



Principal Landscape Architect

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Landscape architects create great places for people to live in, work in, learn in and relax or play sport in. We design new landscapes in and around our cities, towns and villages. We also protect and improve landscapes in the countryside, at the seaside and in the mountains. I have designed the areas around new schools, colleges and universities. I have also designed new parks and sports pitches, play areas and skate parks. Much of my work is large scale projects where we have created major parks with woods, ponds and meadows where both people can enjoy the new trees and flowers and wildlife will benefit from new and protected habitats

Why I chose my job

When I was at school I was interested in design, geography and spent a lot of my spare time outside walking and cycling. I was able to bring these three interests together to study landscape architecture. The great thing about my job is creating places for people to enjoy being outside with family and friends. Whether it is a large park on the edge of town or a new square in the centre of a city both offer benefits for everyone. I get to work with architects and engineers on projects for new housing and business parks. We have worked with councils to produce strategies and policies to protect and improve the countryside and to guide new developments around the urban areas. Knowing that the trees and shrubs we will plant will help to improve the habitat for wildlife is very important to us. But overall it's the fact we are creating great places for people and their community to live in.

The day-to-day

It's quite varied, sometimes I'm in the office or often I am on site, hopefully in sunshine, surveying the landscape, its trees and vegetation for a new project. In the office we are designing our projects firstly sketching ideas with pen and paper before formalising the design with computer CAD programmes. We will illustrate the design using 3D models that can be photo-realistic or quite sketchy. The intention is to demonstrate to our clients and councils what we want to create and its benefits. We often have to work out the cost so it can be built to a budget. I will then visit the site to inspect the project as it is built.

Key skills

- A real interest in the outdoor environment, how it is used by people and wildlife and how things exist together; people, plants and wildlife
- Art, graphics and design are important to illustrate how you can create new landscapes
- Biology and geography are useful sciences to have, but not essential
- English is needed for writing the occasional report.

Qualifications

Due to the wide breadth of the profession there are no essential subjects for gaining entry to a course, but any mixture of the following can prove useful: Art and Design, Geography, Biology, Graphic and Product Design, English, Technology, ICT, History or Economics.

Salary & Progression

Graduates will join a practice on around £18,000 rising to £20,000. An average salary for an experienced landscape architect will be £30,000+.

Where to find out more

<http://www.beandscapearchitect.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/Be-a-Landscape-Architect-careers-brochure.pdf>