

Nepal Engineering College

Information about Bachelor in Architecture

1. What is Bachelor in Architecture?

In Nepal, the Bachelor in Architecture (B.Arch) is a five-year program that integrates creative design, technical expertise, and cultural understanding. Unlike civil engineers, who focus primarily on structural integrity, architects are responsible for designing spaces that are not only functional and safe but also aesthetically pleasing and culturally significant. As Nepal modernizes, architects play a crucial role in balancing innovation with tradition, preserving the country's rich heritage while addressing modern challenges like sustainability and environmental resilience. They ensure that new developments honor cultural values and reflect the needs of society, shaping a future that respects the past.

2. What distinguishes architecture from other related fields?

Architecture stands out from related fields by its focus on designing spaces that are both functional and visually appealing. Architects are visionaries who design spaces by considering aesthetics, functionality, and the experience of those who use the buildings. They carefully balance creativity with sustainability; ensuring designs are aligned with cultural heritage, environmental context, and modern needs. Architects focus on spatial flow, material choices, and how buildings fit within the larger urban or natural landscape. They prioritize user comfort and design spaces that inspire, engage, and harmonize with their surroundings.

In contrast, other fields such as civil engineering concentrate on the technical and structural aspects of construction. Civil engineers ensure that the architect's vision is structurally sound, safe, and feasible. While architects shape how buildings look, feel, and interact with the environment, civil engineers manage the technical aspects to ensure they stand securely and function efficiently. **In essence, architects create the vision, and civil engineers make sure it can be built and endure.**

3. What are the opportunities?

Graduates of architecture possess a rich blend of skills in design, aesthetics, space planning, and the cultural and artistic aspects of buildings, setting them apart from civil engineering graduates. Especially in rapidly urbanizing areas like Kathmandu, architects are trained to transform small and congested spaces into functional, beautiful environments. They focus on how spaces look, feel, and operate for people, emphasizing creativity and enhancing the overall experience of the built environment. Architects are needed in a wide range of fields, including:

- **Urban Planning:** Designing cities, public spaces, and transport systems.
- **Heritage Conservation:** Preserving and restoring historic buildings and monuments.
- **Sustainable Architecture:** Creating eco-friendly buildings that minimize environmental impact.
- **Innovative Design:** Designing creative and functional spaces with cutting-edge technology.
- **Residential and Commercial Design:** Designing homes, offices, and retail spaces.
- **Landscape Architecture:** Designing parks, outdoor spaces, and recreational areas.

- **Interior Design:** Shaping functional and aesthetically pleasing interiors.
- **Disaster-Resilient Architecture:** Designing structures that can withstand natural disasters, crucial in earthquake-prone areas like Nepal.
- **Hospitality and Tourism Design:** Creating hotels, resorts, and tourist facilities that enhance visitor experiences while respecting local culture.
- **Healthcare Architecture:** Designing hospitals and healthcare facilities that are both functional and comforting for patients and staff.
- **Educational and Institutional Design:** Shaping schools, universities, and other institutions that foster learning and community engagement.

Some of our most successful graduates have become prominent figures in Nepal's architectural landscape, showcasing the profound impact of their skills.

Ar. Aman Kumar Maskey, as a political leader and Minister of Physical Infrastructure Development (Provincial), has spearheaded significant infrastructure policy reforms. **Ar. Padma Kumar Mainali** has greatly influenced urban development through his work with the Department of Urban Development and Building Construction (DUDBC). **Ar. Baburam Bhattarai**, a member of the City Planning Commission of Kathmandu Metropolitan City, has played a key role in preserving the historic landmarks of Kathmandu Valley. These architects demonstrate how the profession can transform both physical infrastructure and cultural heritage in Nepal.

4. How long has it been initiated?

The Department of Architecture at Nepal Engineering College (*nec*) was established in 1996, marking nearly three decades of dedication to architectural education, it has built a strong reputation for its comprehensive architecture program. The department is known for blending theoretical knowledge with practical experience, focusing on innovation, realism, Nepal's heritage, and sustainable design.

In 2019, *nec* under Pokhara University, introduced a revised curriculum that reflects contemporary trends and advancements in the field of architecture. This updated curriculum was developed, in coordination with PU, to ensure that students are equipped with the latest skills and knowledge required in today's dynamic architectural landscape. It includes a more integrated approach to design thinking, advanced technology applications, and enhanced sustainability practices. The revised program emphasizes hands-on learning, collaborative projects, and real-world problem-solving, preparing students to meet the evolving demands of the profession.

Choosing the Department of Architecture at *nec* is a great option not only because of its long-standing reputation but also due to the updated curriculum that aligns with global standards and industry needs. The department offers 18+ full time experienced faculties, practical learning opportunities, and a strong alumni network, all of which contribute to preparing students for successful careers in architecture.

For further details, please contact the following

1. Assoc. Prof. Anil Kumar Regmi (HoD – Architecture) <hodarchitecture@nec.edu.np>
2. Assoc. Prof. Nhasala Sayami (Coordinator – Practicum) <nhasalas@nec.edu.np>

B. Arch. Curriculum Structure (Revised on 2019):

Semester I		
SN	Subjects	Credit
1	Mathematics	3
2	Introduction to Architecture	2
3	Building Materials	2
4	Free Hand Sketching	3
5	Basic Drafting	3
6	Basic Design	5
Total Credit		18

Semester III		
SN	Subjects	Credit
1	History of Architecture I (Western & Eastern)	3
2	Building Science I	2
3	Design Theory I	2
4	Structure I	2
5	Structural Forms	2
6	Computer Aided Design	3
7	Design Studio II	5
Total Credit		16

Semester V		
SN	Subjects	Credit
1	Structure III	3
2	Building Construction II	3
3	Landscape Architecture	3
4	History of Architecture III (Nepalese)	3
5	Elective I	2
6	Design Studio IV	5
Total Credit		19

Semester VII		
SN	Subjects	Credit
1	Practicum (Practical Office Experience)	15
Total Credit		15

Semester II		
SN	Subjects	Credit
1	Communication Techniques	2
2	Statics and Dynamics	2
3	Architectural Modeling	2
4	Architectural Independent Studies	2
5	Architectural Graphics	3
6	Design Studio - I	5
Total Credit		16

Semester IV		
SN	Subjects	Credit
1	Building Construction I	3
2	History of Architecture II (Modern)	2
3	Structure II	2
4	Surveying	3
5	Computer Aided 3D Visualizations	2
6	Design Studio III	5
Total Credit		17

Semester VI		
SN	Subjects	Credit
1	Building Science II	2
2	Settlement Planning	3
3	Working Drawing and Detailing	2
4	Design Theory II	2
5	Building Services	3
6	Design Studio V	5
Total Credit		17

Semester VIII		
SN	Subjects	Credit
1	Estimation, Valuation and Specification	2
2	Building Construction III	3
3	Elective II	3
4	Directed Studies and Seminar	2
5	Design Studio VI	5
Total Credit		15

These two semester's syllabus contents within the prescribed curriculum are yet to be finalized

Semester IX		
SN	Subjects	Credit
1	Elective III	3
2	Architects & Society	3
3	Design Studio VII	5
4	Thesis- Part I	4
Total Credit		15

Semester X		
SN	Subjects	Credit
1	Professional Practice	2
2	Thesis: Part II	12
Total Credit		14