

Want to find out more?

Where to go for information

We have given you a snapshot of just a few of the main career options available for women in property and construction but there are many more that are property related and where there is still a shortage of women.

Whether designing a building, preparing strategic plans on urban design, negotiating rents on commercial properties, advising on investment purchases or managing a landed estate, the work is stimulating, diverse and rarely desk bound.

People in property work in small businesses or global organisations, in private practice and in the public sector such as local authorities and Government.

Here are a few more of the careers that are property related:

- Community Consultation on proposed developments
- Construction
- Interior Design
- Landscape Architecture
- Property Development
- Property Finance
- Property Law
- Property Marketing
- Property Recruitment
- Surveying including Quantity Surveying, Building Surveying and Valuation Surveying

Most areas of property and construction have a professional organisation which can help you to find out more. We have listed a few of them here but you can also visit libraries and the internet for details.

Architecture

Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA)
0207 580 5533 www.architecture.com

Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland (RIAS)
0131 229 7545 www.rias.org.uk

Engineering

Institute of Mechanical Engineering
0207 222 7899 www.imeche.org

Facilities Management

British Institute of Facilities Management
0845 058 1356 www.bifm.org.uk/careersinfm

Planning

Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI)
0207 929 9494 www.rtpi.org.uk

Project Management

The Association for Project Management (APM)
0845 458 1944 www.apm.org.uk

Surveying

Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS)
0870 333 1600 www.rics.org.uk

What is the Association of Women in Property?

Women in Property is a national organisation, established in 1987. With over 1,600 members and 12 regional branches it represents all disciplines within the property and construction industry.

It seeks to enhance the profile of women in the still male dominated construction and property sector, both by providing a dynamic forum for women in these professions and by encouraging and developing newcomers.

Over 300 events are run nationally each year, providing a great opportunity for professional development and more informal networking. The Association also runs the National Student Awards scheme which was launched in 2007 to recognise excellence, encourage up and coming talent and nurture the role models of tomorrow.

If you'd like to know more about the Association of Women in Property please contact:

Fiona Alfred on 0207 603 4746
email f.alfred@btinternet.com
or log on to www.wipnet.org



wipnet.org

asset skills
assetskills.org

This leaflet has been produced with the support of Asset Skills, an organisation which helps to ensure that people working in the property industry are equipped with the right skills. It works with employers to address both the gender and age gap and find new ways of opening up these jobs to younger people and more women.

Jobs for the girls careers in property

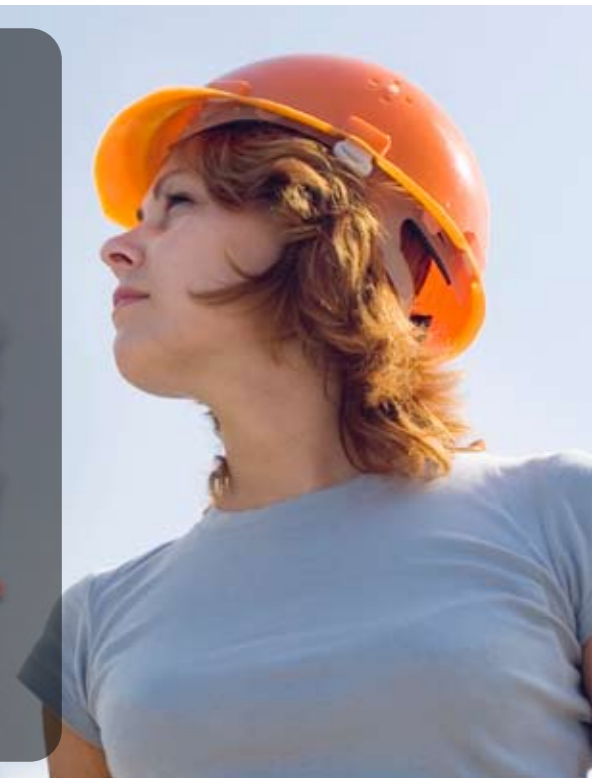


Ever wondered about a career in property but thought it was a man's world? Ever wondered what types of careers are available besides estate agency, or building work?

