

arcCA DIGEST Student Survey

25 February 2020 – 16 March 2020

Q1: What year are you in architecture school?

74 of 74 responded.

First year pre-professional (A.S., A.A., B.S., B.A., or similar)	12.16%	9
Second year pre-professional (A.S., A.A., B.S., B.A., or similar)	16.22%	12
Third year pre-professional (B.S., B.A., or similar)	8.11%	6
Fourth year pre-professional (B.S., B.A., or similar)	2.70%	2
First year B. Arch.	6.76%	5
Second year B. Arch.	4.05%	3
Third year B. Arch.	20.27%	15
Fourth year B. Arch.	12.16%	9
Fifth year B. Arch.	2.70%	2
First year M. Arch.	5.41%	4
Second year M. Arch.	2.70%	2
Third year M. Arch.	6.76%	5

Q2: When you first entered architecture school, what were your reasons for studying architecture?

72 of 74 responded; the responses have been sorted after the fact, to group similar ones together.

Purpose

I was passionate about design, and wanted to be able to create better spaces for people.

Purpose – a sense of belonging. Idealizations that make their way into reality. A heartfelt connection to creativity and something that will shape who I am as a professional and defined individual. The future of our cities.

When I first entered architecture school, my being of reasoning to study architecture was to not only study it as not a passion but rather having the passion if buildings were talking to me.

I wanted to help people live better lives through creating places where they'd live out their lives.

I have an extreme passion as soon for the field and the institution of sustainability. I don't want to be some kind of starchitect, but I'd like to help shape the future industry of construction. Our buildings are massive polluters. My goal is to see how we can curb that impact. Buildings last a long time too. It's a dream of mine to look at some prominent structure and have the ability to say yes, I helped back that building a reality.

I knew I wanted to study architecture since I was a child, and that desire never diminished before going to college. It was never a question of what I was going to study, just where. I felt that

architecture was the most important and beautiful creative endeavor when I was younger, and I'm glad that I still hold those beliefs.

It seemed like a very well rounded major to follow with the hopes of making things that matter.

Process of architecture to create public art and installations. Community and nonprofit engagement

I wanted to design homes because I moved a lot in my life and each home was in a different country and had completely different architecture so I just wanted to learn more about how things came to be and how I can contribute to it.

Social justice.

Learning how to create buildings for the future.

I have a passion for designing and creating a building that the users will be able to enjoy to for long time. I also want to design homes and be able to create the dream space people are looking for or to transform a space that currently is not working into one that will.

It's always been my dream of getting to create.

I was interested in meshing art and math. I took a high school class on drafting and loved the idea that something I drew could actually be built. It was more practical than other majors I was looking into, and I thought it would lead to a stable career.

I wanted to create things in the world and I felt I had the skill set and mind set to do so.

Design mentality, opportunities for physical change in the world. Personally intrigued by design.

I've always been curious as to how buildings are designed and built since I grew up in a small town that was slowly booming. I grew up around a lot of construction sites. I have a great respect for the outdoors and I wanted to pursue architecture to make a difference.

I want to create memorable experiences through architecture that will be cherished for a lifetime.

The freedom of designing beyond function.

Art + Science/Math

I loved art as well as logic, so I thought that is the best.

My reasons were originally because I enjoyed designing spaces and wanted a profession that blended creative problem solving and mathematical skills.

I was genuinely interested in the design and organization of buildings and reasoned that architecture would be a practical application of art and creativity.

I like drawing with both hands and software. For this reason I chose architecture.

I am an artistic and technical individual – and fundamentally, I am passionate about both creating and observing space.

Architecture is a broad field of studies covering various matters in the world. I have been interested in art and science and I believe that architecture is where the two meet. I find it fascinating how architects are one of the most powerful people in shaping this physical world we are in.

It's a resplendent synthesis of art, science/mathematics. Creative and logical faculties.

To learn more about the field and because I was good at math and I had an art background.

I like to study architecture because it is a science full of elegance like art, painting and design.

Seems art more professional.

I loved the idea of a job that allows me to be creative and at the same time having a linear foundation to it.

