



Architecture Merit

1. Write a job description for an architect in fifty to a hundred words.
2. Explain the differences between an architect and a drafter. Include the salary ranges of each profession. List the educational requirements for each. Explain which field you might find more rewarding personally.
3. Research a notable building. Prepare a report including the following:
 - a. Date of construction
 - b. Architect or builder
 - c. Historical significance of the design
 - d. Innovative design method used by the architect
4. Visit a building or planning department in your community. Determine what types of reports or submissions are needed prior to building a new structure (e.g., environmental studies, impact studies, earth core sample reports, engineering reports). Write a report detailing all the steps or requirements needed to begin building a new structure.
5. Visit a construction site in your community to examine the role of the architect. Contact the architectural firm or builder and write a report detailing what you discover about the following:
 - a. Is it a residential or commercial site?
 - b. Examine the blueprints. What can you learn by reading the plans?
 - c. What kinds of building materials are used?
 - d. What are the specifications for the concrete foundations and slabs?
 - e. List the electrical features, such as the number and location of outlets and switches, the size of circuit breakers, etc.
 - f. Are there contract requirements regarding time lines for when the building has to be finished and ready for occupancy?
6. Do ONE of the following:
 - a. Design a home. This could be completed on a CAD (computer aided design) program. List the scale to which the plans are drawn. Be sure the electrical, plumbing, doors, windows, foundation, roof design, shingles, etc., are all shown. The home should be at least a two-bedroom home with a two-car garage and 1.5 baths. The design should also show a landscape view.
 - b. Complete a model of a home built to scale. Show interior and exterior views. The home should be at least a two-bedroom home with a two-car garage and 1.5 baths.

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7. Research at least two architectural firms by doing an interview with an architect in each firm. Contact each firm and arrange for an interview or e-mail them asking for the following information. Write a report that includes the answers to the interview questions below.
- a. What is your firm's hiring practice? Does the firm offer any incentives to hire people? Do you hire college graduates directly out of school?
 - b. What types of services does your architectural firm provide for clients?
 - c. Are there specialties within your company?
 - d. What advancement opportunities are there?
 - e. Are there internship opportunities in your company for college students (part-time or summer work)?
 - f. What are the minimum qualifications for a new employee?
 - g. What could I do now to prepare for this career field?
 - h. What communication skills are needed for this career? How are communication skills used in this field?
 - i. Why would being involved in extracurricular activities in high school and college be important if your company would consider hiring a recent graduate?