Architectural Technologists & Technicians

A guide for newcomers to British Columbia

skilled immigrant infocentre

Contents

1. Working as an Architectural Technologist & Technician [NOC 2021: 22210 / NOC 2016: 2251]

Job Description

Architectural technologists and technicians help professional architects design, carry out and supervise building projects. You do the following:

- Help in the development of architectural designs
- Analyze building codes, bylaws, space requirements, site requirements and other technical documents and reports
- Prepare manual and CAD (computer-assisted design) drawings, specifications, cost estimates and listings of quantities of material from conceptual drawings and instructions
- Build architectural, display, and 3-D virtual models of architectural designs
- Prepare contract and bidding documents

Sources:

- WorkBC Career Profile for Architectural Technologists & Technicians
  https://www.workbc.ca/Jobs-Careers/Explore-Careers.aspx [search Architectural]
- *Career Cruising* (Profile for Architectural Tech)
  http://www.vpl.ca/digital-library/career-cruising
  Available from the VPL Digital Library | Explore our Digital Library page
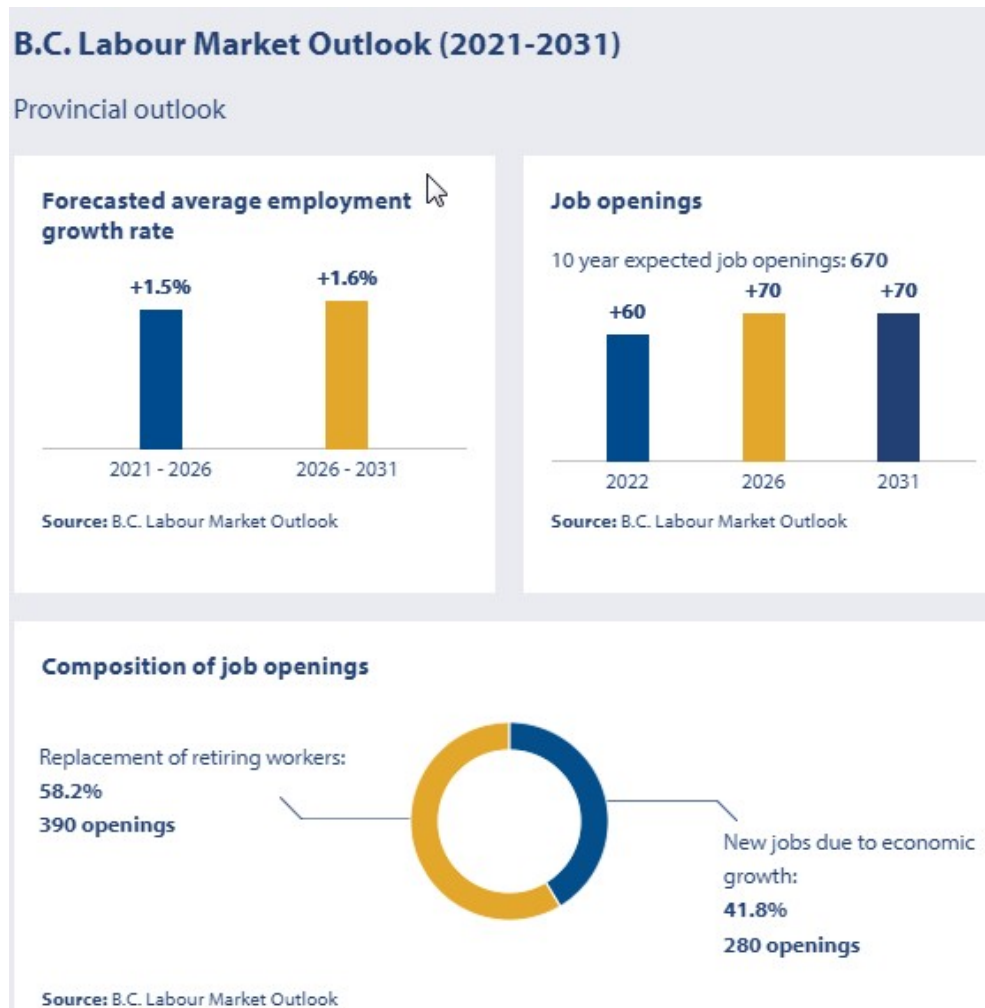
Industry Overview