Architecture combined both art and mathematics and I loved the idea of not having to compromise one thing for the other

I felt I had skills that would apply to the profession. I was good at math and drawing.

To combine a love of arts and science.

I wanted a major where I could express myself and that encompassed my love for art/design and math.

Architecture was a stable career in the art field.

Practice

Practice architecture.

To have a specialized skill rather than just an office manager. I have room to grow as a person becoming an architect. I've wanted to do architecture, but during my time, I had limited resources on where to apply for school.

Desire to be a residential architect.

To make spaces.

To become a licensed architect.

An interest in interior design.

Learn architectural representation skills and design media.

I was interesting with drawing plans and making something from my hands.

I was interested in interior design but recommended by my first school to go for a B.Arch. degree, as this is a professional degree with more potential options.

I like to draw and design buildings.

Wanting to look into understanding how to read blueprints.

I liked studying architecture and found designing buildings fun and something I wanted to do as a profession.

I wanted to learn the basic framework for design

I have always had an eye for design as well as building things; architecture seemed like a reasonable option.

I came here to expand my creative capabilities and absorb the various ways to help me prepare to become an architect.

To become an architect, more specifically because it is interesting and combines all of my favorite subjects into one profession.

My reasons for first entering architecture school were to explore design. To put it simply, I wanted to understand how to design and build structures. I find buildings very interesting and I wanted to know how they worked and how to design them.

To learn new skills to expand job opportunities for me.

Other

When I resigned from Hopkins Architects in 2005 to pursue a career in art, I knew I was going to be back to architecture a decade from it. And I did, unknowingly with M.Arch. program at CCA.

I first started architecture school in 2017 as graduate student. Got my undergraduate degree in computer science but always had the passion for design. Worked for a couple of years in architecture/design related work. Stumbled upon Rem Koolhaas's story of how he became an architect at an older age, which inspired me to peruse a master's degree after years of work.

Buildings look cool.

I was and still am fascinated with geometry and construction.

Just curious about architecture.

I have always been interested in studying architecture, at first I was a bit nervous that I would not make it, but I decided to not be afraid and to go for it because "you only live once," so I'm striving for something I love.

My reasons for studying architecture were with the exciting esthetics that projects have.

I wanted to follow my father because he is an architect. I think I can help him with my family business if I got the degree.

Influence of parents.

Meditating myself.

I didn't want to go into school undeclared.

Sounded cool.

Interest in architecture.

I have wanted to study architecture since I was little

I traveled the world while I was in the military and every time we would go to a country, I would always go to the most populated places and grab lunch and sit there and look at all the different buildings. Old mixed with new. It definitely inspired me to become an architect.

I want to be an architect, have since I was in elementary.

I love to work with creative people and create beautiful buildings and designs.

I was a civil engineer major and architecture is the most similar course there is to civil engineering.

I like to draw drawings and objects.

Q3: At this point in your education, what are your reasons for studying architecture?

72 of 74 responded; the responses have been sorted after the fact, to group similar ones together.

Purpose

To create and redesign architecture into a more sustainable practice, work in multi-disciplinary studio, and work along with art programs.

Same optimistic description as above, but this time I have discovered "defined self" and continuously push to grow more. Architecture stretches your process of thinking and establishes character that lifts you and, without exception, motivates you to persevere. It's a gratifying game of tug a war. With the knowledge I have uncovered as a student, I have begun to understand architecture and why it's so important to communities and the world. Shaping the "new" cities and adapting to current conversations. These reasons are why I still study architecture. A constant experiment of the visualization of space inside and out; dissecting how conceptual designs will lead to a finished product of inhabitation.

I have a better knowledge of what I'm doing and I'm still able to combine the business skills I have with architecture. Time is changing and so does architecture. I like how we're trying to incorporate architecture within our time.

I am still highly focused on the idea of building more efficiently. However, I now have a better understanding that sustainability comes in many forms. I have a bigger focus on wanting to support communities just as much as I want to benefit the environment. I'd say my goals have become more well-rounded. I have a better understanding in what ways I can make an impact in our built environments. My biggest concerns come from doing work that doesn't necessarily progress my skills rather makes me more meticulous to details. Only being an intern, I know I can't make the big decisions, but I would like to do more than make documents look accurate.

