

# General Info on Professional Practice

## **SAFA Professional Practice Afternoon**

Senior adviser Pia Selroos

4.4.2024

## **ARCHITECT**

- \* In Finland
- \* Internationally

## **QUALIFICATIONS**

- \* In Finland
- \* Internationally
- \* Legislation

## **PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE**

- \* SAFA membership requirements

# architect

# Arkkitehti /Architect in Finland

- \* **Arkkitehti - Master of Science (Arch.)**

is **an academic title** granted by Aalto University, Oulu University and Tampere University.

- \* **Arkkitehti / Architect** is also **a professional title**, which is not protected by any legislation.

- \* There is no regulation concerning the use of terms “architectural” or “architect” in the name of a firm or a practice.

- \* The profession of an architect is **an unregulated and unauthorized profession** like all the professions in Finnish building field.

- \* There is **no need for registration or licence** in order to practice as an architect or to provide architectural services in Finland.

- \* **Scope of work** can consist beside building design also e.g. urban planning and construction.

# Architect in Finland / Europe

## **Architects Council of Europe ACE**

<http://www.ace-cae.eu/>

European countries represented by the ACE have over 600 000 qualified architects on the basis of 31 countries.

- [Architects in Europe](#)
- [How to Became an Architect?](#)
- [Architectural Profession in Europe 2022 - ACE Sector Study](#)
- [ACE Observatory 2022](#)

## ACE Observatory - Home - Europe 2022

Select country

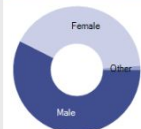
Europe

## Architects

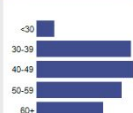
## Numbers

619700  
Architects

## Gender



## Age



## Employment field



## Employment status



## Salaries €



## International



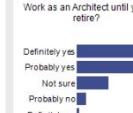
## Hours



## CPD

Average  
20  
hours  
per year

## Retirement



## Practices

## Numbers



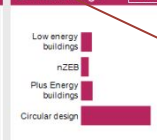
## Turnover



## Hourly Rates €



## Climate change



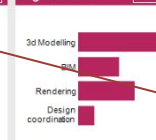
## Competitions



## Certification



## Digitalisation



## Market

## Market



## Construction €m



## Sector



## Service



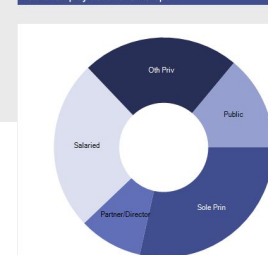
## International

98%  
from own country

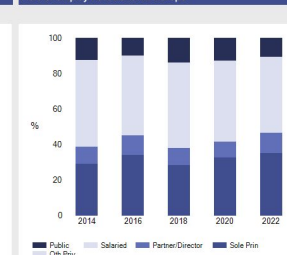
## Type of work



## Field of employment 2018 Europe



## Field of employment 2010-22 Europe



## Field of employment 2018 Europe

Year	Sole Prin	Partner/Director	Salaried	Oth Priv	Public
2018	29	9	25	23	14

Download Table

## Field of employment 2010-22 Europe

Year	Sole Prin	Partner/Director	Salaried	Oth Priv	Public
2010	38	12	22	20	8
2012	32	11	23	25	10
2014	29	9	27	22	12
2016	34	11	18	27	10
2018	29	9	25	23	14
2020	33	9	26	17	13
2022	35	12	24	18	11

Download Table

ACE Observatory 2022

# qualification

Designer's and foreman's

## QUALIFICATION

= education x experience

Designer's and foreman's

## ELIGIBILITY

= qualification in accordance to the difficulty of  
a design or a foreman task of a project (building permit)



# Legislation on qualifications for designers

- Land Use and Building
  - Land Use and Building Act (132/1999)
  - Land Use and Building Decree (895/1999)
  - Act on changing Land Use and Building Act (41/1999)
- The National Building Code of Finland > **Planning and Supervision**
  - Government Decree on the determination of difficulty classes of building design tasks (314/2015)
  - Ministry of Environment guidelines on the qualification of building designers
  - Ministry of Environment guidelines on the difficulty classes of design tasks

## New legislation 1.1.2025 >

- Rakentamislaki 751/2023 / Building Act (751/2023)
- Laki suunnittelu- ja työnjohtotehtävissä toimivien pätevyyden toteamisesta 812/2023  
Act on providing qualifications of those in construction planning and supervision tasks (812/2023)

# Qualification requirements for designers

Land Use and Building Act (41/2014) , Section 120 e

A designer must be a natural person.