As major projects peak and then wind down (e.g. public transportation, pipeline infrastructure), coupled with slower population growth, construction employment is expected to recede between 2022 and 2024, but remain above 2018 levels.

A return to more modest growth over the latter half of the coming decade and the anticipated retirement of 44,200 workers will require the construction and maintenance industry to remain focused on recruiting and training across the entire 2019–2028 scenario period. This demand may be partially met by an estimated 36,500 new entrants aged 30 and younger available locally, but a significant portion of the remainder will likely need to be drawn from outside the province.

Source: Buildforce Canada, 2019-2028, British Columbia, Construction and Maintenance Looking Forward, https://www.constructionforecasts.ca

Job Outlook in BC

Architectural Technologists & Technicians, Employment Outlook

B.C. Labour Market Outlook (2021-2031)

Provincial outlook

Forecasted average employment growth rate

+1.5% (2021 - 2026)
+1.6% (2026 - 2031)

Source: B.C. Labour Market Outlook

Job openings

10 year expected job openings: 670

+60 (2022)
+70 (2026)
+70 (2031)

Source: B.C. Labour Market Outlook

Composition of job openings

Replacement of retiring workers:
58.2%
390 openings

New jobs due to economic growth:
41.8%
280 openings

Source: B.C. Labour Market Outlook

JobBank Canada reports that for the 2021-2023, the employment outlook is expected to be fair for Architectural technologists and technicians in the *Lower Mainland - Southwest region and in Vancouver Island & Coast Region.* Employment growth is expected to be moderate and not many positions will become available due to*.*

The **Employment Outlook for BC** provides job openings projections for architectural technologists & technicians in three BC regions:

Region	Estimated Job Openings 2021-2031	Average Annual Employment Growth 2021-2031
Vancouver Island	110	2.0%
Lower Mainland / Southwest	480	1.5%
Thompson Okanagan	60	1.6%

Source: https://www.workbc.ca/Jobs-Careers/Explore-Careers.aspx

You can learn more about working as an Architectural Technologist/Technician in BC from:

- *WorkBC Architectural Technologists & Technicians*
  https://www.workbc.ca/Jobs-Careers/Explore-Careers.aspx
- *Career Cruising* (Profile for Architectural Tech)
  http://www.vpl.ca/digital-library/career-cruising
  Available from the VPL Digital Library | Explore our Digital Library page
- *Job Bank Canada*, Profile for Architectural Technologist
  https://www.jobbank.gc.ca/marketreport/outlook-occupation/3400/BC

Types of Employers

You may be employed by:

- architectural and construction firms
- governments
- building contractors
- surveyors
- real estate developers

- consulting engineers
- utility companies

Salary

In BC the average annual ***median*** salary is $62,714. Your wage depends on experience, location, and level of education.

Full-time techs usually get benefits as well as a salary. These can include dental coverage, paid vacations, and paid sick days.

Job Bank Canada provides hourly wages for Architectural Technologists & Technicians in Lower Mainland:

Community/Area	Wages ($/hour)		
	Low	Median	High
British Columbia	20.00	30.07	41.14
Lower Mainland–Southwest Region	20.00	30.85	41.13

Source: Job Bank Wage Report http://www.jobbank.gc.ca/wage-outlook_search-eng.do?reportOption=wage

Working Hours

You generally work a 5 day, 40 hour week. However, you may be expected to work overtime and weekends to meet deadlines.

