

Landscape architect

Landscape architects plan, design and manage open space areas for projects such as parks, schools, hospitals, roads, malls, plazas, sports complexes, holiday resorts, hotel complexes, shopping centres, airports, housing subdivisions, national parks, playgrounds and commercial, industrial and residential sites.

Landscape architecture combines creative design with a knowledge of materials and techniques used in landscape construction and engineering and an understanding of natural and social systems including plant life, soil and ecological factors.

What might a landscape architects working day look like?

Your work will vary from day to day, with a blend of office and site work. You will:

- + Conduct research on a proposed area of land to determine the best use
- + Research and advise on materials best suited to a potential project
- + Draft plans and create models of projects

As a landscape architect you must be able to:

- + Have a strong knowledge of material and techniques used in landscape construction and engineering
- + Understanding of natural and social systems
- + Research and analyse data regarding geographical and ecological features of land, soil and weather in an area to determine the appropriate land use
- + Liaise with a client to complete a design in keeping with the requirements and budget of a project
- + Liaise with architects, engineers and other professionals to gather information on the land including historical, conservation, soil structure, drainage, features and existing buildings.
- + Draw up site plans and seek approval when complete
- + Prepare specifications including materials, labour and cost estimates for the client to sign off on
- + Ensure environmental and government legislation is met and adhered to
- + Investigate the heritage of sites
- + Use computer technology to create plans and models of the project
- + Supervise work on site and ensure it is completed to the required standard
- + Resolve issues that may arise throughout the project
- + Ensure sustainability of the project

To be a successful landscape architect you should:

- + Have good interpersonal and communication skills
- + Have the ability to analyse information and troubleshoot problems
- + Have a careful, methodical and accurate approach to work
- + Enjoy working outdoors
- + Have the ability to work individually or as part of a team
- + Imaginative and creative thinking skills



SKILLS FROM SCHOOLS

Where does a landscape architect work?

Landscape architects generally divide their time between the office and out on site in the fresh air.

What can the future hold?

As a landscape architect you may be employed by a private company, government agency or you can start your own company.

Fantastic! How do I get started?

You will need to take a university pathway and study a degree in landscape architecture.

For more information visit the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects at aila.org.au