The following qualification requirements concern building designers and special designers:

- 1) in a difficult design task**, a construction-related or technical university degree appropriate for the design task in question, or an earlier construction-related higher-level vocational or other equivalent degree, and at least four years of experience of working on conventional design tasks and at least two years of experience of assisting in difficult design tasks;
- 2) in a conventional design task**, a construction-related or technical degree appropriate for the design task in question, equivalent to an earlier technician's or other equivalent degree, and at least three years of experience of assisting in design tasks that are at least conventional in terms of difficulty;
- 3) in a minor design task**, the skill required in view of the type and extent of the construction project or design task.

The qualification requirement for building designers and special designers in exceptionally difficult design tasks is a construction-related or technical university master's degree appropriate for the design task in question, and at least six years of experience of difficult design tasks.

**The principal designer** must meet the qualification requirements for building designers or special designers, at least at the highest level difficulty class of the design tasks included in the construction project. Furthermore, the principal designers must have sufficient expertise and the professional skill required to manage the coordination of the plans.

Most of the experience required in subsections 2 and 3 must have been obtained in design tasks in the field in question. The designer of repair or alteration works must have experience of design tasks for repair or alteration works.

<b>Building design</b>			
<b>Minor design task</b>	<b>Conventional design task</b>	<b>Difficult design task</b>	<b>Exceptionally difficult design task</b>
Sufficient expertise for the design task in question.	<p>Has successfully completed at least the qualification of technician (master builder)<sup>1)</sup> in the field of housing construction, or the degree of bachelor of science in technology (180 credits), and the degree included at least 90 credit points of studies related to building design and construction technics, including courses in the following fields (or other equivalent fields):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• housing design</li> <li>• construction engineering and structural engineering</li> <li>• technical systems of the building.</li> </ul> <p>In a conventional building design task for repair and alteration work to the interiors of a building, the designer can also be a person who has successfully completed the qualification of designer at a university of applied sciences, including at least 90 credit points of studies in spatial planning and interior design.</p>	<p>Has successfully completed the degree of architect, a higher-level degree in building design at a university of applied sciences, the qualification of construction architect (at a university of applied sciences) or construction architect (at a technical college)<sup>2)</sup>, and the degree or the supplementary studies have included at least 120 credit points of studies related to building design and architecture, including courses in the following fields (or other equivalent fields):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• history and theory of architecture</li> <li>• design of public buildings and service buildings</li> <li>• construction engineering and structural engineering</li> <li>• housing design</li> </ul> <p>In a difficult building design task of repair and alteration work to the interiors of a building, the designer can also be a person who has successfully completed the degree of master of arts or interior designer, if the degree has included at least 120 credit points of studies in spatial planning and interior design.</p>	<p>Has successfully completed the qualification of architect or a higher-level degree at a university of applied sciences in building design, and the degree or the supplementary studies have included at least 150 credit points of studies dealing with building design and architecture, including courses in the following fields (or other similar fields):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• history and theory of architecture</li> <li>• design of public buildings and service buildings</li> <li>• construction engineering and structural engineering</li> <li>• housing design</li> </ul>

Ministry of Environment guidelines on  
**the qualification of building designers**  
 - Building design

As regards university degrees completed abroad, the decision on whether the degree corresponds to a higher or lower level degree, for example, is made by [the Finnish National Board of Education](#).

The decision by the Finnish National Board of Education does not take a stand on the relevance of the field or content of the degree for the fulfilment of the requirements, instead such decisions are made by the building supervision authority.

Ministry of Environment guidelines on  
**the qualification of building designers**

- Building design

<b>Building design</b>			
<i>Minor design task</i>	<i>Conventional design task</i>	<i>Difficult design task</i>	<i>Exceptionally difficult design task</i>
	AND	AND	AND
	<p>Has at least three years of experience of assisting in building design tasks.</p> <p>In the case of a designer of repair and alteration work, at least one year of the experience must have been obtained in design tasks for repair or alteration works.</p> <p>Most of the experience must have been obtained after graduation.</p>	<p>Has at least four years of experience of working on conventional design tasks and at least two years of experience of assisting in difficult design tasks.</p> <p>The experience can include both assisting in design tasks belonging to different difficulty classes and acting as the responsible designer in conventional design tasks.</p> <p>In the case of a designer of repair and alteration work, at least two years of the experience must have been obtained in design tasks for repair or alteration works.</p> <p>Most of the experience must have been obtained after graduation.</p>	<p>Has at least six years of experience of difficult building design tasks.</p> <p>The experience can include both assisting in difficult and exceptionally difficult design tasks, and acting as the responsible designer in difficult design tasks.</p> <p>In the case of a designer of repair and alteration work, at least three years of the experience must have been obtained in design tasks for repair or alteration works.</p> <p>The experience must have been obtained after graduation.</p>

These guidelines are not binding. The purpose of the guidelines is to support the uniform application of the Act.

