

## **LA Sample interview questions...**

### **To learn about who you are and your qualifications...**

Tell me about yourself. What are your interests?  
What are your strengths/weaknesses?  
What do you consider to be your strengths in landscape architecture? How will you use that strength to contribute to this office?  
What non-LA skills will you bring to the table and how may they fit in with our firm?  
Do you have rendering/sketching skills?  
Do you communicate with a magic marker and paper (quick graphics)?  
Do you write and/or communicate well verbally?  
Can I see your hand lettering skills?  
Have you ever created a power point presentation?  
Tell me about the strengths and weaknesses of this product.  
What do you most enjoy producing? Tell me about your best results?  
What project that you have worked on is your favorite? Why?  
What characteristics do you have that you would like to improve?  
What are your interests outside of your professional activities?

### **To learn about your academic preparation...**

What classes have you liked the best at school and why?  
What is the focus of the landscape architecture program at Iowa State University?  
What have you found to be the most interesting and challenging aspects of your education?

### **To learn about your goals**

What do you want to accomplish with your work?  
Where do you see your self in 2 to 3 years?  
What are some of your long-range professional goals as a Landscape Architect? How do you think this job will help achieve some of those goals?  
What are your career goals for the next three years?  
What are your career objectives for the next 2 years? 5 years? 10 years?  
Where would you like to be in your practice five years from now? 10 years?

### **To learn about your technical expertise...**

Are you able to draw with the current versions of AutoCAD?  
Do you know how to use AutoCAD v14 or 2000 or Microstation Cad programs? If so, how confident are you with these programs?  
Do you know Excel or any other spreadsheet programs?  
What other computer software are you fluent in?  
What are your computer skills and do you enjoy working in programs like ArcView and GIS?

How comfortable are you with grading and technical tasks?

### **To learn about your professional interests...**

What is it about Landscape Architecture that attracted you?  
How did you choose this career?  
What do you enjoy about Landscape Architecture?  
Is there an area of LA where you would eventually like to focus?  
What areas of the discipline are you particularly interested in?  
What types of projects interest you the most?  
Do you plan to get your state registration in Landscape Architecture?  
What do you feel is the most important role of a landscape architect and why?  
What is your favorite planned or built landscape and why?  
What do you enjoy about the process of making landscape proposals?  
In terms of career priorities, what areas do you seek the most immediate development in and why?  
What types and scale of projects do you enjoy working on the most?  
Which organizations do you belong to, professional and otherwise?

### **To learn about your knowledge in specific areas of LA**

Why are you interested in the area of Parks and Recreation (or other specific areas)?  
What is your background in historic landscape architecture?  
Tell me the four types of historic landscapes?  
Are you familiar with National Register programs, the Secretary of Interior's Standards for Historic Preservation and other bulletins related to cultural landscapes?  
What research experience do you have in archives?  
Do you enjoy doing research work?

### **To learn about your work style, ability to work in a team and accept criticism...**

Describe your work style? Are you a self-starter or do you prefer specific direction?  
Do you enjoy working in a team setting?  
Do you work well with other people? (This question is asked to gage personality, attitude, and whether or not this person would be an enjoyable colleague).  
Discuss some of the design work in your portfolio, and how the design project came together. Was this a team project? If so, what was your part in the design?  
Tell me an example of a difficult problem you faced and how you overcame it?  
Tell me about a project that involved collaboration with others. What was your role in the team effort?  
Did you ever pull an 'all-nighter' to meet a deadline?

## **Landscape Architecture Interview Questions**

How much guidance do you need on a project? Can you work independently?  
How do you handle incorporating revisions that are not your own? Has this ever happened with a school project? How did it effect the resulting product?

***To learn about your experience...***

Have you had any work experience in Landscape Architecture and if so, please describe your responsibilities?  
What types of Landscape Architecture projects have you worked on?  
Tell me about your experience. What did you do at the firm? Why did you leave?  
Have you had any experience - internship at a design firm, working on a landscape construction crew or other construction crew, etc?  
Do you have experience working in a professional office, internship, summer job, and part-time job?  
Have you been involved in any activities outside the classroom or work that are related to the fields of landscape architecture or planning?  
In your past employment history, what was the biggest goof up you made and how did you resolve it? (Lets me know about honesty, humbleness, character and do they learn from mistakes).  
Give a brief description of past jobs and what were the things you liked or disliked most about those jobs.  
What is your experience in producing a brochure, designing a Website or creating a promotional piece (i.e. concept design)?  
In the above process, after the product was completed, what would you have done differently?  
Do you have a portfolio that exhibits design skill in a variety of LA applications?  
What was your greatest contribution to your last employer?  
Have you applied your AutoCAD experience in a professional office environment?

***To determine your fit with the firm...***

Why would you want to move to the Chicago area? (or other cities)  
When can you start?  
What are your salary expectations?  
What do you see as your role when starting with a company like ours?

***Additional comments from LA practitioners...***

"I am looking for a person who can be productive from day one, understands the basics of an office environment, will behave professionally, enjoys teamwork and can work with a variety of people on a variety of tasks. The candidate should understand that our employees are with us to work, learn, and enjoy the experience, thus, we are seeking someone that we will personally enjoy working with in the team environment."

"Another "top of the list" consideration is professionalism! Please encourage your students to dress, look, speak, and behave the part. That old saying, "dress for the position you want, not the position you have" should be taken to heart.."

For anyone joining us at entry level or for an internship/summer position, we are realistic about his or her lack of design, technical and professional experience. We try to pinpoint their "billable" skills and have them be productive in those areas while they are being exposed to professional experiences they arrive without..

*LA practitioners who frequently interview and hire LA students for internships and LA graduates for full-time positions submitted these questions.*

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