

Architectural Technologist / Technician

A guide for newcomers to British Columbia



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1. Working as an Architectural Technologist / Technician [NOC 2251]

Job Description

Architectural technologists and technicians help professional architects design, carry out and supervise building projects. You do the following:

- Create working drawings and models from architects' designs
- Make sure designs meet building code regulations
- Prepare cost estimates and instructions for builders
- Prepare contract and bidding documents
- Represent architects on building sites

Sources:

- *WorkBC Career Profile for Architects (NOC 2251)*
<https://www.workbc.ca/Job-Seekers/Career-Profiles/2251>
- *Career Cruising* (Profile for Architectural Tech)
<http://www.vpl.ca/digital-library/career-cruising>

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Industry Overview

The demand for architectural technologists and technicians is expected to grow in the coming years. The number of jobs is closely linked to the number of projects within the construction industry:

- new infrastructure and resource-related projects lead investment
- future expansion is concentrated in non-residential construction

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- housing-related construction is projected to remain largely unchanged
- housing starts decline in 2017 and 2019 while renovation construction advances slowly across the scenario period.

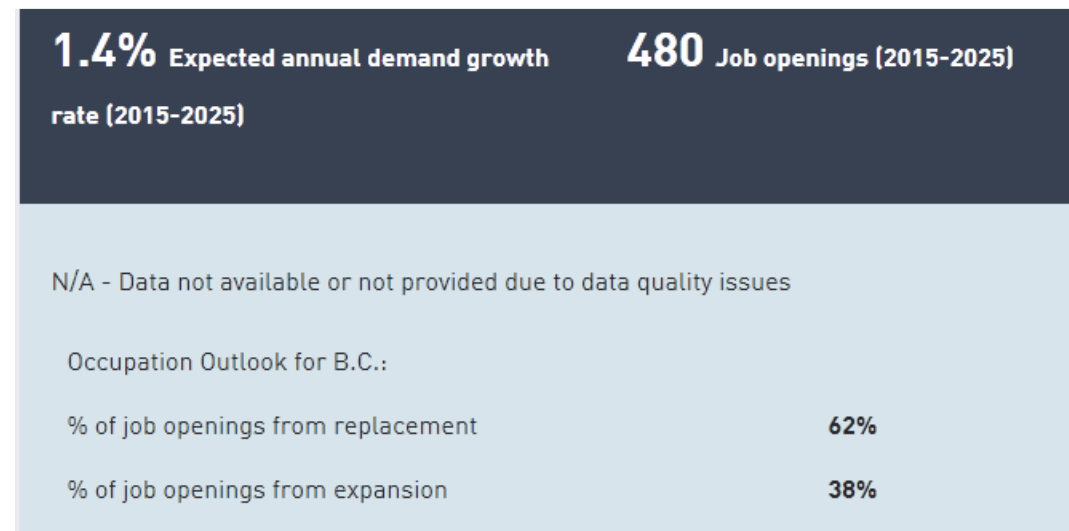
Source: Buildforce Canada, 2016-2025, British Columbia, Construction and Maintenance Looking Forward,

http://www.buildforce.ca/en/system/files/products/2016_BC_Constr_Maint_Looking_Forward.pdf

Job Outlook in BC

Architectural Technologists and Technicians, NOC 2251

Employment Outlook Architectural Technologists & Technicians, NOC 2251



Source: <https://www.workbc.ca/Job-Seekers/Career-Profiles/2251>

JobBank Canada reports that for the 2016-2018 period, the employment outlook is expected to be fair for Architectural technologists and technicians (NOC 2251) in the *Lower Mainland - Southwest region*. Employment growth is expected to be moderate and a large number of people are expected to retire.

The **Employment Outlook for BC** provides job openings projections for architectural technologists & technicians in three BC regions:

| Region | 2015-2025 Estimated Job Openings | 2015-2025 Average Annual Employment Growth |
|----------------------------|--|--|
| Vancouver Island | 50 | 0.5% |
| Lower Mainland / Southwest | 360 | 1.5% |
| Thompson Okanagan | 70 | 2.9% |

Source: <https://www.workbc.ca/Job-Seekers/Career-Profiles/2251>

You can learn more about working as an Architectural Technologist/Technician in BC from:

- *WorkBC Career Profile for Architects (NOC 2251)*
<https://www.workbc.ca/Job-Seekers/Career-Profiles/2251>
- **Architectural Institute of BC – Architectural Technologist**
http://aibc.ca/wp-content/uploads/files/2016/02/AT_Career_Opportunities.pdf
- *Career Cruising* (Profile for Architectural Tech)
<http://www.vpl.ca/digital-library/career-cruising>

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Types of Employers

You may be employed by:

- architectural and construction firms
- governments
- building contractors
- surveyors
- real estate developers
- consulting engineers
- utility companies

Salary

In BC the average annual **median** salary is \$60,545. Your wage depends on experience, location, and level of education.