I had no idea how interesting architectural theory is... and I still want to help create housing.

I want people to inhabit my art; I want to make space that improves how people view themselves and how they interact with others.

My reasons now are to better my community through sensitive and intelligent design and to work in an environment with other creative individuals.

I am in process of completing the Certificate in Architecture and Design. I want to create purposeful, meaningful spaces for people to thrive in.

It's amazing to see all the innovation within the field and I hope to be a part of those creative solutions predicting and resolving the needs of the future.

As I learn more along my educational journey in architecture, I realized how architecture is also tied to various social, political, and environmental issue. I have been deeply passionate about social impacts and the environment, and at this point in my education, I have grown to be more and more certain of my decision of choosing this major. I seek to make change through design and urban planning.

To understand the greater scope that affects what we build/ design.

Same reasons. Want to use my knowledge to help my people.

I see several opportunities for professional and personal growth, as well as leaving a mark on humanity through design.

I enjoy the exploration in digital tools to create forms and geometry with the idea that people are going to inhabit it in mind.

Understanding the philosophy what is the beneficial architect for human being.

Social justice.

Helping create a better environment for the future.

I want to be able to finish my degree and get a job that will allow me to design buildings that will benefit the community.

To build a better world for future generations.

I love the idea of impacting the world in a spatial manner, as well as creating spaces that are meaningful and emotionally impact those who exist in them. I still believe it will be a stable career path, especially as I become licensed.

Passion to change the world for the better and serve my mission and purpose for God.

I care about people and want to contribute to the overall good of the earth for people through design and relationships.

Community enhancement, growth for the world. Still love design aspect of architecture.

I believe I will have financial freedom and a beautiful future, also structural stability in my life and all family. I will help lots of people, and I will do what I like.

I continue to have the same reasons, only now I feel a lot more confident that this is what my purpose is in life.

Enjoyment

It is fun, satisfying, and creative to design and create.

I enjoy the design process of exploration and representation. Would love to open my own practice at a certain point in life.

It's a field I find myself very passionate about, all new thing I learn in school interest and excite me.

It is one of the few things that I don't mind spending any and all of my time doing; it's easy to lose myself in my work. On a more practical level, however, the specificity and limited career paths of architecture can be comforting.

I enjoy the exploration in digital tools to create forms and geometry with the idea that people are going to inhabit it in mind.

I love everything about architectural design. The design process is fun and the method presenting is interesting as well.

I enjoy the program I am going through and the material we cover throughout my classes.

I fell in love with the major from the very first class. Everything is attractive, the work field, the field, the people I've met in here, I've loved it all.

I enjoy designing buildings a space that people inhabit. I also continue to study architecture to see how far I can push my own designs and keep trying to make the best spaces I can.

I still want to go into environmental and sustainable design but I've grown to really love the design component of architecture. I think it's interesting exploring how different spaces interact with each other and how spaces make you feel. One day I would like to open up my own firm.

I have fallen in love with the study and design of buildings especially sleek, modern designs.

I have fallen in love with the process and being in our class studio is a feeling and experience that I would never give up.

Because it is interesting and I can see myself enjoying this latter on, as well.

I believe I will have financial freedom and a beautiful future, also structural stability in my life and all family. I will help lots of people, and I will do what I like.

I enjoy designing and believe it can help me in the jobs I am currently working in. Also believe it can help me get work in a field I haven't pursued yet.

At this point in my education, I am studying architecture because I find architecture to be inspiring. I cannot wait for the day where my own designs get built. I find how much work goes into designing, constructing, and building a structure to be very intriguing.

Intellect

Conceptual architecture.

I had no idea how interesting architectural theory is... and I still want to help create housing.

Have critical thinking of the world through architecture and design.

Architecture is a major of all majors. It is fascinating discovering different forms and ideas, as well as interacting with society and history.

I admire the morphology of a building and working hand in hand with creativity and technology.

