

Architectural drafter

Do you enjoy technical drawing and working with plans, elevations, perspective and CAD software? 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.

What might an architectural drafter's working day look like?

Each day can be different depending on the job, and you may:

- + Analyse architects' or other designs, and prepare preliminary sketches and detailed instructions
- + 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 computers or manually produce designs, detailed drawing and documentation
- + Interpret client briefs, prepare and develop sketch plans for client approval and help prepare building specifications for building plans for individual clients
- + Represent or assist architects on building sites to make sure that plans and specifications are followed

To be a successful architectural drafter you should

- + Be able to analyse and critically assess problems
- + Have an ability to see the big picture as well as to give attention to the smallest detail
- + Have an accurate, neat and methodical approach to drawing work
- + Enjoy using creative and artistic skills
- + Be able to visualise ideas in three dimensional form
- + Enjoy technical drawing and computers

What can the future hold?

If you're ambitious and willing to work hard, there are no limits to where a career as an architectural drafter can take you.

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.

Fantastic! How do I get started?

If you're still at school you can study a Certificate II in Building and Construction -Paraprofessional (Business) pathway as part of your WACE.

To become an architectural drafter you will need to complete a qualification in residential drafting or building design such as the Certificate IV in Residential Building Drafting and/or the Diploma of Building Design.

For further information, contact The Department of Training & Workforce Development or visit their website at dtwd.wa.gov.au or the Building Designers Association of Western Australia on (08) 9228 3235 or visit their website at bdawa.com.au

