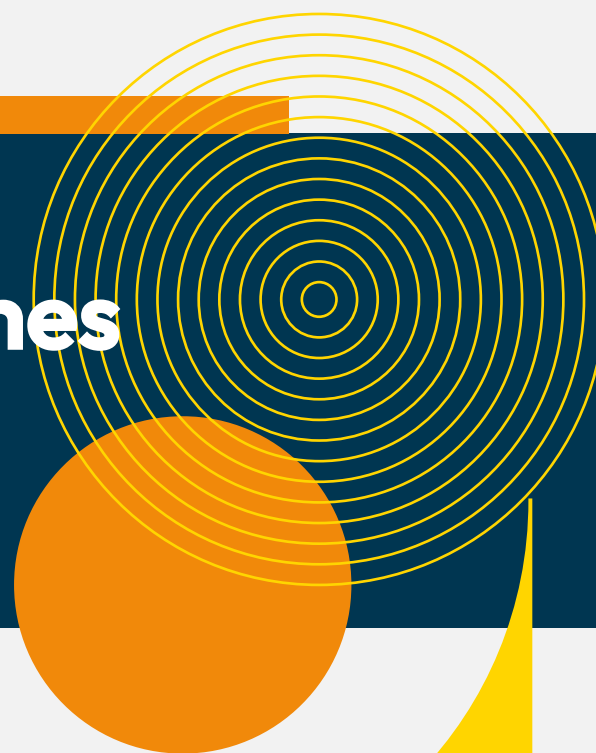




Architects
Registration
Board

Tomorrow's Architects: a Consultation

ARB's Proposed Competency Outcomes for Architects



Introduction

This document outlines the threshold competencies required for registration as an architect irrespective of the route taken to registration. Competence is defined as a professional's ability to carry out their role successfully, having the relevant knowledge, skills, experience and behaviours necessary to achieve this. Knowledge, skills, experience and behaviours are defined through five competency areas:

1. Professionalism and Ethics
2. Design
3. Research and Evaluation
4. Contextual and Architectural Knowledge
5. Management Practice and Leadership



Levels of Competency and their Assessment

Depending upon whether students are being assessed for entry into the profession, or for an intermediate qualification, each outcome will be assessed to a different level. The four levels below are a development of “Miller’s Triangle” which has previously been used to assess competencies in clinical disciplines but can be readily adapted to suit architecture.¹

1

Knows (Knowledge):

The student has gained sufficient grounding in an area to know that this aspect is important and relevant to the subject and practice of architecture and when and where it is relevant. This includes both knowledge of the subject and also the behavioural norms expected of an architect. At this level they will not necessarily have put this knowledge into practice.

2

Knows How (Ability):

The student is able to work with their knowledge to undertake a procedure or processes relevant to the practice of architecture, but in a limited, managed situation.

4

Does (Behaviour):

The student acts in a consistent and independent way within complex, professional situations. At this level the student should be able to demonstrate the attitudes, values and behaviours of one who has come to think, act and feel like an architect. Evidence at this level will be through their direct engagement within architectural practice.

3

Shows How (Performance):

The student is able to demonstrate their capabilities in authentic situations where there is a need to work within multiple constraints and complexities. This might include a comprehensive design project or supervised professional experience. In doing this, they will demonstrate the behaviours expected of an architect. It is recognised that not every student will have the opportunity to demonstrate all competency outcomes within architectural practice, so these competencies may also be assessed through simulated scenarios.

The outcome tables below show the level by which each outcome is to be demonstrated at the conclusion of a Level 7 qualification (**Academic Outcomes**) and at the point of entry into the profession following any requisite period of professional practical experience (**Practice Outcomes**). Those outcomes marked with a → symbol are those where the completion of the Academic Outcomes are sufficient to demonstrate that competency on entering the profession.