Into force 1.1.2025

# The new Building Act 751/2023

## The main objectives of the legislative reform were

- to create a carbon neutral society
- to strengthen biodiversity
- to advance digitalisation
- to improve the quality of construction
  - introducing **a mandatory registration** for designers and formen in building field



Into force 1.1.2025

# Act on providing qualifications of those in construction planning and supervision tasks

- The Ministry of the Environment can, upon application, authorize a company or entity registered in Finland (institution) to issue certificates in accordance with the Building Act (751/2023)
- The authorized institution / institutions are supervised by the Ministry of the Environment.
- The Ministry of the Environment is responsible for the recognition of professional qualifications acquired abroad. The Ministry of the Environment can authorize the authorized institution to issue a certificate of the equivalence of a foreign degree as part of issuing a qualification certificate.
- The authorized institution must maintain a register of the valid certificates it issues.
- The Ministry of the Environment can accept the qualifications issued by an authority or the authorized institution before this Act as qualifications in accordance with this Act, either in whole or in part, for a maximum period of five years from the entry into force of this Act.

# Legislation on European Union Level

## Professional Qualification Directive (2005/36/EY)

- **Automatic recognition**

Architects benefiting from automatic recognition together with doctors of medicine, nurses, dental practitioners, veterinary surgeons, midwives and pharmacists.

- **General system**

- **Partial access**

## Annex V.7.

5.7.1. Evidence of formal qualifications of architects recognised pursuant to Article 46

## Annex VI

Evidence of formal qualifications of architects benefitting from. Acquired rights pursuant to Article 49 (1)

V.7. ARKKITEHDIT					Suomi/ Finland	Arkkitehdin tutkinto/Arkitektextamen	— Teknillinen korkeakoulu /Tekniska högskolan (Helsinki)		1998/1999
5.7.1. Direktiivin 46 artiklan nojalla tunnustettavat arkkitehdin koulutuksesta annetut asiakirjat									
Maa	Koulutuksesta annettava asiakirja	Asiakirjan antava elin	Koulutuksesta annettu asiakirjaan liitettävä todistus	Viitelukuusi					
Belgiä/Belgique/Belgien	1. Architect / Architecte	1. Nationale hogescholen voor architectuur / Ecoles nationales supérieures d'architecture	Certificat de stage délivré par l'Ordre des Architectes/Stagegetuigschrift afgeleverd door de Orde van Architecten	1988/1989		— Tampereen teknillinen korkeakoulu / Tammerfors tekniska högskola			
						— Oulun yliopisto / Uleåborgs universitet			
						— Aalto-yliopisto/ Aalto- universitetet			
						— Tampereen teknillinen yliopisto/Tammerfors tekniska universitet			
						— Oulun yliopisto		2010/2011	
						— Tampereen teknillinen yliopisto		2010/2011	
						— Aalto-yliopisto/ Aalto-universitetet		2010/2011	

PQD 36/2005/EY  
Liite V.7 Arkkitehdit



# professional practice

# Continuous professional development CPD

## • CAREER SERVICES

- \* SAFA mentoringprogram <https://www.safa.fi/en/mentoring/>
- \* TEK events and trainings  
<https://www.tek.fi/en/events>

## • CPD

- \* SAFAn täydennyskoulutus  
<https://www.safa.fi/koulutus-ja-ura/safa-kouluttaa/>

## • VOLUNTARY BASED QUALIFICATIONS

- \* FISE qualifications <https://fise.fi/en/>  
Planner, building designer and principal designer  
<https://www.patevyysspalvelu.fi/>

# Architectural services and business

- **HELP WITH A BUSINESS PLAN**

<https://uusyrityskeskus.fi/en/homepage/>

- \* an entrepreneurship info or book a meeting for counselling
- \* 31 Enterprise Agencies in Finland offering free and confidential business counselling to all interested in entrepreneurship

- **PROCUREMENT AND DESIGN CONTRACTS**

<https://skol.teknologiateollisuus.fi/fi/tietoa-alasta/julkaisut>

- \* General conditions for consulting KSE 2013  
Obs. private clients and Consumer Protection Act (38/1972)

- **LIABILITIES AND INSURANCES**

- \* consultant liability insurance

# Thank you!

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