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Creativity, patience help an architect build a career

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If your image of an architect is the patriarch of the Brady Bunch poring over blueprints at his home drafting table, you'll be happy to know that the role is far less isolating than sometimes portrayed on TV. "In real life, you work in teams on a daily basis, whether that is with your creative team within the office setting, your project consultants or your client, which oftentimes is a group of people," explains Adam Yaracs, a project architect with Perspectus Architecture.





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Adam Yaracs, AIA, project manager, Perspectus Architecture

Each member of a team brings his or her own set of ideas and talents. "What I enjoy most about what I do is that I get to be creative on a day-to-day basis," Yaracs says. "Each day brings new design challenges and opportunities." Drawings, site specifications, building materials and construction concerns vary from project to project.

Opportunities also exist for architects to step out of their comfort zone and build skills in a different area of architecture. One of Yaracs' favorite projects, the new Twinsburg Gleneagles Golf Clubhouse set to open in 2018, provided that type of opportunity. "Most of my previous experience was in higher education classroom buildings and performing arts theaters, so this was something entirely new to me and it presented new challenges," Yaracs says.



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A detailed process leads to becoming a licensed architect. "Architects are responsible for the health, safety and welfare of the public," so their training is rather intense, Yaracs says. Students attend an accredited school and earn a master's degree. As a pre-licensed architect, individuals join firms and must log a significant number of hours before becoming eligible to test for licensure. Applicants take six computer-based exams toward becoming a licensed architect.

"As you move and progress within a firm, you take on more responsibilities," Yaracs says. Currently, his role as a project manager for Perspectus involves coordinating with consultants and managing budgets, in addition to other duties within specific projects. Some architects advance within firms to become partners or principals, taking on greater responsibilities within the overall organization.



Architects can also expand their knowledge and experience outside of the firm. Yaracs became involved with the American Institute of Architects (AIA) several years ago and currently serves as president of the Cleveland chapter. He also is an adjunct faculty member at Kent State University, where he teaches first-year architecture students. Networking with peers, discovering new trends in the field and gathering inspiration from architecture students are among the benefits Yaracs receives from these activities.

What it takes to succeed

"First and foremost, you must possess the creative gene, or the willingness to challenge yourself creatively on a daily basis. You absolutely must have solid time management skills, and you have to be able to listen and to lead," Yaracs advises. Good presentation skills, a background in hand-drawing and command of computer technology are also important. Finally,





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