Architecture

The art of designing buildings in a social context, architecture integrates many other arts and domains among them aesthetics, the visual arts (including sculpture), and interior design.

Architecture is taught throughout France by a network of 20 Écoles Nationales Supérieures d'Architecture (ENSAs, national higher schools of architecture) and two other institutions that confer degrees recognized as equivalent to the national diplomas awarded by the ENSAs. All of these institutions operate under the joint authority and supervision of the French ministries of culture and higher education. They participate in the National Strategy for Higher Education aiming to promote a learning society, support the economy, develop the European dimension and the internationalization of higher education, promote real social access, act for inclusion and prepare students to respond to the many societal challenges.

The ENSAs enroll approximately 19,000 students, about 12% of whom are from outside France. Very selective, the ENSAs integrate on average 1 candidate in 10. The curriculum covers the range of disciplines required for architectural, urban, and landscape projects. The architect must know how to design while exercising with creativity and concern for aesthetics. About 85% of graduates work in the eld, joining France’s nearly 30,000 architects.

“Architecture is the wise, correct, and magnificent play of volume under light.”
(Le Corbusier, 1920)

International

France has a proud history of architectural creativity: Le Corbusier, Paul Andreu, Jean-Marie Charpentier, Françoise-Hélène Jourda, Christian de Porzamparc, Jean Nouvel, Manuelle Gautrand and Dominique Perrault are a few of the French architects whose names are recognized worldwide.

Great international architects are also well represented in France among them Oscar Niemeyer, Ieoh Ming Pei, Frank Gehry, Renzo Piano, Ricardo Bo II, Tadao And, and Rem Koolhaas. Numerous international networks and cooperative agreements are active in the areas of architectural education, student mobility, and professional exchange. For example: the European Association for Architectural Education (EAAE), the scientific network known as PhilAU (philosophy, architecture, urbanism), the international council of French architects (CIAF), and the International Union of Architects (UIA). The ENSAs have revived the tradition of travel abroad as part of an architect’s education. European exchange programs and international cooperative agreements enable students to obtain credit for study abroad while they absorb other cultures and their approaches to architectural problems and challenges.

Useful links

- Academy of architecture: www.aa.archi.fr
- Albums of young architects and landscape architects: www.citedelarchitecture.fr/fr/ajap-2020
- ArchiRés, the network of libraries of French-speaking schools of architecture: www.archires.archi.fr
- Architecture and historic preservation database: http://www2.culture.gouv.fr/culture/inventai/patrimoine
- ARVHA, Association for Research on the City and the Habitat: www.femmes-archi.org
- Campusart, online application in art and architecture schools: www.campusart.org
- City of architecture and heritage: www.campusfrance.org/en/resource/degrees-in-architecture
- French Ministry of Culture: www.culture.gouv.fr/Sites-thematiques/Architecture
- National Council of the Architects: www.architectes.org

- Architecture accounts for €4.1 billion of the €49.3 of cultural value added (2019)
- 11%: from architecture in cultural jobs (2019)
- 29,700 architects registered on the table of the "Ordre des architectes" in France (2020)
- 31% of women architects in France (2020)
- 19,800 students at ENSA, including 2,280 foreign students (2020)
- 2,200 architect's degrees are awarded each year (2020)

Sources: INSEE - MC - MESRI

• Land use planning • Archaeology
• Design • Teaching • Environment
• Geography • Engineering
• Computer science
• Landscape architecture • Urban studies

SUBFIELDS

- Acoustics • Cartography
- Construction and housing • Design
- Interior decoration and architecture
- Drawing • Sustainable development
- Architectural environments
- Civil engineering • Real estate
- Consulting • Model building
- Materials • Measurement • Modeling
- Standards and regulations
- Historic preservation • Renovation
- Set design • Space design • Topography

RELATED FIELDS
BREVET DE TECHNICIEN SUPÉRIEUR (BTS) (BACCAULAUREAT + 2 YEARS OF HIGHER EDUCATION) – L2
> Almost ten BTE, offered in public and private secondary and postsecondary schools. Examples: Construction; Metal structures; Space design; Home automation; Building coverings; Construction economics; Fluids, energy, environments; Wood and home construction systems; Public works...