2. Skills, Education and Experience

Skills

- Math and computer skills
- Written and verbal communication
- Drawing and 3-D visualization
- Detail oriented
- Team project work
- Problem solving

Education and Experience

To work as an architectural tech, you usually require:

- Completion of a college program in architectural technology or a related subject
- Certification with the **Architectural Institute of British Columbia (AIBC)** (http://aibc.ca/) and/or **Applied Science Technologists & Technicians of British Columbia (ASTTBC)** *(https://asttbc.org/) may* be required
- A period of supervised work experience, usually two years, is required before certification

Qualifications

You must be registered with the Architectural Institute of British Columbia (AIBC) to use the term *Architectural Technologist*.

Certification as a *Certified Residential Designer* or *Registered Building Designer* is available through the *Applied Science Technologists & Technicians of BC (ASTTBC)*.

For more information see:

- **The Architectural Institute of British Columbia (AIBC)**
  https://aibc.ca/registration/architectural-technologists/
  https://aibc.ca/registration/architectural-technologists/become-an-architectural-technologist-aibc/
- **Applied Science Technologists & Technicians of British Columbia (ASTTBC)**
  https://asttbc.org/registrants/registered-technical-specialist/

Internationally Trained and Accredited Architectural Techs

If you are an internationally trained architectural technologist or technician you **may** qualify for provisional membership with ASTTBC. This includes an assessment of your education and professional credentials.

For more information:

- **ASTTBC Application Process** [see 'Internationally trained professionals']
  https://asttbc.org/applicants/application-process/

You may wish to consider applying to be an *Affiliate* of the Architectural Institute of BC (AIBC) - Affiliates are not registered with the AIBC and do not have practice rights or rights to titles or designations. However, joining the AIBC as an affiliate may serve as a stepping stone for individuals who are working towards their registration requirements. Affiliate status enables applicants to connect to the AIBC for advice on meeting education/experience requirements for registration

For more information:

- Architectural Institute of BC AIBC - Affiliates
  https://aibc.ca/resources/affiliates/

3. Finding Jobs

You'll find job advertisements in local newspapers, trade journals, and electronic sources, as well as through professional associations' publications.

Local Newspapers

You can look at the *Vancouver Sun* and *The Province* at Vancouver Public Library for free. Check the job postings daily, the careers section in the *Vancouver Sun* on Wednesdays and Saturdays and in *The Province* on Sundays.

Online Job Postings

- **Indeed.com**
  http://ca.indeed.com/advanced_search
- **Talent.com**
  https://ca.talent.com/
- **Techjobs.ca**
  http://www.techjobs.ca/en

- **T-Net British Columbia: BC Technology Job Search**
  http://www.bctechnology.com/tech-careers.cfm
- **Construction Canada**
  https://www.constructioncanada.net/jobboard/

- **WorkBC**

  https://www.workbc.ca/Jobs-Careers/Find-Jobs/Jobs.aspx#/job-search

  BC Jobs.ca

  https://www.bcjobs.ca/

- **BC JobConnect**

  https://www.bcjobconnect.ca **must have permanent resident number**

  newcomers can post their skills, education and work experience to BC

  employers looking for workers

Professional Associations' Career Resources

- **Architectural Institute of BC (AIBC)**

  https://aibcclassifieds.wordpress.com/category/career-opportunities/

- **Royal Architectural Institute of Canada RAIC**:

  https://www.raic.org/raic/job-board

Identifying the Right Position

When you browse job advertisements, you'll find a range of different job titles that are relevant. For architectural technologists/technicians, look for these related job titles (from NOC):

- architectural design technician/technologist
- architectural technician/technologist
- registered building technologist
- residential building technologist

Creating a List of Potential Employers

You can use directories to produce lists of employers in Vancouver or BC. Contact them directly to find out if they're hiring.

