

New year to bring career opportunities for skilled interior design professionals

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Experts across the industry verticals are hopeful that year 2014 will bring some good news for specialised professions

Apeksha Kaushik, TimesJobs.com Bureau

There is no denying the fact that professionals across sectors are facing a tough time, because of the current slowdown phase and interior designers and architects are no exception. Nevertheless, industry leaders are optimistic about the future and anticipate ample career opportunities for skilled professionals in the year 2014

Kavi Jain, Principal Architect, Nirman Consultants Pvt. Ltd.

Industry: Opportunities for the architecture professional lie in every aspect of growth today, unlike common perception of being restricted to construction industry. An architect is required in every built form, be it a building, infrastructure – be it roads, bridges, power stations, transport hubs, art form or a scientific development. The hiring of architects, in future, will spread across all verticals. Construction, real-estate and infrastructure are direct employers and maximum absorption shall anyway remain at the top horizon for the architect.

Location: The current trend of employability in major cities will spread to rural areas as connectivity and growth shift to geographies beyond metros.

Skill sets: There is immense scope in specialisations like urban design in rural areas and areas that are reserved for affordable housing; scope for transportation planning is also wide; and there is a clear demand for architects with knowledge of “green” design or sustainable design.

Trend to watch out for: The two trends I would watch closely to monitor this sector would be consumer diversity as different consumers keep the business going. The second is the newer technology trends that a professional keeps abreast of. Professionals keeping a finger on these two pulse points I believe would not be short changed for job as well as compensation. The key skill I would expect in an architect is functional integration of built form engineering.

Abin Chaudhuri, Principal Architect of Abin Design Studio

Opportunities galore: Ample working opportunities will be available for new generation architects. Typically speaking in architecture and design sector, sustainability will be the future. Specialists will rule the roost. Computer aided design specialist with a knowledge of various tool of Green Architecture will be in huge demand. Opportunities will also be in landscape Architecture and for Construction Management or Project Management Specialists. There would be great demand for architects specialized in urban designing, regional planning, etc.

Demand drivers: Real Estate industry will remain on the top as the highest recruiter. Numerous internationally acclaimed construction and real estate development companies also provide employment opportunities to Indian talents who are willing to explore career abroad. There are also scopes for new generation architects in Government organisations such as Public Works Department, the Archaeological Department, Ministry of Defence, National Building Organisation, Town and Country Planning Organisation, National Institute of Urban Affairs, Departments of Railways, Public Sector Undertakings, Housing and Urban Development Corporation, National Building Construction Corporation Ltd., etc.

Widespread need: Demand is on the higher side in the southern and western part of India. Cities like Bangalore, Chennai, and Mumbai create maximum job opportunities for the professional architects. Delhi i.e. North India is also going neck to neck. Eastern region including Kolkata is also catching up fast.

Compensation outlook: Compensation package will start from Rs. 6-7 lakhs per annum initially. For some deserving candidates starting salary could be 9-10 lakhs p.a. The actual growth reflects after two years of rigorous experience in the industry.

Skills requisite: A holistic design skill with knowledge will always be rewarded. Hands on experience and very good communication skills are also a major differentiator. Architect with an impressive academic record and theoretical excellence will do no good in the industry unless they are passionate about design and sustainability and have an open mind to embrace latest innovation.

Divya Handa, Director, Aesthetics Interio

NCR shining: As Gurgaon is coming up with the new business opportunity, therefore maximum hiring is expected there.

Competition conducive to growth: In today's competitive world ever sector faces competition. From last five years many new venture have entered this sector which has lead to sharp competition, further leading to growth.

Policy changes to decide fate of freshers: The economy would be hampered due to upcoming elections and as change of government leads to change in policies, lot of projects which are stuck might get a green signal which can lead to fresher hiring and vice-versa.

Brush-up those skills: Hiring is going to be for specialised skills sets, so freshers are advised to brush up their skills thoroughly, as only the cream will be hired. This sector needs lot of technicalities so that should also be considered.

- See more at: http://content.timesjobs.com/new-year-to-bring-career-opportunities-for-skilled-interior-design-professionals/?fromsite=toi&utm_source=toi&utm_medium=referral&utm_campaign=toi-tj-whitelabel#sthash.0hYZoRzn.dpuf