You might not have thought about careers in the property industry because it doesn't seem very glamorous but this field offers all sorts of challenging and exciting roles for women, as diverse as legal practice and engineering, or architecture and surveying.

It's not all work boots, fluorescent jackets and hard hats, although there are plenty of those sorts of opportunities for girls too, if that's what appeals to you.

This leaflet offers an insight into some of these opportunities through the eyes of a few of the young women currently following careers in construction and property.



career option 1

Architecture



Jessica Mockford
Architect with Boyes Rees

What does the average day in the life of an architect involve?

It's really hard to describe an average working day for an architect, since no two days are the same. The job brings me into contact with all aspects of the construction process so I have a constantly varied, exciting and interesting working day.

I could find myself on a building site, discussing construction issues with the builders, then back in the office developing designs for new construction projects, using the latest information technology.

What do you most enjoy about your job?

For me one of the best aspects of architecture is the fact that each project presents a completely new challenge.

What sort of person would be best suited to your role?

Architects need a genuine passion and interest in building design and construction from concept design to the completion of the building. The key skills required are organisational, technical and creative.

How do you qualify as an architect and how long does it take?

There are lots of different ways you can get into architecture, although the most common is called the RIBA (Royal Institute of British Architects) Stage scheme, which involves studying an Architectural Studies degree at university. To get onto the scheme you need GCSEs in Maths and English at at least grade B and three A Levels. Typically it can take six years to become fully qualified.



Lizzie Flowith
Chartered Surveyor with GVA Grimley,
(General Practice, Commercial Property)

career option 3

Engineering



Jessica Hogg
Mechanical Building Services Engineer
with Faber Maunsell

What does an average day in the life of a mechanical building services engineer involve?

I liaise with people from all sorts of different aspects of building design, like architects and structural engineers to find solutions for things like heating and ventilation systems, or water services and drainage for new buildings. I use computer software a lot in my job and spend much of my time determining energy usage for a new building and establishing how much carbon it will emit.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

I find it really satisfying to watch a building develop from a simple idea to a physical structure. I also get to meet other people involved in different aspects of the process.

What sort of person would be best suited to your role?

A logical, systematic thinker, with an aptitude for maths and physics but who can also demonstrate creativity and an ability to solve problems.

How do you qualify as a mechanical building services engineer and how long does it take?

If you have A-Levels, including Maths and Physics, you can take a university degree in mechanical or building services engineering, which can take three or four years. Or you can take an apprenticeship after GCSEs. This is normally combined with some study to gain an NVQ or HNC and usually takes about four years. Work experience is not a requirement but many employers value it.

career option 2

Chartered Surveying

What does an average day in the life of a chartered surveyor involve?

A lot of my day is spent out and about viewing properties for sale or meeting clients. I go to lots of business events where I have to meet other agents and make contacts. When I am in the office I am usually carrying out negotiations for clients or making calls about potential purchases.

What do you most enjoy about your job?

It is a very varied and challenging role which means I have great job satisfaction and the prospects are good for earning a high salary.

What sort of person would be best suited to your role?

I would say that, generally, a surveyor needs to be able to communicate well, enjoy meeting new people and be hard working and entrepreneurial.

How do you qualify as a surveyor and how long does it take?

To become a chartered surveyor usually takes five years. You need at least grade C at GCSE level Maths, 3 A-Levels and then a RICS (Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors) accredited degree. This involves a three-year course at college, or a four-year sandwich course, including a year working in a relevant position in the industry. Once employed, the final stage of qualification is the APC, or Assessment of Professional Competence, which takes two years to complete, after which, you have an interview to become a member of the RICS. Sounds a lot but it's really interesting along the way!



Liz Turnbull
Head of Facilities
Henmans LLP

career option 4

Facilities Management

What does the average day in the life of a facilities manager involve?

It's really varied! Anything from negotiating a contract with suppliers, answering a call on helpdesk, booking a Building Maintenance Services engineer or planning an office move but there's so much more to the job.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

Life is never dull and you get to meet and work with a wide range of people, gaining extensive knowledge. My team deals with all sorts of different areas, including cleaning, recycling and waste management, security, fire, Health and Safety, archives, stationery, telecoms, energy management, space planning...the list goes on!

