



# Architecture

Scouts BSA · Careers

Name

Started

Completed

Every building around you started as an idea on paper. This badge helps you see your community with an architect's eye and try drawing a real floor plan yourself. It's a great fit if you love design, art, or building things.

## Requirements

Every official requirement, in plain language. Check the official wording when you sign off ([scouting.org/merit-badges/architecture/](https://scouting.org/merit-badges/architecture/)). Tips and examples are ideas, not extra requirements.

### 1 Buildings around you and in history

**Tips for this section:** Walk around your town with a parent and notice different styles, shapes, and materials. Snap photos of buildings you like.

**Example for this section:** Tour your downtown with a parent and photograph a courthouse, a church or temple, a school, a house, and a store. Note each one's style, materials, and how it fits its purpose. For the historic study, pick something like the Brooklyn Bridge or a famous early skyscraper.

- ☐ **1a** Tour your community and list the kinds of buildings you see, trying to match some to a historical period or architectural style; sketch the building you admire most

- ☐ **1b** Pick a historic architectural achievement that greatly affected society; research (online with parent or guardian permission, or in books and magazines) how it shapes the world today, and tell your counselor

## 2 Sustainable architecture

**Tips for this section:** Look for buildings near you that were turned into something new, like an old factory now used for shops. Talk about what makes a building sustainable.

**Example for this section:** Find an old building near you that's been reused, like a train station turned into a museum or a factory turned into apartments. Explain how reusing it saves materials and energy compared with tearing it down, and name features like solar panels or big windows that cut energy use.

- ☐ **2a** Discuss with your counselor what sustainable architecture means, and name three common features of green buildings

- ☐ **2b** Discuss with your counselor how renewable and recycled building materials differ and how each is used in construction

- ☐ **2c** Discuss with your counselor how architecture relates to its natural surroundings and to the community

- ☐ **2d** Discuss with your counselor how whole buildings can be reused instead of demolished once they no longer serve their first purpose

### 3 Meet an architect or a client: Choose 1 of 3

**Tips for this section:** Ask your counselor or a parent to help you reach a local architect, or someone planning a new home or building. Visit construction sites only with permission and the right safety gear.

**Example for this section:** If you interview a client, talk with someone planning a new home, addition, or business space about what they need: how many rooms, how each will be used, and what matters most to them. Then write a short program listing the requirements, how the spaces relate, and the project's goals.

- ☐ **3a** With permission from a parent or guardian and your counselor, meet an architect; look at a building's scale model and construction drawings, discuss why its materials were chosen, and study how materials and parts are joined

- ☐ **3b** With permission from a parent or guardian, your counselor, the architect, and the site manager, meet an architect at a construction site (follow all safety rules, wear a hard hat, eye protection, and proper shoes); review the drawings and discuss material choices and how parts are joined

- ☐ **3c** Interview a possible client, like someone planning a new home or business building, about their needs; write a short program listing the project's requirements, the building and site functions, how those functions relate, and the project's goals

- ☐ **4** Measure a room (at home or where your troop meets) and draw its floor plan to scale at  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch = 1 foot, showing walls, doors, closets, windows, and built-ins; label it with your name, the date, the room, and the scale

**Tip:** Use graph paper and a tape measure. Measure every wall, door, and window, then draw at  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch = 1 foot; on  $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch graph paper, each square is one foot.

**Example:** Measure your kitchen at  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch = 1 foot. Draw the walls first, then doors with their swing arcs, windows, counters, and the stove and fridge. Add a title, scale, and north arrow, and check that a 12-foot wall measures 3 inches on paper.

- ☐ **5** Learn about three architecture careers; pick one, find out its education, training, and experience needs, discuss it with your counselor, and explain why it might interest you

**Tip:** Look into roles like architect, landscape architect, or interior designer, and ask what classes help in high school.