THE BLACK SPECTACLES ANNUAL SOFTWARE REQUIREMENTS STUDY

SOFTWARE YOU NEED TO GET A JOB IN 2017.
Are you learning the design tools you need to work at the top firms in the world? We surveyed over 1,500 jobs at the top 100 architecture firms to see what software skills they require to land a job at their firm.
SOFTWARE SKILLS REQUIRED TO WORK AT THE TOP 100 FIRMS IN THE WORLD

We surveyed 1,587 online job postings at the top 100 architecture firms, based on Architectural Record's 2015 list of the Top Architecture Firms, two-thirds of which have won design awards in the past 2 years from either AIA National or AIA Components, and compiled the software skill sets required for each. We then sorted them by average, and years of experience required.

We compared this data to the results from the same survey conducted in 2014.

The following data will help you focus on what skill sets you need in order to get you to the top of your game.
We continue to see a movement in the industry from AutoCAD to Revit as the most widely used architecture software amongst the top firms.

There was an increase in number of firms requiring both Revit and AutoCAD this year, with Revit being the most required software by far. 78% of the jobs surveyed require Revit skills. Over 50% required AutoCAD skills. The #3 most required software was SketchUp, with 37% of jobs listing it as a requirement.

One of the biggest changes over the past two years was the increase in firms requiring 3ds Max/Viz skills at 33% of jobs. This is up 5% from 2014.

Rhino requirements increased by 1% since 2014, with 11% requiring new hires to know the software.

We were disappointed (but not surprised) to see that, just like in 2014, Grasshopper was only required for 4% of jobs. And hand-sketching was called out as a requirement in 3% of jobs surveyed, which was down 1% from 2014.

There was an increase in firms requiring Vray. Only 2% of jobs listed it as a requirement in 2014, compared to 4% in 2016.

Software requirements fell as experience increased, and lower experience required more software skills.
# THE 100 FIRMS SURVEYED IN 2016

1. Gensler  
2. AECOM  
3. Jacobs  
4. Perkins+Will  
5. ARCADIS/Callison RTKL  
6. CH2M Hill/DC  
7. HDR Architecture  
8. HOK  
9. HKS Inc.  
10. Skidmore Owings & Merrill LLP  
11. Perkins Eastman  
12. Bechtel  
13. NBBJ  
14. Woods Bagot  
15. Stantec Inc.  
16. Populous  
17. Cannon Design  
18. ZGF Architects LLP  
19. SmithGroupJJR  
20. DLR Group  
21. EVP Inc.  
22. Leo A Daly  
23. HGA  
24. Page  
25. NORR  
26. Burns & McDonnell  
27. Corgan  
28. Gresham, Smith and Partners  
29. Flad Architects  
30. VOA Associates Inc.  
31. HMC Architects  
32. KTGY Group Inc.  
33. Solomon Cordwell Buenz  
34. Cunningham Group Architecture Inc.  
35. MG2  
36. LS3P  
37. PBK  
38. Studios Architecture  
39. Clark Nexsen  
40. Kirksey Architecture  
41. Cooper Cary Inc.  
42. Ware Malcomb  
43. IBI Group Inc.  
44. LPA Inc.  
45. RS&H Inc.  
46. Ballinger  
47. WD Partners  
48. Fentress Architects  
49. PGAL  
50. Moseley Architects  
51. WATG | Wimberly Interiors  
52. Hord Coplan Macht Inc.  
53. Payette  
54. Humphreys & Partners Architects LP  
55. The Beck Group  
56. Heery International Inc.  
57. The S/L/A/M Collaborative Inc.  
58. Dewberry  
59. Morris Architects  
60. TPG Architecture  
61. BWBR  
62. FXFOWLE Architects  
63. Little  
64. Parkhill, Smith & Cooper Inc.  
65. SSOE Group  
66. Atkins North America  
67. Shepley Bulfinch Richardson & Abbott  
68. EwingCole  
69. Harley Ellis Deveaux  
70. Michael Baker International  
71. FKP Architects Inc.  
72. Huckabee  
73. tvsdesign  
74. P+R Architects  
75. Steelman Partners  
76. Goettisch Partners Inc.  
77. Bergmann Associates Inc.  
78. JLG Architects  
79. Ziegler Cooper Architects  
80. Niles Bolton Associates Inc.  
81. Architects Hawaii Ltd.  
82. CO Architects  
83. BHDP Architecture  
84. Shalom Baranes Associates PC  
85. Pei Cobb Freed & Partners LLP  
86. NAC|Architecture  
87. HNTB Cos.  
88. RDG Planning & Design  
89. GreenbergFarrow  
90. Array Architects Inc.  
91. BOKA Powell  
92. Lord Aeck Sargent  
93. Francis Cauffman  
94. Grimm + Parker Architects  
95. Mithun  
96. LMN Architects  
97. Ankrom Moisan Architects Inc.  
98. McMillian Pazdan Smith LLC  
99. Lawrence Group  
100. OZ Architecture