

Dear Students

This month we are focusing on becoming an **ARCHITECT**. If you are artistic, like making stuff, enjoy mechanics and how things work, love technology this might be the career path for you. Yes, the universities and technical schools requirements for Architecture are very strict and it takes a lot of commitment and desire to become an architect. Nobody becomes an architect because they think it sounds cool or they like to draw. In this edition you will learn more about Architecture and the requirements for tertiary studies.

- Martina

WHAT IS ARCHITECTURE AND WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

Architecture is one of the few career choices that would allow you to combine your artistic and science abilities. You would also have to activate the legal & analytical parts of your brain. An important ability is for the Architect to visualize / build a structure in your mind before putting it down on paper, this is the artistic and logical parts of your brain working.

Architects are professional people who design, plan and decorate buildings, with a view to utility, durability, convenience, and aesthetic appeal. They use their knowledge of construction materials and methods, and architectural techniques to design and oversee the construction of safe, functional and attractive buildings.

They discuss the purpose, requirements and cost with the client and then prepare drawings. If these are accepted, the final design is prepared together with working plans for the use of contractors. The architect may assist the client in selecting a contractor. They may also help in the selection of building sites, preparation of costs, the carrying out of land-use studies and long-range site development planning.

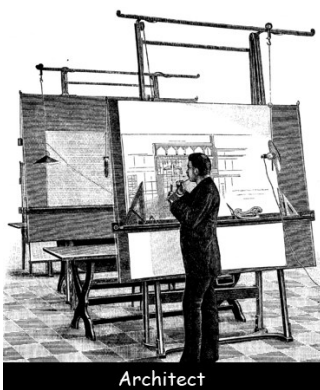
Architects stay involved throughout the construction process, adapting their plans according to budget constraints, environmental factors or client needs. As such, they operate as part of an overall project team; they work closely with a range of construction professionals from quantity surveyors to building services engineers. Architectural technologists also carry out this supervisory work.

Many architects today are limited by costs to designing rather more ordinary buildings, although they do occasionally get the opportunity to branch out into more adventurous fields such as skyscrapers, hospitals, railway stations, supermarkets, airports and so forth. Their everyday work is usually the designing of dwellings for their clients and renovations or improvements to existing domestic and commercial buildings.

They usually need to design buildings that are durable, functional, suit the needs of the owners, are as pleasing to the eye as possible, given financial constraints, and that fit in with the surrounding terrain as much as possible.

Inside this issue:

1. Why is Architecture important?
2. Typical work activities and skills
3. Requirements
4. Historical buildings in Namibia



TYPICAL WORK ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:

- Creating building designs and highly detailed drawings both by hand and by using specialist computer-aided design (CAD) applications
- liaising with construction professionals about the feasibility of potential projects
- working around constraining factors such as town planning legislation, environmental impact and project budget
- working closely with a team of other professionals such as building service engineers, construction managers, quantity surveyors and architectural technologists
- applying for planning permission and advice from governmental new build and legal departments
- writing and presenting reports, proposals, applications and contracts
- choosing the materials to be used and specifying the requirements for the project
- adapting plans according to circumstances and resolving any problems that may arise during construction
- making sure the project is running according to schedule and budget
- playing a part in project and team management travelling regularly to building sites, proposed locations and client meetings

For the most part, an architect's working day will be office based. However, site visits and meetings with clients are frequent, so travel can figure prominently. A solid knowledge of how to use a computer is steadily becoming essential as many of the tools of this profession are now computer-aided. Environmental knowledge is often essential when creating new housing developments or industrial projects.

PERSONAL REQUIREMENTS

- interest in new buildings, old buildings, history, design, art, drawing and drafting
- an intelligent, logical mind
- attention to detail
- good grasp of Mathematics
- able to get along with others and work in a team
- aptitude for solving problems
- creative and artistic but practical
- ability to visualise, particularly in 3D
- good sense of form and good eyesight
- good communication skills, oral and written, especially giving clear instructions
- scientific and technical knowledge
- a steady hand.



REQUIREMENTS

Secondary Education

Possession of a **HIGCSE/NSSCH** Grade 12, or equivalent qualification, with matriculation exemption is needed for admission to South African universities, while a **HIGCSE/NSSCH** or outstanding **IGCSE/NSSCO** Grade 12, or equivalent qualification, is required for admission to South African technikons. A university may waive the Mathematics and Science requirements if an applicant's drawings and creative work shows evidence of talent deemed to be contributory to the successful study of design, i.e., drawing portfolio. Further requirements differ from university to university. Grade 12 results should be good since students are selected before being admitted to their first year of study at a university.



