

Architecture Interview Questions

"Please emphasize to students that there are no right or wrong answers here. I'm looking for open, honest communication and definitely not canned answers designed for what you imagine an employer wants to hear." employer

Questions to learn about your knowledge and interest in Architecture.....

Why did you decide to become an architect?

Why did you choose Architecture as your major?

Name your favorite architects and what do you admire about their work?

What about architecture interests you, excites you?

Talk to me about your design philosophy.

What types of design projects did you feel most comfortable with: Educational, health care, industrial, commercial / retail / residential?

What are your strengths? (design, drawing, computer rendering, models.)

What area of architecture concentration interests you?

Questions about your academic preparation ...

Why did you choose your University?

How would you describe the emphasis of the program offered at your school?

Of the classes required of you in the program which ones interested you the most?

What is the most important class/course series you encountered in your education? Why?

What was your favorite studio project or architectural class in school and why?

What was your best experience in studio class at ISU, and why?

Name two or three of your strongest (academic) skills.

Please show us a copy of your portfolio. (*What grades did you receive on these projects? What did you like best about the project?*)

What was the most challenging part of receiving your degree in Architecture and why?

Questions relating to your goals

What are your career goals?

What are your immediate future plans?

What are your personal goals and objectives?

What are your long term goals, professionally and personally?

What are your personal plans and ambitions?

What, if you can say yet, do you aspire to be as an architect?

What do you hope to gain from an internship?

What are your long term goals ie: what do you want to become, where do you see yourself in ten years , etc.?

When examining your long -range goals, what are they and how do you see our firm interfacing with your goals? (*This allows me to see if this person has even considered where their might be headed. I also usually have the person define their concept of long range.*)

What will you accomplish during your first year with our firm?

What are your goals for the next 5 years and why?

What are your expectations for employment the first year and the first three years as an intern architect?

What is your intent and schedule with respect to passing the ARE exam for licensing?

Do you plan to attend graduate school?

Questions to learn about your knowledge of architecture practice

What is expected of an intern architect?

As a recent graduate, what is your expectation as an entry-level architect during your first year of employment at our firm? (This question allows me identify the perception that this person may have and if they have any realistic concept of what might be achievable.)

What role do you think architects can play in solving social problems?

What is the most difficult task an architect may face in today's fast paced, "need it now" world? (I'm looking for, "How to deal with moisture: Exterior driven moisture, ground absorbed moisture, vapor drive, etc.)

Discuss your familiarity with building codes?

Discuss Handicap Code familiarity?

What salary range do you expect?

Questions to learn who you are, your qualifications and strengths...

Tell me more about yourself and your background.

How would you describe yourself?

How would your friends describe you?

Please describe what you believe to be your strongest attribute. (This question allows me to compare their own view of themselves with the actual quality of the elements they are portraying.

This includes their letter of introduction, portfolio, appearance, verbal presentation, listening skills, enthusiasm, etc.)

What do you like doing? What do you do best?

Describe yourself beyond the design and construction industry. What do you enjoy doing? What are your special interests? Any community or society involvement?

What are your hobbies? (determining if you are an interesting, well rounded person)

In what areas do you believe you need more development?

Describe the work shown in your portfolio.

What skills do you feel that you have developed that may be the most beneficial to a firm in the beginning of your career?

Who has had the greatest influence on your career-path? Why?

What are your strengths? Why?

What are your weaker points? Why?

What are the three things you really want us to know about you?

What are three to five things that you are really good at?

What are three to five things that you need to work on to improve?

Can you give me an example of when you've made a mistake? How was it resolved? Did you make the same mistake again?"

Have you ever had to go out on a limb to support your point of view? What was the situation and what did you do? (This question aides in determining assertiveness.)

Do you envision yourself as a design oriented person?....And if so, please comment on the importance of learning all the stages of production before jumping to the end.

Have you worked on any group projects in school or in the workforce? Tell us how you interacted with the individuals in the group and how you contributed toward the goal(s) of the project.

Questions to learn about your working style, communication, flexibility.....

How do you make "work" ... "fun"?

Describe your work style.

Being a successful student requires the ability to quickly adjust to change --new classes and instructors, new assignments and projects, new dorms or apartments, etc. Describe how you have learned to deal with all these changes and give an example of a recent change you had to adapt to quickly.

How would your coworkers describe you?

How do you resolve conflicts? ([trying to determine candidates capacity for change, multiple deadlines, dynamic teams, etc.](#))

How do you see yourself making the most productive use of a day working in our firm?

Do you work better alone or with people? Why?

What kind of people do you like to work with?

How do you work in teams, what is your working style, etc. ([How does this person fit in?](#))

How do you feel about working independently?

Are you a team player who is also able to work independently? Give us an example.

Have you worked on a project where a teammate was not doing their share? How did you handle it?