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Architectural Technologist/Technician

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Full-time techs usually get benefits as well as a salary. These can include dental coverage, paid vacations, and paid sick days.

Job Bank Canada provides hourly wages for Architectural Technologists & Technicians in two BC regions:

Hourly Wages for Architectural Technologists & Technicians, NOC 2251

Wage Estimates

| Location | Wage (\$/hr) | | |
|---|--------------|--------|-------|
| | Low | Median | High |
| British Columbia | 16.66 | 29.03 | 44.22 |
| Lower Mainland - Southwest Region | 20.58 | 29.61 | 37.04 |
| Vancouver Island and Coast Region | 10.85 | 29.25 | 52.49 |

Chart: Job Bank Canada, wage reports, <http://www.jobbank.gc.ca/>

Working Hours

You generally work a 5 day, 40 hour week. However, you may be expected to work overtime and weekends to meet deadlines.

2. Skills, Education and Experience

Skills

- Math and computer skills
- Written and verbal communication
- Drawing and 3-D visualization
- Detail oriented
- Team project work
- Problem solving

Education and Experience

To work as an architectural tech, you usually require:

- Completion of a college program in architectural technology or a related subject
- Certification with the **Architectural Institute of British Columbia (AIBC)** (<http://aibc.ca/>) and/or **Applied Science Technologists & Technicians of British Columbia (ASTTBC)** (<https://asttbc.org/>) may be required

- A period of supervised work experience, usually two years, is required before certification

Qualifications

You must be registered with the Architectural Institute of British Columbia (AIBC) to use the term *Architectural Technologist*.

Certification as a *Certified Residential Designer* or *Registered Building Designer* is available through the *Applied Science Technologists & Technicians of BC (ASTTBC)*.

For more information see:

- **The Architectural Institute of British Columbia (AIBC)**
<http://aibc.ca/registration/associates/architectural-technologists/> for education and examination requirements
- **Applied Science Technologists & Technicians of British Columbia (ASTTBC)**
https://asttbc.org/registration/technical_specialists/building/
<http://buildingdesign.asttbc.org/>
- **Building Designers Institute of British Columbia (BDIBC)**
<http://www.bdibc.bc.ca/> & <http://buildingdesign.asttbc.org/>
Represents professional architectural and building design technologists and technicians practicing in British Columbia

Internationally Trained and Accredited Architectural Techs

If you are an internationally trained architectural technologist or technician you may qualify for provisional membership with ASTTBC. This includes an assessment of your education and professional credentials.

For more information:

- **ASTTBC Provisional Membership for Internationally Trained Professionals**
www.asttbc.org/registration/itp/
- **Internationally Trained Professionals**
<http://www.ittpbc.com/>

3. Finding Jobs

You'll find job advertisements in local newspapers, trade journals, and electronic sources, as well as through professional associations' publications.

Local Newspapers

You can look at the *Vancouver Sun* and *The Province* at Vancouver Public Library for free. Check the job postings daily, the careers section in the *Vancouver Sun* on Wednesdays and Saturdays and in *The Province* on Sundays.

Job White Pages

JOB Freeway.com

<http://www.vpl.ca/digital-library/jobfreewaycom>

Available from the VPL Digital Library | Explore our Digital Library page

Access at VPL locations only

Online Job Postings

- **Indeed.com**

http://ca.indeed.com/advanced_search

- **Neuvoo.ca**

<http://neuvoo.ca/en>

- **Techjobs.ca**

<http://www.techjobs.ca/en>

- **T-Net British Columbia: BC Technology Job Search**

<http://www.bctechnology.com/tech-careers.cfm>

- **WorkBC**

<https://www.workbc.ca/JobSeekers/SearchResults.aspx>

- **BC Jobs.ca**

<https://www.bcjobs.ca/>

- **BC JobConnect**

<https://www.bcjobconnect.ca> **must have permanent resident number**

newcomers can post their skills, education and work experience to BC employers looking for workers

Professional Associations' Career Resources

- **Architectural Institute of BC (AIBC)**
<https://aibcclassifieds.wordpress.com/category/career-opportunities/>
- **Royal Architectural Institute of Canada RAIC:**
<https://www.raic.org/raic/job-board>

Identifying the Right Position

When you browse job advertisements, you'll find a range of different job titles that are relevant. For architectural technologists/technicians, look for these related job titles (from NOC code 2251):

- architectural design technician/technologist
- architectural technician/technologist
- registered building technologist
- residential building technologist

Creating a List of Potential Employers

You can use directories to produce lists of employers in Vancouver or BC. Contact them directly to find out if they're hiring.