NUST (NAMIBIA UNIV OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY) requires a **HIGCSE/NSSCH** or outstanding **IGCSE/NSSCO** Grade 12 certificate with at least 30 points in 5 subjects of which 12 points must be in English and Mathematics and 18 points for any three subjects out of the following: Technical Drawing, Physical Science, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Geography, Fine Art, Arts and Crafts, Literature, Carpentry and Economics on NSSC Higher or Ordinary Level. No symbol must be lower than a C.

Recommended subjects

MATHEMATICS, TECHNICAL DRAWING AND ART (South-Africa & Namibia)

Tertiary Education

NUST offers a 3 years full-time Bachelor of Architecture course.

Full-time (five or six-year) degree-studies in Architecture are possible at a few South African universities, like Cape Town, Natal, Orange Free State, Port Elizabeth, Pretoria and Witwatersrand. Thereafter the candidate can register with the Namibia Council for Architects and Quantity Surveyors. A M. Arch. and D. Arch. can also be completed at the University of Cape Town.

The **N. Dip.:** Architectural Technology is offered at several technikons in South Africa, namely ML Sultan, Port Elizabeth, Natal, Pretoria, Witwatersrand and CPUT.

Personality

The prospective architect should have mathematical and numerical skills and be able to work creatively and independently.

Work Opportunities

Architects work for public institutions such as municipalities, in partnership with other architects or as consultants, real estate firms, universities or can be self-employment. Architects are often able set up their own practices.

HISTORICAL BUILDINGS IN NAMIBIA

The Sanlam Centre is a building in downtown Windhoek, Namibia. Located on Independence Avenue, the building was built in 1990, the same year as Namibia's independence. It has 15 floors and 28,000 m² of floor space. The German, Swedish and Venezuelan embassies are located in the building, as is the American Cultural Center, an extension of the United States embassy in Namibia.

Christuskirche: Also known as Christ Church, this building is a centre point for most people who want to photograph Windhoek. Commissioned by The German Lutheran Congregation founded in Windhoek in 1896, it's believed that plans to build the church were drawn in 1900 by government architect Redecker. The construction of the project, however, was delayed by wars, and only saw completion in 1907. Strategically built on top of a hill as a symbol of peace.



Part of Namibia's historic museum constellation that stretches along Robert Mugabe Avenue in Windhoek, the **Independence Memorial Museum** is one of the most striking buildings you'll find in this city. The museum was built by a North Korean firm and was inaugurated five years ago, in 2014. Standing at a height of 40 metres (131 feet), the museum focuses on the anti-colonial resistance and national liberation struggle of Namibia. It features a glass elevator that allows visitors to indulge in a beautiful view of Windhoek. Getting to the top floor where the restaurant can be found, an even better view awaits visitors. A statue of Namibia's founding president, Sam Nujoma, stands tall atop a flight of stairs to the entrance, while the statue in honour of Namibians who died in the German genocide of 1904 stands not far from it.

Höhenzollern Building in Swakopmund : An imposing Victorian baroque style double-storeyed building, with its high mansard roof, was erected during 1905-1906 for Hermann Dietz. Architecturally, the building is a relic of the German colonial era'. The building was mostly used as a Swakopmund hotel in its existence, known as Hotel Höhenzollern and named after the German Imperial family of the same name. Its decorative additions complement the overall standing of the building, making it a popular tourist attraction in Swakopmund and a must visit location on any tour around Namibia.

Alte Feste (Old Fort) (Robert Mugabe Av.)

The oldest building in Windhoek (1890). The foundation stone of the fort was laid by Curt von Francois on 18 October 1890. The building was expanded and had some 54 rooms in 1912. Alte Feste served as a headquarters of Schutztruppe and from 1915 as a headquarters of South African troops. From 1935 was used as a hostel for Windhoek High School and from 1962 it is a museum.

References : Nam Career ; www.nust.na ; www.pacecareers.co.za ; <http://www.namibian.org/travel/historical/hohenzollern-building.html> ; <https://theculturetrip.com/africa/namibia/>



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