**ARCHITECTURE**

**WHAT IS ARCHITECTURE?**

**Architecture**, the art and technique of designing and building, as distinguished from the skills associated with construction. The practice of architecture is employed to fulfill both practical and expressive requirements, and thus it serves both utilitarian and aesthetic ends. Although these two ends may be distinguished, they cannot be separated, and the relative weight given to each can vary widely. Because every society—settled or nomadic—has a spatial relationship to the natural world and to other societies, the structures they produce reveal much about their environment (including climate and weather), history, ceremonies, and artistic sensibility, as well as many aspects of daily life.

Architecture gives you the freedom to use the right side of your brain, the creative part! Every building is different. Every project is different. Architecture is an art that works hand-in-hand with science to design places where people can live, eat, work and play.

Architects are not just involved in the design of a building. As a licensed professional they are also responsible for public safety and overseeing of projects. Their role is important in every stage of the building's construction, from the initial concept to the opening ceremony when the building is complete.

Architects are obligated to protect the health, welfare, and safety of a building's occupants, so it is absolutely necessary that the architect have construction knowledge. Anyone who designs a building without any construction knowledge is an artist or a designer; they are not an architect.

**Skills needed to be an Architect**

To be an architect, it's important that you have the following skills:

* Creativity: Architecture is a form of art. You have to be creative to stand out and be recognized for your work. You should come up with novel ideas and bring them to life.
* Design skills: Architects spend most of their time drawing and creating models. They must have a good understanding of creating designs. They should focus on making a design look good and creating a functional design that meets the clients' needs and adheres to safety rules.
* Attention to detail: Contractors and construction workers rely on architects' ability to create detailed drawings to construct a building. Any small mistake could hinder an entire project, causing delays and incurring more costs.
* Problem solving skills: Architects are faced with various issues such as legal problems and design-related problems. A good architect should solve these issues quickly and efficiently to avoid delaying the project.
* Computer literacy: Though some architects draft designs and drawings by hand, most use computers, which enable them to share prototypes and drafts with clients. It's therefore important that you familiarize yourself with various architectural software such as Computer-Aided Design (CAD) software.

**Career opportunities**

* Landscape Architect
* Urban planner
* Restoration Architect
* Research Architect
* Furniture/Textile Designer
* Graphic Designer
* Production Designer

**Expected Earnings As At 2022**

According to USnews.com, architects made a median salary of $82,320 in 2020. The best-paid 25 percent made $106,680 that year, while the lowest-paid 25 percent made $63,420.

* An entry level architect in Nigeria makes about 87k naira per month.
* A mid-level architect in Nigeria should make between 130k-154k per month.
* A high-level architect in Nigeria can make well north of 200k every month.