

# Architect, K-12 Design

## Job Description

The Architect on the K-12 Team is responsible for contributing to the design, planning, occupancy studies, and construction administration for K-12 school environments. They will act as a **key team member** focusing on the integration of new technology, flexible spaces, safety requirements and outdoor spaces that promote creativity, collaboration and community – **with sustainability in mind.**

## Salary

Entry — \$56,000  
Middle — \$66,800  
Top — \$82,000

## Core Tasks

- Work with your team to design buildings that responsively interact with their environment.
- Be on-hand during construction to document and advise as required.
- Document project specifications and create reports, plans, and estimates.

## Workplace / Environment

- **Work hours**  
**Approx. 40 hours/week**  
(Occasional overtime work)
- **Environment**  
Typical **office setting** with weekly visits to project sites.
- **Travel**  
**Local** project site visits to assess project progression.

## Education / Prerequisites

### Education Level

Bachelor's Degree in Architecture  
(5 Years)

### Pre-Job Preparation

2-4 years job experience  
(K-12 design preferred) with focus on sustainable building practices.

## Experience

### Soft Skills

- Good Communication
- Pro-Active
- Highly Collaborative
- Detail-Oriented
- Positive Attitude
- Team-Focused

### Technical Skills

- Familiarity with sustainable building performance
- Project Management experience
- Construction Administration a plus
- Autocad, Sketchup
- Google G-Suite, Microsoft Office
- Adobe Suite



## Career Path: Shanmathi Mageshwar

### About Me

Architect at Bassetti Architects

Bachelor's Degree in Architecture from  
University of Oregon

### How It Started

"My aunt and uncle are architects in India, so I always kind of knew what architecture was and was exposed to it in a sense... I'd always been really interested in designing things, and I had this **fascination with inventing things**, and my mom had mentioned: 'Maybe you should be an architect – like your aunt uncle!' So, that was like the official seed where I decided that I did want to be an architect."

### Combining Interests

"So I grew up dancing – I learned **classical Indian dance**, and I've been doing that since a very, very young age. I don't think that necessarily directly relates to architecture, but I do think it is a form of creative expression, and architecture is also kind of a form of creative expression. In that sense, the two are a little bit related, and it helps me kind of **express myself creatively** in a more physical form, which also helps me be creative in a more technical sense."

### Early Experiences

"So in the summer between 11th and 12th grade, I did a summer architecture program at University of Oregon. And it's basically like a month-long, summer studio design course. And doing that was really helpful for me, because it actually showed me what architecture school would be like, and what architects really do and what that all involves. And during that program, I met other students who were hoping to be architects as well. And they introduced me to the **ACE** mentorship program, which stands for: **architecture, construction and engineering**, which is also a really great program for anyone thinking about going into that industry."

# About My Job

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"One thing that I'm really excited about is all the progress that we've been making in the industry in recent years, and there's been a push for sustainability."

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## Pros

- "I really enjoy working in architecture, because you get to create something and get to eventually see it actually built and being used by people. Creating these experiences for people is **really rewarding**, and I think can make an impact on everyday lives."
- "**Every day is really different** at my job. And that's partly what I really like about it – the variety that we get"

## Cons

- "At the end of the day we are **designing for a client**, and sometimes things that we may hope for in a project may not be there in the final version, just because of logistics or because of what the client needs and wants. But at the end of the day, it all comes together."

## Field Work

- "I don't travel a lot for my work, but I get to go visit this project that I'm working on once a week – which does add some **nice variety** to my work week."

## Office Work

- "My job is currently hybrid. So I work from home on Mondays and Fridays, and I'm in office the other days of the week."
- "Some days, I work on drawings and detailing. And then other days, I'm working on reviewing things for construction. And a lot of days, when you're planning on doing one thing, you end up having to do something else, and that's part of **the fun of it**, I think – having that variety makes the work a little bit more engaging."

## Skills

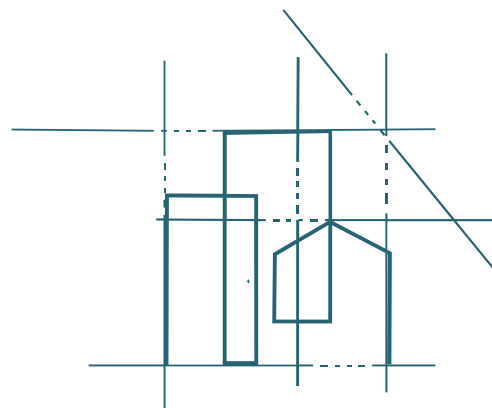
- "Being a hard worker and being curious are **extremely important**. For architecture and architecture school."
- "Exploring different options, different project types, and **asking a lot of questions**, especially once you start working. Just try to absorb as much information as you can."
- "Doing some kind of **summer architecture program** is really helpful if that's something that you have access to. And same with the ACE mentorship program. I think both of those are really helpful in getting a sense of what architecture actually looks like in school and then beyond in professional working life."

## About the Work

- "Each design phase of a project is wildly different. For example, during design development, you're doing a lot of drawings and detailing and things like that, but during construction administration, it is very, very different because we're doing a lot of documentation and making sure that things are getting built correctly. So there's variety in the holistic sense of the project, but there's also **a lot of variety** in the day-to-day."
- "Pedagogies directly influence how we design (school) spaces. There's a lot of flex spaces, a lot of breakout spaces and more room for collaboration within the school day."
- "We're definitely thinking about the outside spaces as well. Those are things that we may incorporate – outside spaces are definitely **a huge part** of creating social spaces in school design."

## Education/Experience

- "You **don't have to get a Masters degree**. You certainly can if you want to specialize in something, but it's not a requirement, especially if you're still trying to figure out what kind of project types you want to do or what you might want to specialize in. It's not as big of a requirement if you have a Bachelor's in Architecture."



# About Sustainability Ambassadors

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## Funder Acknowledgement



**King County**

Department of Natural Resources and Parks  
**Wastewater Treatment Division**