DIPLÔME UNIVERSITAIRE DE TECHNOLOGIE (DUT) (BACCAULAUREAT + 2 YEARS OF HIGHER EDUCATION) – L2
> DUT in Civil engineering and sustainable construction, offered in 20 university-based institutes of technology (IUTs).

DIPLÔME D’ÉTUDES EN ARCHITECTURE (DEEA) (BACCAULAUREAT + 3 YEARS OF HIGHER EDUCATION) – L3
> DEEA, 3-year undergraduate (180 ECTS credits) offered in 20 ENSAs: 4,200 hours of study, of which 2,200 in class or lab. Students acquire basic architectural knowledge; design processes; project principles; preparation and defense of final paper; two mandatory 6-week internships. Students earning the DEEA may apply to programs at Master level.

To apply online on CampusArt:
ENSAs et de Paysage de Lille: www.campusart.org/artsearch/#/program/726
EAVT at Marne-La-Vallée: www.campusart.org/artsearch/#/program/320
> Diplôme Grade 1 (180 ECTS), recognized by the government and conferred by École Spéciale d’Architecture (ESA). www.campusart.org/artsearch/#/program/853

LIÇENCE PROFESSIONNELLE (BACCAULAUREAT + 3 YEARS OF HIGHER EDUCATION) – L2+1
> Several Licence Professionnelle, 1-year program (60 ECTS), exist in Science, technology, health: Civil Engineering; Metal design architecture ... but rather at subdomain «Building and Construction» that architecture.

To apply online:
www.campusart.org > Find your program
(Warning, DAP-Yellow mandatory)

DIPLÔME D’ÉTAT D’ARCHITECTE (DEA) (BACCAULAUREAT + 5 YEARS OF HIGHER EDUCATION) – M2
> DEA in 2 years (120 ECTS credits), offered in 20 ENSAs. Students master the challenges of projects in architecture and urban design while being exposed to various forms of architectural practice; 2,600 hours of study, of which 1,200 in class or lab; required 8-week internship: final project.

To apply online on CampusArt:
ENSA et de Paysage de Lille: www.campusart.org/artsearch/#/program/727
EAVT at Marne-La-Vallée: www.campusart.org/artsearch/#/program/321
> DEA and professional qualification in engineering, a double credential in architecture and engineering is offered in 7 ENSAs in cooperation with nearby engineering schools. Graduates obtain professional qualifications in architecture and engineering. Students must complete the entire program, beginning with the the first year, show evidence of specific scientific aptitude, and take additional make-up courses.
> Diplôme d’Architecte from the ESA (120 ECTS), recognized by the French government. www.campusart.org/artsearch/#/program/854

MASTER 2 (BACCAULAUREAT + 5 YEARS OF HIGHER EDUCATION) – M2
> Master, 2-year national diploma (120 ECTS credits) offered in 15 universities in divisions: Humanities and social sciences; Science, technology, health; and Environmental sciences, regional planning, and economics. Several options available: Architecture, structures, and urban planning; Project management and regional planning... These Master concern over the subdomain «Building and Construction» that architecture.

EUROPEAN, INTERNATIONAL MASTER Master 2 (BACCAULAUREAT + 5 YEARS OF HIGHER EDUCATION) – M2
• Joint degrees:
> Doppeldiplomzertifikat from ENSA Strasbourg (ENSAS) and the KIT faculty of architecture (Germany). www.strasburg.archi.fr
> Master in management of complex architectural projects from ENSA Paris Val de Seine (ENSAPVS) and Facoltà di Architettura dell’ Università degli Studi di Roma “La Sapienza” (Italy).
• Double degrees:
> Ecological Urbanism, 2 years (120 ECTS credits), taught in English and offered by ENSA-Versailles and the College of Architecture and Urbanism of the University of Tongji (China). Graduates earn Chinese Master in urbanism and French Master in architecture.

> Architect’s qualification awarded by INSA Strasbourg and Université Francaise d’Egypte (UFE) in Cairo. Graduates earn INSA’s Diplôme d’Architecte and Egyptian Baccalauréos in architectural engineering.
> Double Master in Architecture conferred by ENSA and the Technical University of Dresden (Germany). Leads to DEA and German Diploma in Architecture (equivalent to Diplôme-Ingenieur).