Why Architecture?
Why Architecture?

Architecture surrounds us and has an impact on everything we do. It shapes how we live, study, work, gather, play, contemplate and even heal. When it’s at its best, architecture can enhance lives, improve our cities, as well as inspire people, organizations, communities and cultures.

When architects design a project — whether it’s a stadium, a city, a school, or a home — they shape how we inhabit the world. This profound ability and opportunity to transform our spaces and communities comes with great responsibility. Architects apply broad knowledge, professional expertise, spatial aptitude and creativity to design solutions to complex architectural challenges found in our cities, towns and landscapes.

WHAT CAN I DO WITH AN ARCHITECTURE DEGREE?

With a degree in architecture, you acquire the ability to analyze and think critically about the world around you, so you can intelligently apply the technical, disciplinary expertise to find creative, innovative solutions to significant challenges. While an architectural education is an essential first step toward becoming a licensed practitioner, it is also an excellent foundation for a very wide range of career trajectories and related fields of study.

When architects design a project — whether a stadium, a city, a school, or a home — they shape how we inhabit the world.
What do Architects Do?
What do **Architects do?**

Architects work closely with clients and stakeholders to define the aspirations of a project, and then take on the complex and compelling challenge to plan, design and ultimately realize the architectural solution that fulfills those hopes and ambitions. Architects spend a lot of time researching, observing and analyzing people, organizations and cities, so they can serve their clients as well as work on behalf of the public.

Their technical expertise and collaborative spirit enables architects to work with a wide variety of professionals — including engineers, expert consultants and contractors — to design and construct buildings that will last for generations. Contemporary architects use a wide variety of sophisticated modeling, visualization and animation software, as well as digital fabrication tools like 3D printers, in their work. With these powerful tools and techniques, architects are empowered to research, envision, simulate, document and communicate their most ambitious and creative design and construction concepts.

**Contemporary architects use a wide variety of modeling, visualization and animation software, as well as digital fabrication tools like 3D printers, to envision, simulate, and communicate design and construction concepts for buildings that will last for generations.**

Many architects describe their profession as a calling. They find tremendous gratification in a career devoted to the innovative combination of meaning, materials and technology to solve our contemporary architectural issues. As a career, architecture is a path that accommodates many strengths and interests, and is constantly advancing to incorporate new technologies and serve the evolving needs of society, culture and industry.

Architecture is a very broad discipline, offering numerous ways to pursue it as a profession or in a related field. Whether your interests lie in strategic planning and people, technical and building-construction issues, design and innovation, or software, computation, and fabrication, your trajectory starts in one place, the UK School of Architecture.
@UK

Why Architecture at the University of Kentucky?
Why Architecture at the University of Kentucky?

The School of Architecture has a rich academic tradition as an open-minded setting that supports diverse intellectual approaches within a rigorous architectural curriculum. On the University of Kentucky's flagship campus in Lexington, the School has long enjoyed a geographical advantage that offers easy access to major cultural centers, while maintaining a critical distance that fosters creativity and innovation. Throughout its history, Kentucky's academic environment — one which balances diversity, connectivity and ingenuity — has attracted talented faculty and students, enabling many to reach the highest levels of academic and professional achievement.

As the only accredited school of architecture in the Commonwealth, the University of Kentucky has provided an educational foundation for its Architects — as well as a platform for architectural discourse and debate — for more than 50 years.

Established in 1965, the School of Architecture today employs 30 full and part-time faculty, who teach more than 300 graduate and undergraduate students. The teaching, creative scholarship and research of our diverse and accomplished architecture faculty is recognized nationally and internationally, through numerous publications, exhibitions and awards. This world-class faculty bring academic and professional expertise to the classroom and studio, where small class size ensures students have a significant amount of individual time to learn from broad experiences.

Kentucky provides a unique environment to study Architecture. Its combination of cities, small towns and landscapes offers an opportunity to learn about Architecture at multiple scales, and with diverse histories and varying influences. Our graduate and undergraduate programs offer students the opportunity to learn about real-world issues confronting the Commonwealth by interacting directly with its communities. Our students discover, firsthand, how design can have a positive impact on the daily lives of people. In the design studio, students get to collaborate with faculty and classmates on imagining solutions to challenges in the built environment. We believe such opportunities afford a new perspective on how seemingly local issues often have broader national and international relevance.
The Education of an Architect
The Education of an Architect

At the University of Kentucky School of Architecture, we see architecture not just as the design and construction of buildings, but as a means of engaging the world. Architectural education is far more than preparation for a career; it is a transformation that enables you to see the world in a new way, allows you to hone your own critical point of view, and empowers you with skills to improve the world.