¹ Miller, G.E. The assessment of clinical skills/competence/performance. Academic Medicine: September 1990 - Volume 65 - Issue 9 - p S63-7

1 Professionalism and Ethics

Architects entering the profession must demonstrate understanding of their duty to clients, users, society, the environment and their profession, their duty and responsibility to behave ethically with integrity and honesty, and their duty to practise within the limits of their competence and experience. They must demonstrate how they can act as reflective practitioners, capable

of listening to, considering and acting on multiple perspectives, evaluating strengths and weaknesses. They will be able to identify individual learning needs required for further development within the profession. In order to demonstrate these requirements a candidate showing competence in this area will:

Professionalism and Ethics Outcomes		Academic Outcomes	Practice Outcomes
1	Follow the Architects' Code of Conduct, recognising the need to behave with honesty and integrity, in an ethical and professional manner in all circumstances	Knows	Does
2	Demonstrate a committed approach to equity, diversity and inclusion including their approach to designing environments and their relationships with colleagues, employees, clients and communities	Shows How	Does
3	Work constructively with and within a broader team, exercising leadership, initiative, integrity, and personal responsibility	Knows How	Does
4	Treat all people with respect, show empathy and be capable of engaging and collaborating with people who are different from themselves	Shows How	Does
5	Resolve disagreements, conflicting needs, priorities, and views, recognising the need to balance personal and professional ethics	Knows	Shows How
6	Uphold the architect's obligations to the health and safety of the public and building users and building constructors	Knows How	Does
7	Uphold the architect's obligations to the environment, society and the wellbeing and quality of lives of current and future generations	Knows How	Does
8	Recognise the duties of care that architects have towards their clients, users, the public and those with whom they work	Knows How	Does
9	Advocate for the highest appropriate standards in all areas and voice concerns where appropriate standards are not being met	Shows How	Does
10	Adopt a reflective approach to their work and practice and identify individual learning needs required for further development within the profession	Shows How	Does
11	Demonstrate self-awareness, recognising personal strengths and weakness in order to work effectively with others	Shows How	Does
12	Acknowledge and work within the limits of their competence, expertise, and experience	Knows	Does

2 Design

Architects entering the profession must demonstrate the ability to conceive, and resolve in detail, architectural designs of varying scale and complexity underpinned by creativity and innovation. They must show command of the processes of place-making and take account of the physical, cultural, and societal context of their work. They must demonstrate the appropriate use of technical knowledge in resolving their designs, considering the

health and safety needs of users and those responsible for construction. As part of embedding their work within a context of sustainability, they must understand the consequences of their decision-making on society, the built and natural environment, and on the wellbeing of current and future generations. In order to demonstrate these requirements a candidate showing competence in this area will demonstrate that they can:

Design Outcomes		Academic Outcomes	Practice Outcomes
13	Prepare and present architectural design projects of diverse scale, complexity, and type in a variety of contexts, using a range of media, responding critically to a brief	Shows How	→
14	Prepare, appraise and refine building briefs of diverse scales and types, accounting for client, user, site and contextual requirements	Shows How	→
15	Demonstrate a conceptual, critical, creative and innovative approach to architectural design that integrates the aesthetic and spatial, environmental, social and experiential aspects of a building with the technical requirements of its construction	Shows How	→
16	Be considerate of the relationship between people and built environment, between buildings and their context, and the need to relate buildings and the spaces between them to human needs, inclusive design, user experience and scale	Shows How	→
17	Understand the consequences of design decision making on clients, users, communities, society and the local and global environment	Shows How	→
18	Propose design solutions within budgetary constraints that achieve or, where possible, exceed relevant performance standards and requirements	Shows How	→
19	Understand the consequences of their decision making on value for money to clients and communities over the lifecycle of built projects	Shows How	→
20	Advocate for sustainable/regenerative design solutions and ethical sourcing and supply chains throughout the life cycle of architectural projects that meet or, where possible, go beyond minimum standards	Shows How	Does
21	Understand the implications and benefits of working with existing buildings including potential for re-use and retrofit, and the resulting environmental impact	Shows How	→
22	Propose strategies for structure, construction technology, materials use, visual, thermal and acoustic environments, and building services that are appropriate to a project's brief and context	Shows How	→
23	Prepare details, schedules, specifications, and other relevant production information that meet project requirements	Shows How	→
24	Design, detail and specify considering the consequences of their decision making on the fire, life safety and wellbeing and inclusivity of users, the public and building constructors	Shows How	→
25	Use appropriate digital systems for creating, modelling, processing, presenting, and sharing design, building and project information	Knows How	Shows How

3 Research and Evaluation

Architects entering the profession must be capable of conducting the systematic research necessary to undertake their work. This will include identifying and evaluating appropriate materials, technologies, systems, and construction methods and where necessary developing and testing new techniques. It will include

developing a critical understanding of project contexts and stakeholder needs. They will be able to integrate their findings into practicable design proposals. In order to demonstrate these requirements a candidate showing competence in this area will demonstrate that they can:

