

Architectural and Engineering Managers

SOC: 11-9041 • Career Profile Report

■ Key Facts

\$167,740

Median Salary

212,500

Employment

+4.0%

Growth Rate

■ Requirements & Salary Range

Education: Bachelor's degree

■ Automation Risk Assessment

Low Risk - 18.0% probability of being automated in the next 10-20 years.

This job is relatively safe from automation due to its creative, social, or complex problem-solving requirements.

■■ Work-Life Balance

7.0/10 - Good work-life balance

■ Personality Fit (RIASEC)

Higher scores indicate better personality fit for this career type.

Realistic	4.2/10	Investigative	6.8/10
Artistic	4.4/10	Social	7.8/10
Enterprising	8.6/10	Conventional	7.4/10

■ Top Skills Required

Analytical skills, Communication skills, Interpersonal skills, Leadership skills, Math skills, Organizational skills

✓ Strengths

- High Demand
- Flexible Work
- Continuous Learning

■ Challenges

- Burnout Risk
- Rapid Technological Change

■ What They Do

Architectural and Engineering Managers are technical leaders who plan, direct, and coordinate **engineering and architectural projects, teams, and technical activities**. They bridge the gap between design expertise and organizational strategy by overseeing complex projects, managing budgets and schedules, and ensuring technical standards are met. Rather than focusing solely on hands-on design, they guide teams of engineers and architects toward successful project outcomes.

This career is well suited for experienced technical professionals who enjoy leadership, project management, and aligning technical work with business or public objectives.

What Do Architectural and Engineering Managers Do?

Architectural and engineering managers supervise technical staff and oversee the execution of design and development projects. Their responsibilities span leadership, coordination, and strategic planning.

Common responsibilities include:

- Planning and directing engineering or architectural projects
- Managing teams of engineers, architects, and technical staff
- Establishing project goals, timelines, and budgets
- Reviewing designs, plans, and technical reports
- Ensuring compliance with regulations, codes, and safety standards
- Coordinating with clients, contractors, and stakeholders
- Evaluating technical performance and resource needs

Types of Architectural and Engineering Managers

These managers may specialize by discipline or industry:

- Engineering Managers: Oversee teams in mechanical, electrical, civil, software, or industrial engineering.
- Architectural Managers: Manage architectural design teams and building projects.
- Construction and Project Managers (technical focus): Coordinate design execution and implementation.
- Research and Development Managers: Lead technical innovation and product development.
- Infrastructure and Public Works Managers: Oversee large-scale public engineering projects.
- Facilities and Systems Managers: Manage complex technical systems and built environments.

Skills and Abilities Needed

Architectural and engineering managers combine technical depth with leadership and business skills.

Core Professional Skills

Personal Qualities That Matter

Education and Career Pathway

Most architectural and engineering managers advance through education and significant professional experience:

- Bachelor's Degree: In engineering, architecture, or a related technical field
- Professional Experience: Several years as an engineer or architect
- Professional Licensure: Often required or preferred (PE, RA, or equivalent)
- Advanced Education (optional): Master's degree in engineering management, architecture, or business (MBA)
- Ongoing Professional Development: Leadership training and technical updates

Where Do Architectural and Engineering Managers Work?

These managers are employed across many technical industries:

- Engineering and Architectural Firms

- Construction and Infrastructure Companies
- Manufacturing and Industrial Organizations
- Technology and Research Companies
- Government Agencies and Public Works Departments
- Energy, Utilities, and Transportation Sectors

Work environments are primarily office-based, with site visits as needed.

How Much Do Architectural and Engineering Managers Earn?

Earnings reflect the high level of responsibility and expertise required:

- Mid-Level Managers: Typically earn strong professional salaries
- Senior or Director-Level Managers: Often earn higher compensation based on project scale and leadership scope
- Highly Specialized Technical Leaders: May earn more in complex or regulated industries

Compensation varies by industry, organization size, and geographic location.

Is This Career Difficult?

This career is demanding due to the complexity and scale of projects managed. Architectural and engineering managers must balance technical accuracy, budgets, schedules, and team performance. The challenge lies in leading multidisciplinary teams while maintaining high technical and safety standards.

Who Should Consider Becoming an Architectural or Engineering Manager?

This career may be a strong fit if you:

- Have strong technical expertise and leadership skills
- Enjoy managing complex projects and teams
- Are comfortable making high-impact decisions
- Like balancing technical and business considerations
- Want to move from hands-on design into leadership roles

How to Prepare Early

- Build a strong foundation in math, science, and engineering or design
- Develop leadership and communication skills
- Gain experience managing projects or teams
- Learn budgeting, scheduling, and risk management basics
- Explore professional licensure and management pathways

Architectural and engineering managers turn technical vision into reality by leading teams, managing complexity, and delivering safe, effective, and innovative projects at scale.