

'Be well presented, professional and enthusiastic about what you do'

Introduction

Jasmine joined Kendall Kingscott in 2008 as a Part II Architect to further her experience across a variety of sectors. Kendall Kingscott is primarily a practice of Architects and Building Surveyors that has been established for over 55 years.



Image: **Jasmine Blood**, Associate Architect – Kendall Kingscott Ltd

How did you get started in your career?

I always knew that I wanted to be an architect so tailored my holiday work and education to follow this career path. I did a lot of work experience at an architects firm prior to going to University. Following completion of my RIBA parts 1 and 2 I joined a firm in 2007 which folded a year later due to the recession. I then joined Kendall Kingscott in 2008 and have worked here ever since and have risen from an Architectural Assistant to an Associate.

Can you outline a typical work day?

Architecture is a profession that is full of variety, every day can be quite different. As an Associate I am responsible for the running of a number of projects so in a typical day I would be liaising closely with my clients, managing others working on the projects, working with other consultants, reviewing work and producing design work.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

I enjoy the variety of work that I do from designing different types of buildings to different work stages such as concept design to construction and getting on site to see my design being built. I enjoy the team aspect of designing and procuring a building when it works well. I also offer pastoral care and training of students to gain their Chartership qualification which I find rewarding.

What skills are important for anyone wishing to start in your profession?

Good communication skills through, drawing, written work and verbal communication. You need to be able to communicate your design and ideas to your client, sometimes the public and other stakeholders. Being organised is also an important skill, architects tend to be lead consultants and therefore you are also managing other consultant team members such as a structural engineer, M&E consultant etc.

What main personal attributes do you think is important for your type of job?

To be well presented, professional and enthusiastic about what you do.

Do you have any tips or suggestions on how young people and adults can enter your industry?

Currently 3 parts are required to fully qualify as an architect. This generally starts with an undergraduate degree in architecture that should be RIBA accredited. I would also suggest that you get as much work experience as possible, I did this whilst I was at school and continued through holiday work before I started university.

What career progression opportunities are available in your business/sector?

This is all dependant on what you would like to do, practices support graduates to attain their Chartership and become Architects. You can then be a Project Architect running your own team, you can progress to more senior levels where you run multiple projects. There is plenty of training courses available as well.

Why is it important for your sector to attract and train young people and new entrants?

Young people bring new ideas which keeps the sector exciting and progressive.

What trends do you predict for your industry within the next 10 years? E.g. is it a growing market requiring more young entrants

I would say yes, there is a lot of residential building necessary and we see this growing over the next 10 years. However if there is a recession following Brexit Architects can struggle.

General words of advice

This is a profession where the training is very specific, there are lots of good transferable skills but it is not the same as having a maths or history degree where there are a variety of jobs you can do. Currently, it is a very long period of training involving at least 5 years at university and placement years therefore you need to be sure that this is what you want to do. That is why I suggest getting a good period of work experience in your summer holidays before you even go to university.

Further contact/information

<https://www.architecture.com/education-cpd-and-careers/how-to-become-an-architect>

www.kendallkingscott.co.uk

Search the job profiles on the National Careers Service website for more information on becoming an Architect or hundreds of other jobs.