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## Architects Cantersteen

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### About us

Architects Cantersteen exist from 1986. Our extended portfolio has been awarded with national and international prizes. We have continuously been certified in the ISO 9002 standard since 1987.

### What we can do for you...

With our experience, we are able to create and build the house of your dreams. Our team will make sure that all your wishes are taken into account. We build using nature friendly materials of superior quality. You can also come up with your own design or choose your own materials.

Making your dreams come true

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**Note:**  
Reuse the parts highlighted in gray in each of the following pages as well.

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## Becoming an architect

### What you need to know

Before making the decision to choose the architect career, you must know what architecture is. Architecture is not only a domain in which you apply different skills, it is also an art, through which houses, towers, offices, schools, churches are created. Architects design them, but they also must have knowledge related to business, to social tendencies or engineering. Therefore architects are polyvalent. Nowadays architects may work alone or they may be part of a team, in a company. Besides, they must deal with different types of customers, irrespective if they are individuals or companies.

Secondly, before becoming an architect, you have to know why architecture is important. We can say that somehow it assures people’s prosperity. Making plans for a building or renovating a house is one of the most fascinating and challenging tasks which an architect may accomplish, as the house is the place of everyday activities, which offers intimacy and refuge. On the other hand, architecture keeps the past alive. Old buildings remind us of our connection with the past, and innovation techniques and modern ideas are necessary in order to preserve them. Furthermore, architecture does not mean only exterior design, as famous architects also designed chairs, tables, wardrobes, and other things which make houses agreeable and comfortable. To continue, architecture is the quiet witness of an age. The great civilizations left behind them important architectural achievements, for example Egyptian pyramids, Greek and Roman buildings, gothic cathedrals. Becoming an architect means to be aware of all these aspects.

Another aspect which must be taken into account before becoming an architect is the direction of architecture. In our cities, commercial organisms, financial and governmental ones require architecture adapted to their needs. Locating buildings in a city means finding a balance between technical problems, practical and aesthetic ones. Only good architects can start such an important approach. Cities are the essence of an architect’s action. Urban design often expresses the social and economic character of a town. Architects are invited to renovate parts of cities, to design residential or industrial sites, commercial centers.

### What does an architect do?

All begins with the contract which the client concludes with the architect. It can be only a building or a group of buildings. An architect usually conducts a team of experts, including especially construction engineers, mechanic engineers and engineers whose specialty is electricity. The architect must also know local law and regulations. A good architect must meet the deadlines and the budget proposed. Apart from technical knowledge an architect must have relational abilities and business skills, as all in all, architecture is an economic activity. Having talent and drawing nicely are only the first stages for materializing a vision.

Architects draw drafts. These drafts show the connection between spaces and between activities. Execution drawings describe the projects in all their details. After that the price of the work is estimated. The drawings are the basis of house building. Thanks to IT, the architect can give a lively image to different projects, making colorful perspectives based on drawings. 3D images and virtual reality are no more secrets for architects. Models and video animation help customers watch projects.

### Challenges

You shouldn’t ignore the idea that, an architect too, can have a typical day, and the risk of routine may appear in this case too. You have to know this before becoming an architect. But don’t worry! I only told that there is a risk…Actually, there isn’t a typical day for an architect, but most of the times architects must: meet a customer, obtain a contract, solve problems, appreciate prices, meet engineers and receive advice or give advice, draw, go to public audiences, write invoices, make offers, visit a building site. Therefore, each activity has its particularity, first of all because architects work with people and we all know that people are so different…Handling all the aspects of such a demanding job may be a real challenge, and you won’t have the possibility to get bored.

### Final notes

After you are aware of all that was stated before, and if you really want to have an architect career, your target can be to obtain a working license as an architect. On this purpose you must receive some architecture training or education, you must get experience and of course, you must pass an exam.

As far as training is concerned, firstly you need a university degree in architecture. Besides, there are many further programs in the domain of architecture, related to long life learning, as older architects must be informed about changes in their domain, about everything new.

Experience can be obtained during internships and by having good teachers at school. The exam can be passed assisted by the computer. In order to become an architect you need a license because without it, customers won’t trust in you. If you want an architect career, you must be informed about admission criteria in architecture universities. You must have skills for mathematics too, especially for geometry.

A beginner architect may try different jobs, in the same domain, of course. They can be designers, construction engineers, teachers, researchers and why not researchers.

To conclude, why not becoming an architect? Maybe you will have the opportunity to design that town of the future you dreamt at while you were a kid and you were building sandcastles at the seaside, on the beach… just as we, Architects Cantersteen, do every day!

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## History of architecture

### Introduction

More information about the history of architectures can be found on Wikipedia.

Architecture is the science of designing and making a building. While architecture is a science, it is also an art. Architecture is the most useful of the arts as well as the oldest.

The Greeks were among the earliest architects. Greek architecture has had a profound influence on later forms of architecture. Modern architecture is one of the newer forms of architecture and is credited with giving architecture a creative boost. The newest form of architecture is postmodern architecture.

### Greek architecture

There are 2 types of Greek architecture: sacred architecture and secular architecture.

The temple buildings where gods and goddesses were worshiped and sacrifices were made characterize sacred architecture. Worship of gods and goddesses took place inside the temples, while sacrifices took place at the altars outside. Often an altar was built before the temple, but the earliest monumental buildings were temples. Temples were built to be strong and were carefully maintained. They had to be replaced only if an earthquake, a fire, or an attacking enemy destroyed them. A colonnade that provided shelters for visitors enclosed Greek temples. That is why some of the buildings are still standing, such as the Acropolis.

Greek cities were social, commercial, and were often governmental centers for large communities along the sea. In a Greek city there were public baths, a gymnasium, a stadium, and a theater. Greek sanctuaries were often in the countryside. Some were famous healing centers.

While revived versions of Greek architecture, such as the White House and most capitol buildings, stand today in modern cities, new styles of architecture are more common. One of the most interesting is Modern architecture.

### Modern architecture

Modern architecture is totally different from Greek architecture. Modern architecture foreshadowed how buildings of the future would look. Modern architecture is characterized by the use of simple shapes and geometry, and it employs the use of more and different materials than ever before. The United Nations Headquarters in New York City and the House on the Rocks by Frank Lloyd Wright are well-known examples of modern architecture. Wright believed that modern architecture should use nature and be modeled after nature. This idea became a springboard for postmodern architecture.

Most modern architecture is constructed of steel with lots of glass. Modern architects prescribe to the theory, articulated by Ludwig Mies, that less is more. “Less is more” means that even though a structure is simple it can still look good. Modern architecture created by Walter Groupis, Ludwig Mies, and Miles Van Der Rohe prevailed during the twentieth century. During this time, many architects tried to clone modern architecture, and many buildings began to resemble ugly, cement boxes with glass windows. This has given modern architecture a bad name.

### Postmodern architecture

In reaction to the cement box clones of modern architecture, Robert Venturi created a new type of architecture—postmodern architecture. Postmodern architecture began to emerge in the early 1950s. Venturi’s form of architecture was often picturesque and dramatic, moving away from the "less is more” dictum. The postmodern architects combined elements of the past, such as columns and arches borrowed from the Greeks, and added to them the simplicity of modern architecture to create a medium. Postmodernism joins the past and present. Buildings such as the opera house in Sydney and Robert Stern’s graceful beach cottage are well known examples of postmodern architecture.