

### 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 very selective institutions operate under the joint authority and supervision of the French ministries of culture and higher education.

The ENSAs enroll approximately 19,000 students, about 12% of whom are from outside France. Women make up a growing share of the student body, presently accounting for 57% of enrollment. The curriculum covers the range of disciplines required for architectural, urban, and landscape projects. About 85% of graduates find 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)

#### Architecture by the numbers

- Architecture accounts for €4.4 billion of the €57.8 of cultural value added (2011)
- 30,000 architects practice in France (2013)
- €213K is the annual average turnover of an architectural office (2010)
- 19,000 students attend France's ENSAs (2014)
- 2,280 foreign students attend France's ENSAs (2013)
- 2,200 architect's degrees are awarded each year (2014)

Source : INSEE - MCC - MENESR

#### INTERNATIONAL

France has a proud history of architectural creativity: Le Corbusier, Paul Andreu, Jean-Marie Charpentier, Christian de Porzamparc, Jean Nouvel, 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 Andō, 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.

#### Related fields

Land use planning – Archaeology – Building and public works – 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

#### Useful links

- Académie d'architecture : [www.aa.archi.fr](http://www.aa.archi.fr)
- Albums of young architects and landscape architects: [www.ajap.culture.gouv.fr](http://www.ajap.culture.gouv.fr)
- ArchiRès, the network of libraries of French-speaking schools of architecture: <http://portail.documentation.developpement-durable.gouv.fr/ArchiResWiki/index.php/Accueil>
- Archiréseau Europe, a portal for architectural resources in Europe : [www.archireseau.archi.fr](http://www.archireseau.archi.fr)
- Architecture and historic preservation database: [www.culture.gouv.fr/culture/inventai/patrimoine](http://www.culture.gouv.fr/culture/inventai/patrimoine)
- Ordre des architectes: [www.architectes.org](http://www.architectes.org)
- Architecture degrees: [www.campusfrance.org/fr/ressource/le-diplôme-darchitecte](http://www.campusfrance.org/fr/ressource/le-diplôme-darchitecte)
- French Ministry of Culture and Communication: [www.culturecommunication.gouv.fr/ Disciplines-secteurs/Architecture](http://www.culturecommunication.gouv.fr/ Disciplines-secteurs/Architecture)
- France's 20 national schools of architecture (ENSAs): [www.archi.fr/ECOLES](http://www.archi.fr/ECOLES)

#### CHOOSE YOUR PROGRAM

- CampusArt program catalogue and online application form: [www.campusart.org](http://www.campusart.org)
- Campus France program catalogue: [www.campusfrance.org/ Trouvez votre formation](http://www.campusfrance.org/ Trouvez votre formation)
- Catalogue of short academic programs, cultural visits, and language courses: [www.coursdete.campusfrance.org](http://www.coursdete.campusfrance.org)
- Catalogue of programs taught in English: [www.campusfrance.org/ Trouvez votre formation](http://www.campusfrance.org/ Trouvez votre formation)
- CampusBourses, financing your study in France : [www.campusfrance.org/ Financez vos études](http://www.campusfrance.org/ Financez vos études)

## Licence level

### Licence

(Secondary diploma + 2 years of higher education) – L2

- **Brevet de Technicien Supérieur (BTS, higher technical certificate)**, 15 options, 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) in Civil engineering and sustainable construction**, offered in 20 university-based institutes of technology (IUTs).
- **Diplôme d'Études Universitaires Scientifiques et Techniques (DEUST)**, division of **Science, technology, and health**, specialization **Building and construction**, offered in four of France's universities.

### Licence

(Secondary diploma + 3 years of higher education) – L3

- **Diplôme d'Études en Architecture (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.
- **Diplôme Grade 1** (180 ECTS credits), recognized by the government and conferred by École Spéciale d'Architecture (ESA). [www.esa-paris.fr](http://www.esa-paris.fr)
- **Licence Professionnelle in division of Science, technology, health**, option in **Civil engineering and construction**, specialization in **Metal architectural design**, 1-year program (60 ECTS), offered by the IUT at Université de Bretagne Occidentale (UBO) in Brest. [www.iut-brest.fr](http://www.iut-brest.fr)
- **Architectural assistant**, 3-year institution-specific credential from École des Ingénieurs de la Ville de Paris (EIVP). [www.eivp-paris.fr](http://www.eivp-paris.fr)

## Master level

### Diplôme d'État d'Architecte (DEA)

(Secondary diploma + 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.
  - See *Le Diplôme d'Architecte*: [www.campusfrance.org](http://www.campusfrance.org)>Espace documentaire>Offre de formation>Fiches diplômes
- **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 ESA (120 ECTS credits), recognized by the French government. [www.esa-paris.fr](http://www.esa-paris.fr)
- **Diplôme d'Architecte** from the Institut National des Sciences Appliquées (INSA), Strasbourg, recognized by the French government. [www.insa-strasbourg.fr](http://www.insa-strasbourg.fr)

### Master 2

(Secondary diploma + 5 years of higher education) – M2

- **Master**, 2-year national diploma (120 ECTS credits) offered in 15 universities in 3 broad 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**

### European, international Master 2

(Secondary diploma + 5 years of higher education) – M2

#### Joint degrees :

- **Doppeldiplomzertifikat** from ENSA Strasbourg (ENSAS) and the KIT faculty of architecture (Germany). [www.strasbourg.archi.fr](http://www.strasbourg.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). [www.paris-valdeseine.archi.fr](http://www.paris-valdeseine.archi.fr)

#### Double degrees:

- double Master in **Architecture and urban planning in Europe**, conferred by ENSAS and KIT (Germany). Graduates earn **DEA** and **Master of Science in Architecture (MSc in Architektur)**. [www.strasbourg.archi.fr](http://www.strasbourg.archi.fr)
- Program in **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. [www.versailles.archi.fr](http://www.versailles.archi.fr)
- Architect's qualification awarded by INSA Strasbourg and Université Française d'Égypte (UFE) in Cairo. Graduates earn INSA's **Diplôme d'Architecte** and Egyptian **Baccalauréus in architectural engineering**. [www.insa-strasbourg.fr](http://www.insa-strasbourg.fr)
- double Master in Architecture conferred by ENSAS and the Technical University of Dresden (Germany). Leads to **DEA** and German **Diploma in Architecture** (equivalent to **Diplom-Ingenieur**). [www.strasbourg.archi.fr](http://www.strasbourg.archi.fr)

## Beyond the master level

### Institutions Diplomas

(M2 + 6, 7, 8 years of higher education) – Post-M

- **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.
- **Diplôme Propre aux Écoles d'Architecture (DPEA)**, 1- and 2-year programs specific to 11 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).
- **Diplôme d'Études Supérieures** is awarded by the École Spéciale d'Architecture in 2 speciality areas: (i) **sustainable urban projects and the architecture of environments**; (ii) **urban mutations**. [www.esa-paris.fr](http://www.esa-paris.fr)