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 field, 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 Bofill, 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.

Architecture accounts for €4.1 billion of the €49.3 billion 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

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
- 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.citedelarchitecture.fr
- French Ministry of Culture: www.culture.gouv.fr/Sites-thematiques/Architecture
- National Council of the Architects: www.architectes.org
**Licence**

**BREVET DE TECHNICIEN SUPÉRIEUR (BTS)** (BACCALauréat + 2 YEARS OF HIGHER EDUCATION) – L2
- Almost ten BTS, 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 D’ÉTUDES EN ARCHITECTURE (DEEA)** (BACCALauréat + 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:
- ENSA et de Paysage de Lille: www.campusart.org/artsearch/#/program/726
- EAVT à Marne-La-Vallée: www.campusart.org/artsearch/#/program/320
- Diplôme Grade 1 (BACCALauréat +3 YEARS OF HIGHER EDUCATION) – L2+1
  - Several Licence Professionnelle, 1-year program (60 ECTS), exist in Science, technology, health notices Civil Engineering; Metal design architecture... but rather at subdomain «Building and Constructions» that architecture.

> mention Bachelor Universitaire de Technologie (BUT) specialties in Civil engineering and sustainable construction, offered in 20 university-based institutes of technology (IUTs).

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

**Institutions Degrees** (BACCALauréat + 3 YEARS OF HIGHER EDUCATION) – L3

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

**Master**

**DIPLOME D’ÉTAT D’ARCHITECTE (DEA)** (BACCALauréat + 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 à 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 special scientific aptitude, and take additional make-up courses.

- Diplôme d’Architecte from l’ESA (120 ECTS), recognized by the French government. www.campusart.org/artsearch/#/program/854

**Master 2** (BACCALauréat + 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** (BACCALauréat+ 5 YEARS OF HIGHER EDUCATION) – M2
- Joint degrees:
  - Franco-German Double Master in Architecture and Urban Project in an International Context from ENSA Strasbourg (ENSAS) and the KIT faculty of architecture (Germany). www.strasbourg.archi.fr
  - Master in management of complex architectural projects from ENSA Paris Val de Seine (ENSAVP/S) and Facolta 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.

**Beyond the Master level**

**Institutions Diplomas** (M2 + 1, 2 OR 3 YEARS OF HIGHER EDUCATION)
- Habilitation à la Maîtrise d’Œuvre en son Nom Propre (HMONP), the qualification that entitles an architect to obtain a building permit in France requires a sixth year of study beyond the DEA.
- Diplôme national de Spécialisation et d’Approfondissement en Architecture (DSA), offered in 7 ENSAs, allows graduate architects to develop a specialization in project management, major risk management, or historic preservation, among other topics.
  - EAVT à Marne-La-Vallée: www.campusart.org/artsearch/#/program/323
  - Diplôme Propre aux Écoles d’Architecture (DPEA), 1- and 2-year programs specific to 9 ENSAs. Topics include naval architecture, architecture and philosophy, earthquake-resistant construction, design, and set construction. One school offers the DPEA in conjunction with a European Executive Master in Architecture and Sustainable Development from Université Catholique du Louvain (Belgium).
  - EAVT à Marne-La-Vallée: www.campusart.org/artsearch/#/program/321

**Mastère Spécialisé® (MS)** (M2 + 1 YEAR OF POSTSECONDARY STUDY)

To apply online:
- www.campusart.org > Find your program

September 2021