

ARCNET.STUDIO | LEARN · CAREER & PRACTICE · DOWNLOADABLE RESOURCE SPEC

Architecture Career Roadmap

Detailed Specification

A companion workbook to Architecture Career Paths Explained, for students, graduates, and early-career architects.



How to Use This Roadmap

This workbook follows the same four-week structure as the 30-Day Action Plan in the main article. Each week has one page or worksheet to complete. Work through them in order, they build on each other, and each one takes about 20 to 30 minutes.

Four-Week Overview (visual: 4 horizontal steps or icons)

Week	Focus	Page in This Workbook
Week 1	Self-Assessment	Page 3 — Self-Assessment Worksheet
Week 2	Skill Gap Analysis	Page 4 — Career Comparison Matrix
Week 3	Portfolio Planning	Page 5 — Career Decision Tree
Week 4	Career Action Plan	Page 6 — 90-Day Action Plan Template

TIP

Use a pencil or print extra copies of the worksheet pages. Your answers in Week 1 will change the questions worth asking in Weeks 2 through 4, so it's normal to revisit earlier pages as you go.

Self-Assessment Worksheet

Rate yourself honestly in each area below, from 1 (beginner) to 5 (confident). There are no wrong answers. The goal is clarity, not a perfect score.

Rating Scale (shown once at the top, used for all 5 rows below)

1 = Beginner 2 = Developing 3 = Competent 4 = Strong 5 = Confident

Self-Assessment Table (fillable)

Skill Area	What It Covers	Your Rating (1–5)
Technical Design & Drawing	Drafting, detailing, construction documentation, design development	_____
Digital & Software Tools	BIM, CAD, rendering, computational or parametric tools	_____
Communication	Client conversations, written proposals, presenting design ideas clearly	_____
Business & Financial Literacy	Pricing, contracts, invoicing, budgeting for projects or a practice	_____
Personal Branding & Marketing	Portfolio presentation, online presence, visibility to potential clients or employers	_____

Reflection Fields (open text)

My two strongest skill areas are:

My single weakest skill area is:

One specific moment that shows this weak area in action (a project, conversation, or task that felt hard):

Callout

CALLOUT

Whichever area scored lowest is your starting point for Page 4. There's no need to fix everything at once, just the one gap that's currently limiting you most.

Career Comparison Matrix

Pick three career paths from the main article (Sections 2 through 7) that genuinely interest you. Score each one from 1 to 5 against the five factors below, based on what you know today. It's fine to guess; refine your answers as you learn more.

Path A:

Path B:

Path C:

Factor	Path A (1–5)	Path B (1–5)	Path C (1–5)
Income potential	_____	_____	_____
Income stability	_____	_____	_____
Schedule flexibility	_____	_____	_____
Skill match (uses my strengths)	_____	_____	_____
Long-term growth ceiling	_____	_____	_____
TOTAL	_____	_____	_____

Reflection Field

Which path scored highest, and does that surprise you? Why or why not?

TIP

Score “income potential” and “income stability” separately. A path can pay well on average while still feeling unstable month to month, and that distinction matters for your own risk tolerance.

Career Decision Tree

Trace your own path through the questions below by checking one box at each step. This mirrors the decision tree in Section 10 of the main article, simplified into a printable flow.

Decision Tree Flow

1. ☐ Are you a current student or recent graduate who wants structured mentorship?
→ *If yes: Start with a Traditional Firm Role (Article Section 2)*
2. ☐ Do you have 1–3 years of practice and enjoy software or technical workflows?
→ *If yes: Explore a Digital Career Path (Article Section 5)*
3. ☐ Are you comfortable with income variability and already have a few client contacts?
→ *If yes: Try Freelancing Part-Time (Article Section 4)*
4. ☐ Are you drawn to teaching, writing, or building an audience?
→ *If yes: Start a Content Creation Path (Article Section 6)*
5. ☐ Are you ready to manage a team and financial risk, with a clear market gap identified?
→ *If yes: Consider Entrepreneurship (Article Section 7)*

My Result

Based on the checkboxes above, the path I'm starting with is:

Portfolio Planning Fields

The 3 to 5 projects that best support this path are:

One skill or project type I'm missing, that I should add to my portfolio next:

Warning Box Copy

WARNING

If you checked more than one box, that's normal, not a problem. Pick the one that fits your situation right now, and remember this tree is something you can walk through again in a year or two.

90-Day Action Plan Template

Turn your chosen path into three months of concrete action. Fill in one goal per month, then break Month 1 down into weekly milestones to start immediately.

Monthly Goals Table

Month	Main Goal	How I'll Know It's Done
Month 1	_____	_____
Month 2	_____	_____
Month 3	_____	_____

Month 1 Weekly Breakdown

Week	This Week's Milestone	Done?
Week 1	_____	☐
Week 2	_____	☐
Week 3	_____	☐
Week 4	_____	☐

Accountability Field

Who will I tell about this plan, to stay accountable? (a mentor, friend, or peer)

Tip Box Copy

TIP

Make your Month 1 goal small enough to finish even on a busy week. Momentum from finishing Month 1 matters more than how ambitious it sounds on paper.

Resource Directory & Next Steps

You've worked through self-assessment, comparison, direction, and a 90-day plan. Here's where to go next.

Related ARCNET.STUDIO Articles

- Traditional vs Emerging Careers
- Freelancing vs Working in a Firm
- Multiple Income Streams for Architects
- Future Skills Architects Need by 2035
- AI Tools Every Architect Should Know in 2026

Keep Going

Visit arcnet.studio/learn for more career, sustainability, and design guides built for architects at every stage.