

Career Profile: Architectural Draftsperson

Architectural Drafters' complete Architects' and other designers' concepts by preparing drawings, estimates and plans and liaising with builders and contractors. Most drafters use computer aided design and modelling (CAD) software to prepare drawings, however manual drafting may still be used in certain applications.

Also known as: Architectural Designer, CAD Technician, Drafter, Architectural Associate

What would my working day look like?

Some of the tasks you may complete are:

- ▶ Represent or assist architects on building sites
- ▶ Analyse architects' or other designs, and prepare preliminary sketches and detailed drawings
- ▶ Prepare working drawings showing plans, elevations sections, materials and finishes, as well as other aspects such as layouts, plumbing, drainage, car parking and landscaping
- ▶ Use computer aided design software to produce designs, detailed drawings and documentation
- ▶ Interpret client briefs, prepare and develop sketch plans for client approval and help prepare building specifications for building plans for individual clients
- ▶ Liaise with specialist consultants working on the project such as town planners and engineers when needed

I might enjoy this job if:

- ▶ I like technical drawing and working with technology
- ▶ I can draw accurately and have good attention to detail
- ▶ I enjoy Design and Technology, the Arts, Maths, Engineering and English studies

Working conditions and hours

You will have a mix of working indoors and outdoors. When you are designing and drawing you will be in an office using specialised computer-aided design (CAD) software and will be outdoors when you need to inspect sites.

An Architectural Draftsperson's job can also be stressful at times especially when project deadlines are looming!

You can expect to work full time (generally 44 hours per week) and may be required to work after hours and on weekends.

How do I become an Architectural Draftsperson?

You usually need to have a formal vocational qualification to work in this field such as a Diploma or Advanced Diploma.

To get started if you're still at school, you can enrol in the Certificate II in Building and Construction-Paraprofessional (Business) pathway. This can also be completed as a traineeship or school-based traineeship which usually takes 12 -18 months. Have a chat with your school careers advisor for more information.

Otherwise, you may like to complete the following qualifications through a Registered Training Provider as they are not offered in Western Australia as a traineeship or apprenticeship.

| Certificate IV | Diploma | Advanced Diploma |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|
| Residential Building Drafting | Building Design | Civil Construction Design |

Future pathways and opportunities

You can work for Architects, Building Designers and Planners in a private practice, or for a government organisation. With further study your career could lead you into building design, urban planning, project management, or even the Senior Architect on the latest city redevelopment project.

Average Pay

Up to **\$1,674** per week

depending on your qualifications and experience. (Source: Job Outlook)

What skills and personal qualities do I need?

- ▶ Be able to analyse and critically assess problems and find resolutions
- ▶ Work well in a team
- ▶ Be reliable and have a strong work ethic
- ▶ Enjoy using creative and artistic skills
- ▶ Be able to visualise ideas in three-dimensional (3D) form
- ▶ Be able to use drawing and measuring instruments accurately
- ▶ Have good interpersonal and communication skills
- ▶ Good organisational and time management skills to meet deadlines



Next Steps

Further information can be found at:

- ▶ Jobs and Skills WA – www.jobsandskills.wa.gov.au
- ▶ Building Designers Association of Western Australia – www.bdawa.com.au
- ▶ Job Outlook – www.joboutlook.gov.au