Same reasons as a creative and intellectual outlet that.

Understanding the philosophy what is the beneficial architect for human being.

I really value the way learning design methods and developing design solutions has expanded my scope of knowledge in addition to the way I tackle problems in non-architecture fields.

I enjoy designing buildings a space that people inhabit. I also continue to study architecture to see how far I can push my own designs and keep trying to make the best spaces I can.

I want to travel and explore more. I want to go into different buildings in different parts of world and just sit there and marvel. My reason right now for studying though is simple: I want to learn more and be stable in my knowledge for the future.

One main reason is that I want to finish my degree. Also, I appreciate the art form and how architecture goes beyond the bounds of physical space.

Because it is interesting and I can see myself enjoying this latter on, as well.

To have a more in depth understanding of architecture.

At this point in my education, I am studying architecture because I find architecture to be inspiring. I cannot wait for the day where my own designs get built. I find how much work goes into designing, constructing, and building a structure to be very intriguing.

Practice

To develop a profession.

To upgrade the knowledge I earned a decade and half ago, and cope with the current and future way of thinking as an architect.

I enjoy the design process of exploration and representation. Would love to open my own practice at a certain point in life.

To become a licensed architect and open my own practice.

I can have good job position.

It is one of the few things that I don't mind spending any and all of my time doing; it's easy to lose myself in my work. On a more practical level, however, the specificity and limited career paths of architecture can be comforting.

I would love to finish an associate degree in Architecture from community college and hopefully continue at a University level for a Bachelor or start to work at an Architect firm.

Interior designer.

To getting an architecture degree and have a strong foundation of design so I can have the option to work in multiple design fields.

Becoming an architect and great designer.

I love the idea of impacting the world in a spatial manner, as well as creating spaces that are meaningful and emotionally impact those who exist in them. I still believe it will be a stable career path, especially as I become licensed.

To gain skills to work in the architectural industry.

I am studying architecture now to be able to design architecture in a firm.

I still want to go into environmental and sustainable design but I've grown to really love the design component of architecture. I think it's interesting exploring how different spaces interact with each other and how spaces make you feel. One day I would like to open up my own firm.

To lead into a career of architecture.

I want to be an architect, have since I was in elementary. And to revitalize one of the world's oldest professions.

I believe I will have financial freedom and a beautiful future, also structural stability in my life and all family. I will help lots of people, and I will do what I like.

To get a job in architecture field and make it as my career.

I enjoy designing and believe it can help me in the jobs I am currently working in. Also believe it can help me get work in a field I haven't pursued yet.

Completion

I have to get the degree, because it's already half way.

To make something complete in my life. Don't want to give up halfway.

Wanting to get a degree.

I'm in too deep.

One main reason is that I want to finish my degree. Also, I appreciate the art form and how architecture goes beyond the bounds of physical space.

Other

At this point, realizing the definition of architecture in terms would be no matter where we go, architecture is just right in front of us.

Same as stated above.

Because architecture is the major I can do best.

Still the same.

My reasons have not changed. Now though it is following my passion with intention and working hard for it.
To create using my observational, communicative and research skills.
Have a little background on how architecture designing works.

Q4: As you look ahead to entering architectural practice, what hopes, expectations, or concerns—for your own experience or for architecture itself—would you like the profession to be alert to?

70 of 74 responded.

I wish it would push more into being sustainable. Sometimes architecture school has a different conversation compared to practice, and I think they shouldn't be that apart. The importance of our practice most times is lost because of [the] price of it.

In architectural practice, having a strong voice and promoting change is significant. As an upcoming professional in such a competitive field, directly out of an educational environment, having a fresh voice will hopefully provide positive incentive to a collaborative team. I expect long hours and concentrated work. It will not be easy, but being surrounded by so much charisma and expertise thoroughly appeals to me.

My expectations of architecture are to be a full-fledged licensed architect and have my own firm to manage.

I think one thing that architects need to constantly be aware of is our impact on our communities and how we can help improve them. We have tremendous gifts, talents, and influence, and we need to use all of it to the benefit of others.