Describe your understanding of work environment expectations?

Tell me about your team oriented projects in school. What things went well, what things didn't go well, what would you change about your team or the way in which you did the work?

How do you collaborate with "designers"?

In what kind of environment do you do your best work?

Are you a problem solver?

What is most important to you in your work?

What was the most valuable criticism you have ever received?

Are you willing to start at bottom and work up to get a good base?

Were you involved in any extracurricular activities at ISU?

Have you ever worked in community service?

Communication and client relations skills

Would you feel comfortable in working directly with a low-income client in designing their house?

What do you do if a client wants the most obnoxious looking building you have ever thought possible?

Questions to learn about your experience.....

What are your work experiences to date, what have you learned from those experiences?

Tell me about any practical experience you have had?

Have you had any practical field construction experience?

What experience do you have with construction drawings? Sections? Details? Schedules?

What work experiences have you had? Which did you like best? Why?

Give us a description of your architectural abilities, software, design or construction oriented, previous firm experience, education experience, etc.

Do you have any experience in an architecture firm, engineering firm, or construction company?

Have you had any construction experience? If so what kind? (I like to know if students have had any hands on experience putting buildings together.)

Have you had any experience working in an architect's office? If so what kind of experience?

For each previous work experience describe your reasons for leaving?

What type of internship programs have you been involved in?

Describe your duties in your current/past position(s)? Why did you leave?

Explain any of your previous work experience and how it will help you in a full-time position.

What level of architecture firm experience have you achieved? What were your duties?

Starting with your most recent job or internship, please tell me about your work experience.

What construction experience do you have? (It is important for the student to understand a major element of their career is to communicate clearly and concisely to the contractors.)

What duties did your previous employer depend on you to perform?

How would your last employer rate your performance with respect to those duties? What were major obstacles in performing your duties?

What were the most enjoyable aspects of performing your duties in previous positions? What did you learn? (accomplishments and mistakes)

Questions to determine your fit with the firm

What do you know about this firm?

Why do you want to work at this firm?

Why do you feel our firm is a good fit for your skills?

Tell me about your ideal job and employer.

If you found an ideal work experience for your first full time employment, what would you be doing.

What type of projects interest you?

What skills do you have that will help me get the job done and add to the profitability of this business?

Describe what you're hoping to accomplish working here.

What kind of environment are you wanting to work in (ie. Strictly architecture firm? Architectural/engineering firm? etc.)?

Are you interested in doing work in a particular area or are you looking for a job with diverse projects?

What kind of firm are you looking to be a part of?

What kind of work do you see yourself doing here at our firm?

What kind of experience do you hope to gain as an employee with our company? (I'd like to know their expectations so we can see if it meshes with our needs.)

What kind of work do you like to do?

What type of work environment are you looking to work in?

How do you feel your studio work relates to practical projects you might encounter here at our firm?

Give me an example of a time when you went above and beyond the requirements to get a project done." Since our motto is along the lines of "Do whatever it takes. "

I ask for the explanation of whether the person is design or construction oriented. It makes quite a bit of difference if you hire a designer that says they understand construction and then hits a brick wall when they are producing contract documents. The designer will be unhappy and the firm will be disappointed.

What do you think our expectations of you will be for the first year, the first two years, and the first five years of employment with us.

How do you feel about relocating in order to complete a summer internship? *(We ask this question because we don't provide for housing. It is the intern's responsibility to find housing and relocate. Sometimes students just don't think about the whole picture of relocating for 10-12 weeks.)*

Organization and time management ...

How would your most recent employer describe your time management skills?

How would you rate your organizational and time management skills?

Describe your own personal system you use for Time Management and Information Recall. *(This allows me to further evaluate this person's organizational skills).*

Questions to determine your technical expertise

What is your technology background?

How do you integrate technology into your design process?

What Computer Softwares do you use readily and how have you used them to complement your work? *(This question allows me to get an perspective of the person's understanding as how these tools are used in the process of our profession.)*

What type of CAD experience do you have? 2D, 3D?

Describe your level of computer skills; CADD and others?

How do you rate your CADD skills?

Other questions ...

Please provide a list of references that we could call?

How did you hear about the position you are applying for?

Have you ever worked with other cultures? Do you speak Spanish?

Additional comments from architects regarding interviewing:

Candidates should exude spirit of excitement, energy and commitment; exhibit willingness to work hard while "exploring". They should be prepared to show examples of work, school and other, with the desire being to see multi-discipline exposure. Display high level of free-hand sketching ability. Must show how to design "thinking-by-the-hand" vs by machine.

"Believe it or not.....Autocadd is not the issue anymore.....graduates are computer literate enough that we would rather spend the time teaching them ourselves than worry if they took the courses."

These interview questions were submitted by architecture firms from across the USA in response to a request for the 5 most often used interview questions for entry level architects.