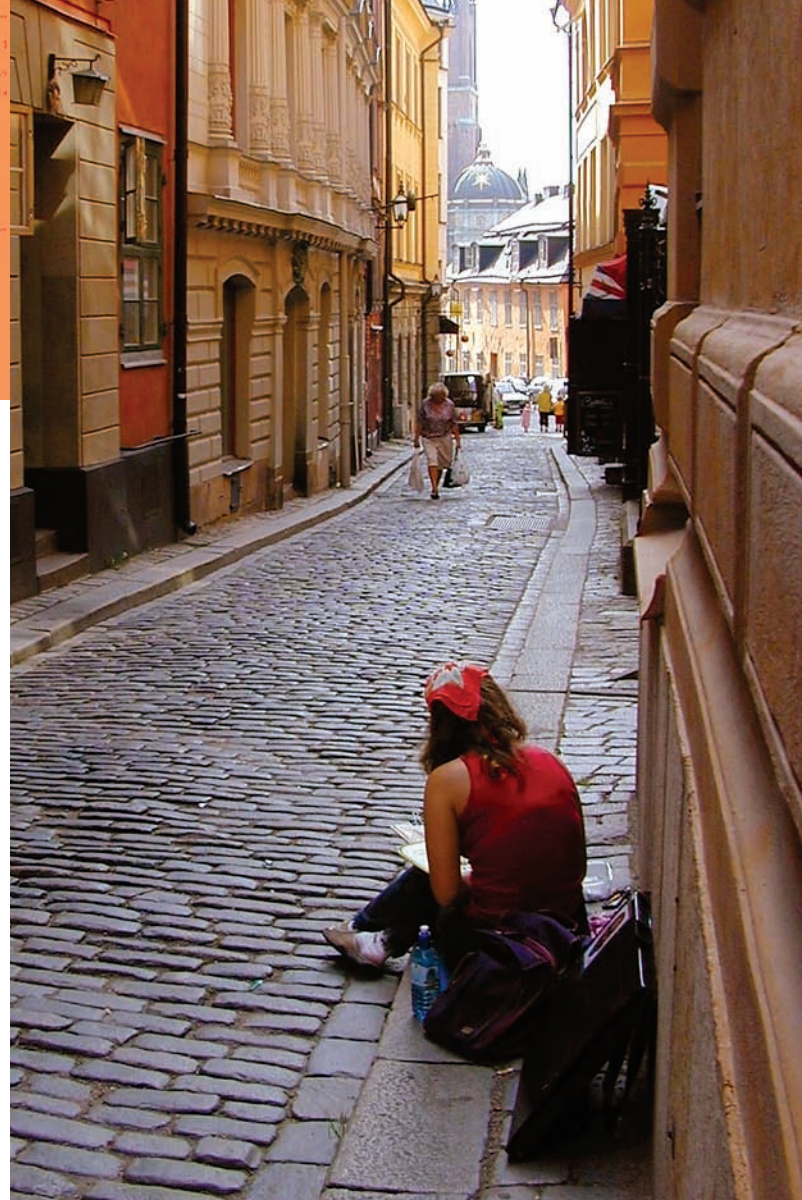
In high school, your studies should span both arts and sciences as you fine-tune your visual, mathematical, and problem-solving skills.

Now is the time to get a jumpstart on your career in architecture. Buy a sketchbook and practice drawing.

Visit an architecture firm. Examine your environment. Tour a construction site and important buildings. Explore summer discovery programs for high school students.

The next step: college—where you acquire the professional skills required to creatively design buildings while learning how to protect public health, safety, and welfare.

To join the profession, you must earn an accredited degree—a bachelor of architecture (BArch), masters of architecture (MArch), or a doctor of architecture (DArch).



Get some real world experience, shadow an architect, volunteer, intern, get a summer job, study abroad.

A composite image showing a color palette on the left and a background of architectural blueprints on the right.

Experience

Architecture represents a lifelong passion and a never-ending pursuit of advanced knowledge and new skills.

A woman wearing a red jacket and a yellow hard hat, looking towards the right.

ARCHITECTS AT WORK

Now you have a degree; what's next?

Before you can become a licensed architect and start turning your ideas into buildings, you need to acquire practice experience under the supervision of a licensed architect through the Intern Development Program (IDP) and take the Architect Registration Examination (ARE).

After passing the exam and receiving your license in one state, you can register for a certificate that helps you receive a license to practice architecture in other states and even some countries.



Resources

COUNT ON THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

Along your journey, where can you turn for help?

Whether you are exploring the possibilities of a career in architecture or working actively toward a degree or a license, the American Institute of Architects (AIA) can help you.

The AIA is the largest and most influential professional association for architects, with more than 78,000 licensed architects and associates as members.

For more details and resources to help you along the architect's journey, visit www.aia.org.

There's never been a better time to be an architect. Today's architects have solid earning power and an abundance of career options: private practice, corporations, institutions, government agencies, colleges and universities, and nonprofit organizations. Is a future in architecture for you? Visit

www.aia.org to see where your journey can take you.



Scholarship Information
www.aia.org/div_scholarships

Summer Architecture Programs
www.aia.org/ed_k12programs

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