What sort of person would be best suited to your role?

You need to be a highly organised 'multi tasker' with excellent communications skills. Essentially you are responding to and pre-empting the problems and needs of the building's occupants so you have to be pro-active and re-active.

How do you qualify as a Facilities Manager and how long does it take?

It is possible to get a facilities job straight from GCSE or A levels and then qualify once working which is what I did. It took me two years to complete my postgraduate diploma on a distance learning programme but there are lots of training options.



Kelly Sampson
Commercial Property Solicitor
with Bevan Brittan

career option 5

Law

What does an average day in the life of a commercial property solicitor involve?

I deal with lots of contracts and leases for clients, drafting and amending documents for them. I am also required to give advice on legal matters. Lots of my time is spent on the telephone too, discussing issues with clients or agreeing documents with other solicitors.

What do you most enjoy about your job?

I enjoy the fact that my work is so varied – there is always something new to learn.

What sort of person would be best suited to your role?

Good reading and writing skills are essential and a commercial property solicitor would need to enjoy detailed work, where accuracy and attention to detail are important.

Because you are dealing with complex legal issues, you need to be a good communicator who can explain the details to clients.

How do you qualify as a property solicitor and how long does it take?

You will need A-Levels and a degree. If you don't do a degree in law you can follow your degree with a one-year conversion course, called a "Graduate Diploma in Law." After this there is a one-year postgraduate Legal Practice Course, followed by a two-year training contract within a law firm.

Work experience is not a requirement but prospective employers will often prefer that you have had some experience during your studies.



Jennifer Glendinning
Graduate Planner
with EDAW plc

career option 6

Planning

What does an average day in the life of a graduate planner involve?

As a graduate I'm still learning and developing new skills. Currently my job involves baseline surveys, community engagement, meetings and writing reports. A 'day in the life' might see me undertaking research into a topic or a place, reviewing a policy and then writing a report to present my findings.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

I really enjoy gaining an understanding of how the strategies and plans that will help improve people's lives or the environment actually happen, in 'real life', which takes me to lots of different places. Ultimately the best bit of this job is the diversity of skills you acquire and the possibilities they offer.

What sort of person would be best suited to your role?

Really, you need a variety of skills as planners are involved in making decisions about the management and development of towns and countryside. To be successful you need to be able to interact with people and communicate your ideas well. An interest in the places you live in, how they function and change and what is changing them, is extremely valuable, from climate change to economic shifts.

How do you qualify as a graduate planner and how long does it take?

I studied English, Maths, Geography, History and Biology and then studied for an undergraduate degree in Geography. I then did one year's postgraduate study to achieve a Master's degree in Urban & Regional Planning. To meet the membership criteria of our professional body, the Royal Town Planning Institute, you have to complete an accredited degree in planning. After finishing the Masters it will take two years of relevant experience to become a chartered planner.

career option 7

Project Management



Jennifer Price
Development Executive
(Project Management)
MCD Developments

What does the average day in the life of a project manager involve?

Prioritisation and time management are key. As a project manager is someone who removes obstacles and helps the development team to get on and do their job, communication is really important. So, I'll spend time assessing priorities, organising the team, reading reports and making sure everyone is up to date. Of course I also go out on the construction site with my hard hat and boots, as being familiar with what is going on, on the ground, is one of the most important parts of the job – this is the fun bit!

What do you enjoy most about your job?

Seeing a project through from start to finish. From a new idea scribbled on a piece of paper by an architect or developer to a whole new scheme on the ground, it's fantastic being able to say 'I did that' – there is nothing like it! You can take pride in knowing you have done a good job and made it happen.

What sort of person would be best suited to your role?

When you run a team, you need to be able to motivate them and get the best out of them at all times. When dealing with your client you need to be able to set reasonable expectations and then meet them. Organisation, clear thinking and good time management are the elements on which all of this need to be based.

How do you qualify as a Project Manager and how long does it take?

Most people would say you need a degree and an RICS qualification but there are many different ways to get into Project Management. Some start on-site and work their way up, some transfer their skills from another industry. Qualifications include the Introductory Certificate in Project Management.