I want to have a role to move architecture more into sustainability as of design and using the material. Also I believe architecture is what gets built, if it is just an idea or [does] not get built it stays a design or an idea and not architecture.

To have some people skill[s]. Architecture is a tense career, but we're also human. I've worked in four different firms for my internship program, and I can see how work culture can make a huge impact on how people perform and design.

Being able to build upon my education is my biggest goal. I want to work with a firm that does much more than single-family housing. I want to get right in depth with a high-density urban area. I'm not exactly sure what kind of work I will be doing but it's in cities where I'd love to work. I know money is a major driver of the project, especially the profits of the developer. That being said, I want to work with a firm that does take the risks with the design. Our buildings can be much more efficient if we designed them to be as such. It's important to me that I find a firm that thinks like this.

I hope to put a bit of architectural theory to work in practice.

Sometimes I worry about architecture losing its identity.

I'm concerned that creative vision and the value architects can provide to spatial organization and aesthetic pleasure will become less important in the future. I'm scared that architecture will be co-opted by technologists who have no regard for space, experience, or human creativity and architecture will instead be relegated to algorithmic pseudo-logic – a tool rather than a professional art.

I hope to be able to build my own style, which I already have in drawings. I hope to help our environment instead of forcing my style to fit in it.

I'm open for working under any project type as each type has details that you might not be able to learn somewhere else. Hopefully I'll settle on the long run in a niche aspect. Custom housing is my passion for now. BIM software is a key element for the future of architecture and would definitely love getting on that train before its too late.

I am concerned that architecture firms cultivate an unhealthy work-life balance and do not pay their employees fairly for their time and effort.

I am looking at access and privilege. We need more community spaces created that are accessible and welcoming to all ranges and ages of people. Spaces for workshops, organizing, childcare, and a respite from the bustle of city living.

I hope the evolution of architecture continues to highlight environmentalism through design and sustainable building practices.

Abroad work & opportunities for students & graduates.

I hope I can draw beautiful buildings with perfect design for my clients.

My hope, primarily – like many, I believe – is to one day be able to design a building with creative freedom and liberty. And if I'm being honest with myself, I most look forward to designing a home for myself. My expectations for the field are high, and I hope as much as possible to be involved in the creative process.

Climate change, housing crisis, sustainability, equality.

I hope to enter a field in which I can open up my own practice within other professional competition.

I hope I could keep learning and make my works have an impact on the real world. The concern is that it will need way more time to reach that goal.

In this money-driven era, I hope once I get into real practice, I don't want to be stuck in one single idea that I would use over and over again, without any new discoveries.

I hope to get a diverse work experience, allowing me to understand the field from multiple perspectives.

I'm excited in experiencing the journey of creating buildings that will serve to continue to be part of the spatial and temporal trajectories of the society we inhabit.

Before new materials and technologies, we were all making 'old design.'

The fact that, specifically speaking, SF has a housing crisis and is getting really expensive that also goes along with the environmental crisis.

I would really like to break away from the standardized "architects" and norms that are being taught to us. I would truly love to not build for the 1%.

Some of the concerns for me would be if in the future there would still be jobs available for the architecture field for me / students to continue pursuing their dreams.

I would like to open my own architecture office and give job opportunities through my business.

Yes.

As architects are transitioning to a digital age, I hope to see more inclusion towards digital fabrication processes.

I have hopes of getting to work in different tasks rather than just one assigned task every time.

Preparing ARE credential study at school.

I hope I will get enough paid so that I can still maintain my dream work.

Further preparing students for changing legal sustainability standards that may be different from when we start school to when we finish.

Hope can be a licensed architect.

I am a little afraid that I wouldn't be able to sustain myself in San Francisco.

Social justice.

How to create structures that do not impact the environment.

I'm hoping not to just learn how to draw a building to scale, or in a certain perspective or even how to use the computer program. Rather to learn how to think with a different perspective, focused on designing building that meet people's needs and not just a beautiful piece of art.

I am not sure where I want to live after college and there is that concern of getting an internship and the time it takes to get the needed hours for my license. I'm excited to work alongside professionals and gain experience in the work place and learning first hand about how the process works outside of studio.