The broad, generalist education of an architect differs from that of many other professions and disciplines. It empowers you with multidisciplinary knowledge and skills for a career today, while instilling essential critical and creative thinking that will enable you to adapt to the evolving workforce of the future.

Architectural education involves the study of history and culture, people and organizations so you can understand the many complex factors that produce landscapes, towns and cities. It covers the exciting territory of building technology, material innovations, sustainable design and construction systems. Architectural studies also expose you to a wide range of techniques for visual communication, you’ll acquire skills in drawing, model building, 2D and 3D modeling software, and digital fabrication.

At the University of Kentucky School of Architecture, we see architecture not just as the design and construction of buildings, but as a means of engaging the world.
What Can I Do
with a degree in Architecture?
Maggie Clines  
CREATIVE DIRECTOR, ANCHAL PROJECT | BA IN ARCHITECTURE, 2012

Maggie Clines sees a clear connection between her BA in Architecture and her work as creative director with Anchal Project, the Louisville-based textile company she co-founded with her sister Colleen Clines. A non-profit that unites design and social change, Anchal offers employment to more than 130 women in Ajmer, India, whose main source of income often comes from prostitution.

Maggie’s interest in human-centric design steered her away from grad school and toward a career path with a humanitarian approach, an aspiration for many in her generation. “I think that’s the nature of where the design field is going,” said Maggie. “It’s more collaborative, and you’re trying to address larger global challenges.”

Her time at the College of Design prepared her with the tenacity it takes to grow a business. “An element I think has contributed to the success of this company is the work ethic instilled in design school,” said Maggie. “We aren’t afraid of the work that goes into well-designed projects.”

Katherine VanHoose  
OWNER, VANHOOSEDOTWORK | BA IN ARCHITECTURE, 2012

Like most architecture students, Katherine VanHoose expected to work for an architect after graduation. Everything changed during her senior year, when her studio presented their project to city officials in her hometown of Paducah, Ky.

“It showed me how all of the things I learned could be put to serious use in a community struggling with a problem larger than they are capable of dealing with,” explained VanHoose. “It led me to continue the search for a type of work where I could put design, research and communication to good use in the built environment.”

Her path then took her to an internship in the Netherlands, which led her to earn her Master in Urban Studies degree at the University of Amsterdam. VanHoose now runs her own design consulting firm, VanHooseDotWork, with a focus on urban research.

VanHoose appreciates where an architecture degree can take you. “If I’ve learned anything, it’s that I can try to plan all I want, but sometimes it’s more fun to just see where life takes you.”
Inside the Architect’s Studio
Inside the Architect’s Studio

Most significantly, architectural education immerses you in the dynamic, collaborative, hands-on environment of the architecture studio. The design studio is where you bring this knowledge to propose innovative design solutions to a wide range of spatial challenges. The studio immerses you within a culture of critical thinking and creativity that challenges your preconceptions, and encourages you to formulate new ideas that stimulate your imagination. It aims to spark your curiosity, and to propel you to foster your own vision for the future of the built environment.

In reality, the studio is a creative, collaborative, hands-on environment. In this setting, you will spend hours exploring, researching, discussing and analyzing architectural challenges with your studio instructor and classmates. You’ll get your hands dirty as you test your intellectual ideas and propose creative solutions through drawings, models, scale mockups and digitally fabricated prototypes. For many, working closely together in the studio environment — critiquing projects, exchanging techniques, and sharing ideas throughout all stages of the design process — is one of the highlights of an architectural education.

The studio immerses you within a culture of critical thinking and creativity that challenges your preconceptions and encourages you to formulate new ideas that stimulate your imagination.
Natural History Museum, London, United Kingdom, designed by Alfred Waterhouse; Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles, California, designed by Frank Gehry.
History and Theory of Architecture

History is at the heart of every design that’s created in today’s world. At the UK College of Design’s School of Architecture the course sequence in the History and Theory of Architecture recognizes the importance of the past in informing new design ideas, just as current practice and contemporary concerns influence the questions we ask of the past. The goal of the courses is to prepare undergraduate and graduate students for careers in architecture and related fields by equipping them with a broad knowledge of the history of the built environment and the ability to evaluate their own role in its formation.

The faculty members who drive this portion of the School of Architecture program — Professors Wallis Miller, Johanna Heinrichs and Andrew Manson — promote the significance of architectural history and the relevance it holds for today’s designers. Their courses explore topics in architecture from prehistoric times to the present and at scales from the architectural drawing to the megalopolis.

Through the School of Architecture’s diverse History and Theory curriculum, students learn to situate their own work within a broader architectural conversation.

An understanding of form is an important part of the History and Theory courses, but this is not their sole focus. “There are a lot of cultural influences on architectural form,” said Professor Miller, explaining that form is never neutral. “There are many different reasons why buildings look the way they do.” Students learn to interpret the built environment — both historical and contemporary — from a range of perspectives. Whether their interest is in social issues, environmental conditions or political influences, students can use the courses in history and theory to help them understand what it means to be an architect and the responsibility that entails.

