



Who Is an Architect? From School to Licensed Professional

Becoming a licensed architect in the Philippines takes years of study, practice and an examination. Knowing the path helps you understand what a license means.

The requirements are set by law and can change. Check the details with the Professional Regulation Commission, which regulates the profession.

01 Study

Architects start with a university degree in architecture. Check the current program length and requirements with the school and the regulator. Programs include design studios, building technology, history and practice.

Students learn to design, draw and think about people and place. Education gives the foundation for everything else. Example: a student spends years in design studios learning to solve real problems. Why this works: the profession starts with training in thinking, not just drawing.

02 Training

After graduating, graduates gain supervised experience with licensed professionals. This is where they learn how drawings become buildings and how permits work.

The exact experience required is set by the rules, so check the current requirement. Experience under a licensed professional turns knowledge into skill. Example: a young architect learns how a detail on paper becomes a wall on site. Why this works: practical training prepares them for responsibility.

03 The licensure examination

Graduates sit for the licensure examination given under the law that regulates the profession. Those who pass receive a license and may sign and seal plans.

The license is recorded, and you can verify it with the regulator. A license is a public record. Example: ask for the license number and check it with the regulator. Why this works: verification takes minutes and protects you.

04 Why it matters to you

Verify it: You can check an architect's license with the Professional Regulation Commission.

A licensed architect is bound by a code of ethics and by the law. They are responsible for the plans they sign.

Ask any architect for the license number, and verify it before you sign. The license is a protection for you. Example: a licensed architect who signs the plans is accountable for them. Why this works: you know who answers for the drawings.

05 Beyond the license

Many architects continue to learn through courses, projects and professional organisations. Experience in your type of project is worth asking about.

A license is the start of the answer. Ask about experience, too. Experience in your type of project matters. Example: ask for a finished house of a similar size and lot. Why this works: you see how they solved problems like yours.

06 Ask about the team

Ask whether the architect works alone or with a team, and who will actually prepare your drawings. A licence belongs to a person, so ask who signs.

A good architect will welcome these questions and answer them without hesitation. How they answer tells you a lot.

The path is long, and each stage teaches different skills. The license is a legal requirement, and experience is what makes an architect useful to you.

07 Ask any architect

1. What is your license number?
2. What experience do you have with projects like mine?
3. Who will do my drawings?

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