I know that there is so much to learn in this field, that I don't know where to start.

To not get stuck detailing bathrooms.

It would be of interest to me if there were ways of explaining things in simplest terms at times when needed. There should be a class for architect vocabulary.

I want to make sure we don't innovate ourselves out of a job.

I think that diversity within the field should continue to expand and people should become attuned to the marginalization of certain groups that we are working with, as well as building for. I think that architecture should continue to be more than just a building, but more an idea and a story that will impact its users. Newer generations should always be looking towards ways of using technologies to enhance digital fabrication methods, too. And, probably most importantly, the profession NEEDS to focus on sustainable building practices for the sake of our dying Earth.

I don't understand this question.

I hope to one day become a principal architect, because I want to lead people, and I know I can make a change in the world. However, one concern I have for the profession of architecture is that we as architects have to know the equivalent of what a surgeon needs to know about the human body, but surgeons get compensated for their expertise, whereas architects do a lot more work than what we get compensated for.

I am scared that there might not be enough work. I do know, however, that as an architect you may work in many other fields, not just architecture itself. I am also concerned that sometimes buildings do more harm to the environment than they do good, and I wish there was anything someone could do to change it.

Awareness of workaholism. It is something prevalent in the field that makes me consider leaving the field.

I don't think I can see any immediate concerns. I hope and expect that the environment of competition between firms will still be there or even better when I begin to work as an architect.

I hope the profession becomes more open to different ideas and different tools/methods to conveying their designs.

I hope that I am well equipped enough to keep up with firms. Beyond this, I would like the profession to be aware and ready for a world of technological ads a cement via simplistic architecture, and advanced technology.

My personal concern is the pay wage. A lot of architecture students (myself included) do not know what we are supposed to tell the interviewer when they ask what part [pay?] we should be asking for.

I get nervous that, when I work for an office, I will only have the capacity to engage in some components rather than be allowed to experience a little bit of everything to grow as a designer myself.

I hope to work at a firm for the beginning of my career then start my own firm with the knowledge acquired. My concern is finding the right kind of coworkers who are motivated and skilled, but also fun loving and innovative.

I'd like to learn more of architects themselves and provide us students with experiences they've encountered and really just mentor us for what is ahead of us.

I worry that the virtues I have been attempting to develop while in school, such as courage, honesty, and humility, will be diminished once out in the field. I hope to maintain the honesty we are taught here at school, and I hope to not enter the professional world with the intention of just marketing myself for the sake of "making it." Throughout my time in school, we have been challenged to seek what architecture truly is and the virtues and vices attached with this line of work. This discussion should not end once I graduate. I hope to continue the dialogue in every workplace I encounter.

I just hope that starting a family doesn't interfere too much with my career progression.

How technology will forever change architecture with the use of big data.

Keeping an eye out for young and new architects that have so much passion they can incorporate into the industry.

The need for green / less environmentally harming architecture.

At this point in my education I don't really feel that I have enough information to make a good inference on what I would like.

Learning all what I have to learn and understood helps outside of the classroom environment.

Breaking into the industry and actually finding a job.

Architecture is about collaboration and studio class is where the profession is not only learned, but it is the environment that architects work in during their professional practice. I hope that the collaborative studio environment continues and only gets more influencing because architecture is not about competitiveness between individuals. I also hope that future projects really push environmental and sustainable designs because architecture should be about making something useful in more ways than one and be about giving back to the community it is built in.

We lots of working on the computer and we use only programs; furthermore, I believe we need to work more by using our hands.

My hope is to take everything I will learn from the classes I am taking to go onto something new and exciting that will let me work on something I can be proud of and share with others.

I hope to be able to design and draft a lot better than how I draft now.

Make it better.

Q5: What is the name of your school?

73 of 74 responded

California Baptist University	18
California College of the Arts	23
California Polytechnic State University	1
University of Southern California	3
Woodbury University	7
College of Marin	1
College of San Mateo	1
Fresno City College	1
Glendale Community College	7
Palomar College, San Marcos	5
Southwestern College	5
University of Damascus	1
