



# WHEN I GROW UP - ARCHITECT

## WHAT IS AN ARCHITECT?

Architects design new buildings and the spaces around them. They work on restoring and conserving existing buildings and considering how they can change them to improve their usage.

They create hand sketches, create 3-D models and design technical plans using a computer. They have to follow building laws and safety rules and use these to create plans. They need to be able to choose or suggest materials to use to construct a building and share these ideas with others.

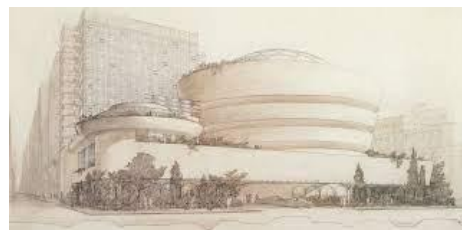
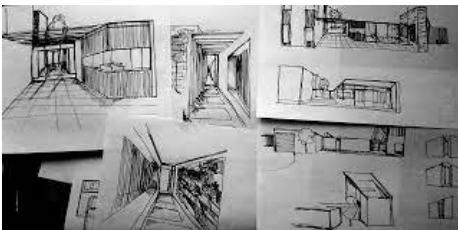
Once they start to build the design, then sometimes the architect has to visit the site to check it is being built right and is just like the plan they drew. When you visit a site, you have to wear special clothing to protect you.



It is important that you wear a high vis vest or jacket so you can be seen easily and a hard hat and special site boots/shoes to protect your feet.

## HOW DO YOU BECOME AN ARCHITECT?

To become an architect, you can go to university to complete a degree which takes 3 years. Then you have a year working practically for a company followed by another two years at university. After that, you complete another year of practical training with a final assessment. When you apply to university, they will want to see a portfolio of work. This is a selection of drawings, sketches, photographs and models you have done of buildings.



Some people choose not to go to university and instead will become an architect by completing a degree apprenticeship. This usually takes 48 months to complete. It means you can work for a company and also spend some time studying at a university to become qualified.

For both these routes, you have to work hard at school and pass your GCSE exams when you are 16 and then study for A-Level exams which you usually take at 18.



***The City Hall, London***



***The Gherkin, London***

Both the buildings above are designed by the same Architect and are both in London. His name is Norman Foster.

### WHAT SKILLS DO YOU NEED TO BE AN ARCHITECT?

You need design skills and knowledge of building and construction. You need to pay very close attention to detail and have good thinking and problem-solving skills. You meet with clients and other workers in the construction industry, so you need to be able to communicate with others really well. You need to be able to work on your own and in team because sometimes you need to share and discuss ideas. Most design work now is drawn on computers, so you need to be able to use a computer and the software packages an architect uses confidently.

---

#### FIND OUT MORE...

[PSHE KS1 / KS2: Proud to be an architect - BBC Teach](#)

[\(42\) THE TOP 10 UK ARCHITECTS - YouTube](#)

[architecture - Kids | Britannica Kids | Homework Help](#)

---

#### PRACTICE QUESTIONS

1. What does an architect design and restore?
2. What do architects wear?
3. Norman Foster designed which London building?
4. True or false? The architect builds the buildings.
5. What would you find in an architect's portfolio?