Definition of Architect Positions

The AIA collects and disseminates Best Practices as a service to AIA members without endorsement or recommendation. Appropriate use of the information provided is the responsibility of the reader.

SENIOR PRINCIPAL / PARTNER
Typically an owner or majority shareholder of the firm; may be the founder; titles may include president, chief executive officer, or managing principal/partner.

MID-LEVEL PRINCIPAL / PARTNER
Principal or partner; titles may include executive or senior vice president.

JUNIOR PRINCIPAL / PARTNER
Recently made a partner or principal of the firm; title may include vice president.

DEPARTMENT HEAD / SENIOR MANAGER
Senior management architect or non-registered graduate; responsible for major department(s) or functions; reports to a principal or partner.

PROJECT MANAGER
Licensed architect or non-registered graduate with more than 10 years of experience; has overall project management responsibility for a variety of projects or project teams, including client contact, scheduling, and budgeting.

SENIOR ARCHITECT / DESIGNER
Licensed architect or non-registered graduate with more than 10 years of experience; has a design or technical focus and is responsible for significant project activities.

ARCHITECT / DESIGNER III
Licensed architect or non-registered graduate with 8-10 years of experience; responsible for significant aspects of projects.

ARCHITECT / DESIGNER II
Licensed architect or non-registered graduate with 6-8 years of experience, responsible for daily design or technical development of projects.

ARCHITECT / DESIGNER I
Recently licensed architect or non-registered graduate with 3-5 years of experience; responsible for particular parts of a project within parameters set by others.

THIRD-YEAR INTERN
Unlicensed architecture school graduate in third year of internship; develops design or technical solutions under supervision of an architect.

SECOND-YEAR INTERN
Unlicensed architecture school graduate in second year of internship.

ENTRY-LEVEL INTERN
Unlicensed architecture school graduate in first year of internship.

TO OBTAIN THE COMPLETE REPORT