- **Architectural Institute of BC Member Directory**
Click on "Search for a Firm"
<https://aibc.memberpro.net/ssl/main/body.cfm?menu=directory>
- **Business in Vancouver, "Book of Lists"**
See lists of top architects and construction companies. Available at the Central Library, 338.9711 B97b or online at <http://www.biv.com/lists>
- **Canadian Construction Association Membership Directory**
Available at the Central Library, 380 Bu9Cc
Or online at <http://www.cca-acc.com/en/membership/membership>
- **Greater Vancouver Home Builders Association, Membership Directory**
Available at the Central Library, 380 Bu9CBg

Online <http://www.gvhba.org/>

- **Reference Canada**

<http://www.vpl.ca/digital-library/reference-canada>

Click on "Start Search" beside Canadian Businesses, then select the "Advanced Search" button. Select both "Keyword/SIC/NAICS" under Business Type and "City" under Geography. In the top search box enter "architect" and click LOOKUP. Select the appropriate headings, e.g. "architectural designers" "architectural services". You can also try "construction companies". Lower down, select the Province, choose the cities, and click the "View Results" button.

Available from the VPL Digital Library | Explore our Digital Library page

NOTE: *You can access this database from a Library computer. If you are using a computer from outside the Library, you will need a Vancouver Public Library card to login to this database. After clicking on the database name, you will be asked to enter your library card number and PIN (usually last four digits of your telephone number).*

4. Applying for a Job

In Canada, employers usually expect to receive a resume or curriculum vitae and a cover letter that identifies the position you are applying for and summarizes your relevant experience.

Use the library catalogue, <http://vpl.bibliocommons.com/> to find books on writing resumes and cover letters specific to your industry.

To learn about applying for jobs in Canada, use the following guides which are available in print at the Central Library or online at <http://skilledimmigrants.vpl.ca/>.

- **Writing Resumes and Cover Letters**

Go to <http://skilledimmigrants.vpl.ca>

[Search Writing Resumes and Cover Letters]

- **Getting Canadian Work Experience**

Go to <http://skilledimmigrants.vpl.ca>

[Search Getting Canadian Work Experience]

- **Networking for Employment**

Go to <http://skilledimmigrants.vpl.ca>

[Search Networking for Employment]

- **Learn More About Working in BC and Canada**

Go to <http://skilledimmigrants.vpl.ca>

[Search Learn More About Working in BC and Canada]

5. Getting Help from Industry Sources

Industry Associations

Associations in BC and Canada can provide information and assistance. Registration and fees are usually required for membership.

- **Architectural Institute of British Columbia (AIBC)**

<http://www.aibc.ca/>

- **Applied Science Technologists & Technicians of British Columbia (ASTTBC)**

<http://www.asttbc.org>

- **Building Designers Institute of British Columbia (BDIBC)**

<http://www.bdibc.bc.ca>

- **Royal Architectural Institute of Canada**

<https://www.raic.org/>

- **Canadian Construction Association**

<http://www.cca-acc.com/en/>

Industry Journals

Industry journals provide current information about projects, events and companies. The following are available at the Central Library and online:

- **ArchitectureBC** / Architectural Institute of British Columbia
Available at the Central Library, 720.9711 A673n or online at <http://aibc.ca/resources/publications-otherdocuments/architecturebc/>
- **Building**
Available at the Central Library, 690.5 C212 or online at <https://www.building.ca/>
- **Canadian Architect**
Available at the Central Library, 720.5 C212 or online at <http://www.canadianarchitect.com/>
- **Construction Canada**
Available at the Central Library, 692.05 S74 or online at <http://www.constructioncanada.net/>
- **Journal of Commerce**
Available at VPL Central Library, 338.47 J86 BU or online at <http://journalofcommerce.com/>

Questions? Please ask the Information Staff in the Central Library, Vancouver Public Library or telephone 604-331-3603.

Please note that the information in this guide is also available online through the Skilled Immigrant InfoCentre website at <http://skilledimmigrants.vpl.ca/>.