

Evolution of the Architect

IT WON'T GET BUILT WITHOUT FIRST
GOING THROUGH THE HANDS OF AN
ARCHITECT



ANCIENT HISTORY

The very first architect in recorded history was Imhotep of Egypt, who designed the Pyramid of Djoser, or as many know it, the Stepped Pyramid. In Ancient Greek and Roman times when columns were so popular, it was the head, or master, builder who would take on the role of designer or architect. Since the buildings were small and simple, the designer didn't need a high level of expertise. The title of architect and master builder were first separated in the Renaissance Era, when the likes of Raphael and Michelangelo were commissioned to design buildings.



BUILDER VS ARCHITECT

In the eighteenth century when the Americas were being colonized, many of the elite developed an interest in creating their own architectural designs as a hobby. They were not only able to design their passion projects, but fund them as well, while the builders executed the plans. The nineteenth century was when the architect was officially and fully separated from the construction team. By now the architect needed to be educated and had a leadership role on projects, often overseeing the construction process. They transformed from craftsmen to professionals, and from individuals to large teams working for firms.



UNIQUE CREATIVITY

In the twentieth century high industry standards were becoming well established. Back in the day of drafting by hand, you had to twirl your pencil as you drew a line so that the line thickness was consistent and so the measurements of the walls were more accurate. This was also the height of personal style in drawings. Some people had creative use of colour, some had very unique lines, and some liked to add a cool element to each of their drawings. One example is an architect who liked to add a little mouse to each of his drawings for the viewers to find.



WORKING PROFESSIONAL

Today the architect is far different from a master builder. Often times they take on supervisory roles, deal with the legal aspects, create the documents and timelines, play a role in the bidding and budgeting of the project, and must always be aware of the current building codes. With changes in technology, the architect's expertise has also changed. In the past architects had to learn to work with new building materials. Now the architect has had to learn new ways of design. Gone are the days of sitting at a drafting table with rulers, protractors and countless pencils.



STILL EVOLVING

Now designs are done on various software programs. This gives the architect the ability to not only make more precise drawings, but also make quick changes, and add textures and elements to their drawings in new ways. New technologies continued to have an effect on how the architect works. 3D drawings have created new possibilities in their work, and 3D printing of models has added another new element to design, sales, and presentation - In the near future you'll even see your presentation with virtual reality glasses and be able to virtually "walk through" your home.