Research and Evaluation Outcomes		Academic Outcomes	Practice Outcomes
26	Use techniques of research, enquiry and experimentation to develop innovative solutions to architectural problems	Shows How	→
27	Work with clients and other stakeholders to gain a mutual understanding of constraints and opportunities, identify immediate and long-term interests, set project agendas, define desirable and feasible project outcomes, and develop appropriate briefs for projects	Knows How	Shows How
28	Identify and respond to relevant contemporary research findings as part of design decision-making	Shows How	Does
29	Critically evaluate a diverse range of historical and contemporary architectural precedents in order to inform design thinking	Shows How	→
30	Locate and interpret relevant legislation, regulations, standards, codes of practice and policies related to the development of the built environment	Shows How	Does
31	Locate and evaluate evidence that may be incomplete or contradictory, critically evaluating the quality of knowledge sources, making judgements and drawing appropriate conclusions that can inform architectural practice	Shows How	→
32	Use modelling and post-occupancy evaluation data to understand performance gaps and benefits and to inform future projects	Knows How	Shows How

4 Contextual and Architectural Knowledge

Architects entering the profession must demonstrate an understanding of the broad context within which architecture sits and of their role within that context. They will be able to apply this knowledge to appropriate aspects of their work. The knowledge and understanding

in this section underpins all other competences and will be used to inform innovative approaches to design problems. In order to demonstrate these requirements a candidate showing competence in this area will demonstrate an understanding of:

Contextual and Architectural Knowledge Outcomes		Academic Outcomes	Practice Outcomes
33	How the diverse, global, cultural, social, economic and intellectual histories, theories and technologies influence the spatial, social, and technological aspects of architecture and urban design	Knows	→
34	The role of architects in society, the design team and the construction industry	Knows	→
35	The principles and relevance of social sustainability, social value and inclusive design	Knows How	→
36	The principles of climate change, environmental, social and building science	Shows How	→
37	The range of strategies for building construction, structure, selection of materials, assembly and manufacture and building services and their implications for building performance, safety, the environment, and the lifecycle of buildings	Knows How	→
38	The principles required to ensure that buildings are safe to construct, inhabit, use, maintain, refurbish, re-use and deconstruct	Knows How	→

5 Management, Practice and Leadership

Architects entering the profession must be capable of running an architectural practice and be able to oversee and participate in the planning, management and monitoring of architectural projects. This includes the ability to engage with clients and stakeholders to understand their aims and needs, execute effective contract communication, resolve construction-related challenges, prioritise activities and to ensure that the

ethical impacts of decision making are considered at all stages including responsibility towards the environment and sustainability. They must be capable of communicating effectively with both specialists and non-specialist audiences and have the skills to manage and communicate building and project information. In order to demonstrate these requirements a candidate showing competence in this area will demonstrate that they can:

Management, Practice and Leadership Outcomes		Academic Outcomes	Practice Outcomes
39	Make use of basic management theories and business principles and recognise how they relate to running an architect's practice	Knows	Shows How
40	Understand the financial and resource management aspects of running an architectural practice including the means of professional remuneration and fee setting	Optional	Knows How
41	Recognise the ethical and legal impact of practice structures, employment terms, procedures, and decision making, and the impact on work/life balance, health and the wellbeing of colleagues	Optional	Knows How
42	Manage and structure projects, administer construction contracts and resolve common construction-related challenges	Knows How	Shows How
43	Manage the inter-relationships of individuals, organisations, statutory bodies, and professions involved in procuring and delivering architectural projects, recognising how these are defined through contractual and organisational structures	Knows How	Shows How
44	Select appropriate procurement routes, recognising their relative risks to contractual parties, their implications for sustainable design outcomes and how these influence the selection and management of construction contracts	Knows How	Shows How
45	Apply principles of risk management, liabilities and insurance to architectural projects	Optional	Shows How
46	Apply principles of cost management, control, and budgeting to architectural projects	Knows How	Knows How
47	Plan, manage and monitor health and safety arrangements for construction projects as required by current legislation and ensure these are appropriately communicated to contractors, sub-contractors, building owners, managers, clients and users	Knows How	Shows How
48	Resource, plan, implement and record project tasks to achieve stated goals, either individually or within a team	Knows How	Does
49	Communicate effectively with both specialist and non-specialist audiences, using a range of media	Shows How	Does





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