- **Architectural Institute of BC Member Directory**

  Click on "Search for a Firm"

  https://aibc.memberpro.net/ssl/main/body.cfm?menu=directory

- **Business in Vancouver, "Book of Lists"**

  See lists of top architects and construction companies. Available at the Central Library, 338.9711 B97b or online at http://www.biv.com/lists

- **Canadian Construction Association Membership Directory**

  Available online at
  https://www.cca-acc.com/membership/corporate-members-directory/

- **Greater Vancouver Home Builders Association, Membership Directory**

  Available at the Central Library, 380 Bu9CBg

  Online at: https://members.havan.ca/directory

- **Reference Canada**

  http://www.vpl.ca/digital-library/reference-canada

  Click on "Start Search" beside Canadian Businesses, then select the "Advanced Search" button. Select both "Keyword/SIC/NAICS" under Business Type and "City" under Geography. In the top search box enter "architect" and click LOOKUP. Select the appropriate headings, e.g. "architectural designers" "architectural services". You can also try "construction companies". Lower down, select the Province, choose the cities, and click the "View Results" button. Available from the VPL Digital Library | Explore our Digital Library page

NOTE: *You can access this database from a Library computer. If you are using a computer from outside the Library, you will need a Vancouver Public Library card to login to this database. After clicking on the database name, you will be asked to enter your library card number and PIN (usually last four digits of your telephone number).*

4. Applying for a Job

In Canada, employers usually expect to receive a resume or curriculum vitae and a cover letter that identifies the position you are applying for and summarizes your relevant experience.

Use the library catalogue, http://vpl.bibliocommons.com/ to find books on writing resumes and cover letters specific to your industry.

To learn about applying for jobs in Canada, use the following guides which are available in print at the Central Library or online at http://skilledimmigrants.vpl.ca/.

- **Writing Resumes and Cover Letters**

  Go to http://skilledimmigrants.vpl.ca

  [Search Writing Resumes and Cover Letters]

- **Getting Canadian Work Experience**

  Go to http://skilledimmigrants.vpl.ca

  [Search Getting Canadian Work Experience]

- **Networking for Employment**

  Go to http://skilledimmigrants.vpl.ca

  [Search Networking for Employment]

- **Learn More About Working in BC and Canada**

  Go to http://skilledimmigrants.vpl.ca

  [Search Learn More About Working in BC and Canada]

5. Getting Help from Industry Sources

Industry Associations

Associations in BC and Canada can provide information and assistance. Registration and fees are usually required for membership.

- **Architectural Institute of British Columbia (AIBC)**

  http://www.aibc.ca/

- **Applied Science Technologists & Technicians of British Columbia (ASTTBC)**

  http://www.asttbc.org

- **British Columbia Residential and Building Designers BCABD**

  https://www.bcabd.org/

  https://www.bcabd.org/whatwedo

  Represents building designers residential or building designers working in Part 9 of the BC Building Code

- **Royal Architectural Institute of Canada**
  https://www.raic.org/
- **Canadian Construction Association**
  https://www.cca-acc.com/

Industry Journals

Industry journals provide current information about projects, events and companies. The following are available at the Central Library and online:

- **ArchitectureBC** / Architectural Institute of British Columbia
  Available at the Central Library, 720.9711 A673n or online at
  https://aibc.ca/news-events/signature-events-programs/architectural-awards/architecturebc/
- **Building**
  Available at the Central Library, 690.5 C212 or online at
  https://www.building.ca/
- **Canadian Architect**
  Available at the Central Library, 720.5 C212 or online at
  http://www.canadianarchitect.com/
  https://www.canadianarchitect.com/magazine/
- **Construction Canada**
  Available at the Central Library, 692.05 S74 or online at
  http://www.constructioncanada.net/
- **Journal of Commerce**
  Available at VPL Central Library, 338.47 J86 BU or online at
  https://canada.constructconnect.com/joc

Questions? Please ask the Information Staff in the Central Library, Vancouver Public Library or telephone 604-331-3603.

Please note that the information in this guide is also available online through the Skilled Immigrant InfoCentre website at http://skilledimmigrants.vpl.ca/.