Within the School of Architecture’s History and Theory sequence of lectures, seminars and discussions, students learn to situate their own work within a broader architectural conversation. They further enrich this experience with special lectures, symposia, and exhibitions, which provide a forum for discussing contemporary issues in the field.

In combination with the other areas of the architectural curriculum, the History and Theory courses pave the way for careers in design and, more generally, for a creative engagement with the world.
Undergraduate Program
Bachelor of Arts in Architecture
Bachelor of Arts in Architecture

UK’s Bachelor of Arts in Architecture can be a foundation for professional study or a jumping off point for a diverse array of careers and further study. Our broad undergraduate foundation prepares you for a future in the evolving Architectural profession, while broadening your knowledge of the many fields and disciplines that intersect with it. Our curriculum introduces knowledge and applied skills that empowers you with the ability to think critically and creatively solve problems. With the design studio at its core, the School of Architecture starts undergraduate students on a broad but structured progression of courses from the first day of class.

YEAR ONE
The year-long foundation courses introduce students to design fundamentals alongside communication and visualization with software, digital fabrication, drawing and model building. Architectural History situates the studio within the historical context of architecture culture, while you explore diverse, interdisciplinary coursework offered by the UK Core.

YEAR TWO
Students continue to develop their design acumen with studios that explore small architectural projects in cities, towns and landscapes. Courses introducing Western Architectural History as well as building construction, structures and materials, complement your studio work as you continue to pursue interdisciplinary UK core studies.

YEAR THREE
Students apply their growing disciplinary expertise, technical skills, and applied critical thinking in design studios that tackle complex architectural challenges. Technology courses introduce building systems and sustainable design. Architectural history courses introduce modern architecture and global urbanism and sharpen your research, writing, analysis and critical thinking skills.

YEAR FOUR
The fourth year emphasizes self-directed studies, providing the opportunity to explore unique intellectual interests with the objective of developing a point of view about architecture, design, and making a positive change in the world. If pursuing a professional degree in Architecture is your next step, you’ll apply for admission to the Graduate School of Architecture in the fall to gain advanced standing in the Master of Architecture program.
PATHWAYS TO A DEGREE IN ARCHITECTURE

1. High School Preparation
   Courses in art, design, math (algebra, trigonometry, calculus), physics and related areas

2. Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Architecture*
   4 YEARS

3. Bachelor of Arts (BA) or Bachelor of Science (BS) in an area other than Architecture
   4 YEARS

4 YEARS

4. Master of Architecture (M.Arch)
   2 YEARS

6 YEARS

5. 3+ Master of Architecture (M.Arch)
   3 YEARS**

7 YEARS
Pathways to an Architecture Degree

If you are interested in studying architecture, there are a number of ways to begin to prepare yourself. In high school you can take courses in design, art, mathematics, computer programming, digital media and physics, to name a few. You can also participate in design and architecture summer camps. Consult our website at design.uky.edu/architecture for additional recommendations.

A degree in architecture provides you with an essential first step toward becoming a licensed practitioner. It is also an excellent foundation for a broad spectrum of career trajectories and related fields of study. The paths to becoming an architect are as diverse as the career possibilities.

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN ARCHITECTURE (4 YEARS). This is the shortest path to a degree, perfect for students who want to start working in the field as soon as possible or continue on to the Master of Architecture program. While a professional degree (B.Arch or M.Arch) is required for licensure, students who earn a BA can still work in the field in a wide range of positions, including visual designer, fabricator and project coordinator.

BA IN ARCHITECTURE + MASTER OF ARCHITECTURE (6 YEARS). This is the most direct route to professional licensure as an architect. After completing the bachelor’s, students can move directly into the M.Arch program or gain experience in the field and then return to complete their master’s when they are ready to apply for licensure.

3+ MASTER OF ARCHITECTURE (7 YEARS). This option is ideal for students who hold a bachelor’s degree in an area other than architecture but would like to pursue a professional architecture degree. It’s essentially a 2-year master’s program with an extra year at the beginning to prepare students for studio work and the rigorous design curriculum. Actual credit hours and course requirements for the 3+ degree may vary based on the applicant’s portfolio, transcripts and previous experience.

Becoming a licensed architect is a 3-step process. The first is education — a professional degree (B.Arch or M.Arch) is required to apply for licensure. Second is experience. Most architecture students will participate in internships or gain experience working in the field before beginning their master’s. Finally, architecture students must complete the Architect Registration Examination (ARE) before applying for a license to practice architecture. Detailed information on the examination and licensure process can be found at www.ncarb.org.