black spectacles

THE BLACK SPECTACLES ANNUAL SOFTWARE REQUIREMENTS STUDY

SOFTWARE YOU NEED TO GET A JOB IN 2017.

Are you learning the design tools you need to work at the top firms in the world? We surveyed over 1,500 jobs at the top 100 architecture firms to see what software skills they require to land a job at their firm.

SOFTWARE SKILLS REQUIRED TO WORK AT THE TOP 100 FIRMS IN THE WORLD

We surveyed 1,587 online job postings at the top 100 architecture firms, based on *Architectural Record*'s 2015 list of the Top Architecture Firms, two-thirds of which have won design awards in the past 2 years from either AIA National or AIA Components, and compiled the software skill sets required for each. We then sorted them by average, and years of experience required.

We compared this data to the results from the same survey conducted in 2014.

The following data will help you focus on what skill sets you need in order to get you to the top of your game.

THE 2016 RESULTS

We continue to see a movement in the industry from AutoCAD to Revit as the most widely used architecture software amongst the top firms.

There was an increase in number of firms requiring both Revit and AutoCAD this year, with Revit being the most required software by far. 78% of the jobs surveyed require Revit skills. Over 50% required AutoCAD skills. The #3 most required software was SketchUp, with 37% of jobs listing it as a requirement.

One of the biggest changes over the past two years was the increase in firms requiring 3ds Max/Viz skills at 33% of jobs. This is up 5% from 2014.

Rhino requirements increased by 1% since 2014, with 11% requiring new hires to know the software.

We were disappointed (but not surprised) to see that, just like in 2014, Grasshopper was only required for 4% of jobs. And hand-sketching was called out as a requirement in 3% of jobs surveyed, which was down 1% from 2014.
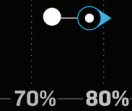
There was an increase in firms requiring Vray. Only 2% of jobs listed it as a requirement in 2014, compared to 4% in 2016.

Software requirements fell as experience increased, and lower experience required more software skills.
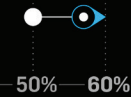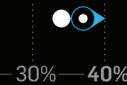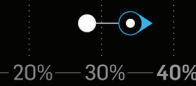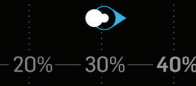
2014 ●   2016 ◉

1 78% Revit
70%   80%
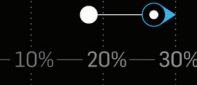
2 56% AutoCAD
50%   60%

3 37% SketchUp
30%   40%

4 33% 3ds Max/Viz
20%   30%   40%

5 30% Photoshop
20%   30%   40%

6 27% MS Excel
10%   20%   30%

7 26% MS Word
10%   20%   30%

8 20% Illustrator
20%

9 19% InDesign
10%   20%   30%
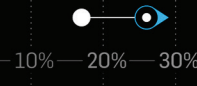
10 17% Creative Suite
10%   20%
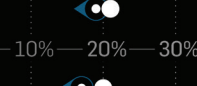
11 17% MS Powerpoint
10%   20%
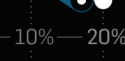
12 15% MS Office
10%   20%

13 12% MS Outlook
10%   20%
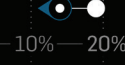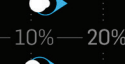
14 11% Rhino
0%   10%

15 5% Newforma
0%   10%
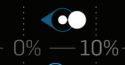
16 4% Grasshopper
0%   10%
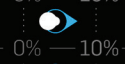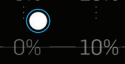
17 4% Vray
0%   10%
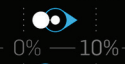
18 3% ArchiCAD
0%   10%
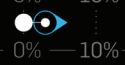
19 3% Hand Sketching
0%   10%
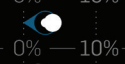
20 2% Navisworks
0%   10%

THE 100 FIRMS SURVEYED IN 2016

1. Gensler
2. AECOM
3. Jacobs
4. Perkins+Will
5. ARCADIS/Callison RTKL
6. CH2M Hill/DC
7. HDR Architecture
8. HOK
9. HKS Inc.
10. Skidmore Owings & Merrill LLP
11. Perkins Eastman
12. Bechtel
13. NBBJ
14. Woods Bagot
15. Stantec Inc.
16. Populous
17. Cannon Design
18. ZGF Architects LLP
19. SmithGroupJJR
20. DLR Group
21. EYP Inc.
22. Leo A Daly
23. HGA
24. Page
25. NORR
26. Burns & McDonnell
27. Corgan
28. Gresham, Smith and Partners
29. Flad Architects
30. VOA Associates Inc.
31. HMC Architects
32. KTGY Group Inc.
33. Solomon Cordwell Buenz
34. Cunningham Group Architecture Inc.
35. MG2
36. LS3P
37. PBK
38. Studios Architecture
39. Clark Nexsen
40. Kirksey Architecture
41. Cooper Cary Inc.
42. Ware Malcomb
43. IBI Group Inc.
44. LPA Inc.
45. RS&H Inc.
46. Ballinger
47. WD Partners
48. Fentress Architects
49. PGAL
50. Moseley Architects

51. WATG | Wimberly Interiors
52. Hord Coplan Macht Inc.
53. Payette
54. Humphreys & Partners Architects LP
55. The Beck Group
56. Heery International Inc.
57. The S/L/A/M Collaborative Inc.
58. Dewberry
59. Morris Architects
60. TPG Architecture
61. BWBR
62. FXFOWLE Architects
63. Little
64. Parkhill, Smith & Cooper Inc.
65. SSOE Group
66. Atkins North America
67. Shepley Bulfinch Richardson & Abbott
68. EwingCole
69. Harley Ellis Deveraux
70. Michael Baker International
71. FKP Architects Inc.
72. Huckabee
73. tvsdesign
74. P+R Architects
75. Steelman Partners
76. Goettsch Partners Inc.
77. Bergmann Associates Inc.
78. JLG Architects
79. Ziegler Cooper Architects
80. Niles Bolton Associates Inc.
81. Architects Hawaii Ltd.
82. CO Architects
83. BHDP Architecture
84. Shalom Baranes Associates PC
85. Pei Cobb Freed & Partners LLP
86. NAC|Architecture
87. HNTB Cos.
88. RDG Planning & Design
89. GreenbergFarrow
90. Array Architects Inc.
91. BOKA Powell
92. Lord Aeck Sargent
93. Francis Cauffman
94. Grimm + Parker Architects
95. Mithun
96. LMN Architects
97. Ankrom Moisan Architects Inc.
98. McMillian Pazdan Smith LLC
99. Lawrence Group
100. OZ Architecture

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