

CAREERS IN BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION

Landscape Architect

Landscape architects plan and design land areas for projects such as parks, schools, hospitals, roads, malls, plazas, sports complexes, holiday resorts, hotel complexes, shopping centres, airports, housing subdivisions, national parks playgrounds and commercial, industrial and residential sites. Landscape architecture combines creative design with a knowledge of materials and techniques used in landscape construction and engineering and an understanding of natural and social systems. Landscape architects may perform tasks including:

- ◆ studying and discussing designs, costs and construction of projects with clients;
- ◆ consulting architects, engineers and other professionals and gathering information on factors such as historical and natural conservation requirements, soil structure, drainage, existing and proposed buildings and sun and shade movements;
- ◆ drawing up site plans outlining the development of the site, discussing with clients and seeking approval;
- ◆ preparing specifications, arranging cost estimates, listing building materials required and detailing working drawings of the site, showing features such as location of buildings, roads and walkways, land contours and drainage systems, soil conservation measures and the vegetation to be planted or retained;
- ◆ supervising site work; and
- ◆ advising on landscape problems concerned with environmental planning.

Landscape architects may specialise in particular projects such as parks, playgrounds, roads or public housing. They may also specialise in particular types of services such as regional planning and resource management, site selection, cost studies or site construction. Landscape architects may work independently or with other professionals such as architects, engineers and town planners.

Personal Requirements

- ◆ analytical and planning ability
- ◆ interest in and talent for design
- ◆ creative flair
- ◆ good communication skills
- ◆ an interest in the natural environment.

Education and Training

The minimum requirement for professional entry to this occupation is the completion of an accredited degree course in landscape architecture.

- ◆ Bachelor of Landscape Architecture

