

OCCUPATIONAL QUALIFICATION STANDARD

Diploma Architect, EstQF Level 7

An occupational qualification standard is a document which describes the set of skills, knowledge and attitudes, i.e. competence requirements, needed to successfully accomplish duties. Occupational qualification standards are used for compiling curricula and awarding qualifications.

Occupational title	Level of Estonian Qualifications Framework (EstQF)
Diploma Architect, EstQF Level 7	7

Part A DESCRIPTION OF WORK

A.1 Description of work

The aim of an architect's work is to unite artistic, technological, technical and economic solutions into a balanced spatial whole that includes solutions for external space, the architecture of construction work and interior spaces of buildings. This is the basis for creating an economical and integrated living environment as a result of design and construction.

A person who has the occupational qualification of an architect is able to understand and convey the needs of individuals, social groups and public institutions regarding spatial and architectural design, construction, conservation and appreciation of architectural heritage and protection of natural balance. An architect works in the public interest and according to best practice in planning, design and construction.

Occupational qualifications for architects are described at the following EQF levels:

- Applied Architect, Level 6
- Diploma Architect, Level 7
- Chartered Architect, Level 7
- Chartered/Principal Architect, Level 8

The occupational competence of Diploma Architect, Level 7 is described in this occupational qualification standard.

Diploma Architect, Level 7 is a specialist who puts together plans for architectural parts of construction design documentation and an architectural whole under the guidance of a chartered architect.

Diploma Architect, Level 7 is competent, independently and under their own responsibility, to create the architectural parts of construction design documentation for work that does not require a construction permit and buildings that are less than 9 m high, have a construction area of less than 180 m², are closed to the public and require a construction permit.

Diploma Architect, Level 7 can be the head designer of construction design documentation that is within the limits of their competence, if needed.

A.2 Tasks

A.2.1 Creating different types of plans

1. Inspection of the planned area, spatial analysis and establishing the primary positions of a plan
2. Creation of spatial visions and sketch solutions for plans
3. Taking the opinions of the public, interested persons and relevant public institutions into account through a balanced spatial solution
4. Creation of a spatial whole for the planned area
5. Introduction and definition of the spatial whole of a plan through cooperation and disclosure
6. Finalisation of the plan

A.2.2 Creating an architectural whole for a construction project, incl. indoor and outdoor spaces, in all its stages

1. Analysis of primary conditions and creation of a programme

2. Participation in the creation of spatial visions and sketches for construction work
3. Creation of the architectural part of a construction project
4. Calculation of energy efficiency
5. Finalisation and documentation of construction design
6. Cooperation with interested parties and relevant agencies
7. Designer's supervision and participation in the process of adopting the construction

A.2.3 Coordination and preparation of spatial decisions in the public sector

1. Coordination of the creation of spatial solutions
2. Consultation of parties in the public interest

A.2.4 Leading the preparation of construction design documentation

1. Organising the preparation of construction design documentation incl. coordination of the preparation of parts of construction design documentation
2. Cooperation with users, customers and agencies

A.3 Work environment and specific nature of work

An architect mainly works for and in an architecture firm, design firm or public institution. Because of their duties, they have to spend time outdoors and on construction sites.

Their work is creative and may cause mental stress. Their workload and working time can vary.

A.4 Tools

An architect uses regular office equipment, communication tools, office and design software, construction data modelling and geoinformation systems and tools for marketing and visualisation.

A.5 Personal qualities required for work: abilities and characteristics

Perception of space, ability to visualise and compose space, creative thinking, logical thinking and the ability to generalise, independence and decision-making skills, responsibility and accuracy, collaboration and communication skills, stress tolerance, appreciation of aesthetics and willingness to learn.

A.6 Professional preparation

Architectural studies at a university or comparable institution which are in accordance with the directive established by the European Parliament and Council on 7 September 2005, 2005/36/EÜ, 'About the recognition of occupational qualifications', and regulation no. 312, 'Framework requirements for studies of medicine, veterinary medicine, pharmacy, dentistry, midwifery, nursing, architecture and civil engineering' established on 25 October 2004 by the Government of the Republic of Estonia or higher education in civil engineering or architecture and the required amount of work experience. Traineeships completed during studies are regarded as work experience if a degree in architecture has been obtained.

A.7 Most common occupational titles

Architect, designer, planner, advisor.

A.8 Regulations governing profession

Planning Code, Planning Act, Act to Implement Building Code and Planning Act and their relevant implementing acts.

Part B COMPETENCY REQUIREMENTS

B.1 Structure of occupation

The occupational qualification standard of Diploma Architect, Level 7 consists of four specific competences (B.2.1-B.2.4) and one recurring competence (B.2.5).

To obtain the qualification of Diploma Architect, Level 7 all competences must be certified.

B.2 Competences

MANDATORY COMPETENCES

B.2.1 Creating different types of plans	EstQF Level 7
<p>Performance indicators:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Participates in analysing the plan's primary situation, taking into account the long-term trends and needs of spatial, economic, social, natural, historical, cultural and other environments under the guidance of a chartered architect. 2. Creates spatial visions, spatial strategies and sketch solutions for plans based on initial positions under the guidance of a chartered architect, implementing creative imagination and finding functional and aesthetically and economically balanced solutions that are necessary to society and that form the basis of a high-quality environment. 3. Comprehends the needs of the parties involved and participates in finding rational and balanced solutions to any underlying issues. Cooperates with the public, interested persons and relevant public institutions using appropriate forms of cooperation under the guidance of a chartered architect. 4. Participates in creating a spatial whole for a plan in conjunction with other parts of the plan under the guidance of a chartered architect whilst bearing in mind previous analyses, visions and sketch solutions. Plans out the prerequisites of and opportunities available to create an integral and high-quality living environment under the guidance of a chartered architect. 5. Introduces, explains and justifies the solution for the plan and answers in a comprehensible way any questions raised. Ensures the availability of information and knows how to highlight the key points of a discussion based on the purpose of the plan. 6. Formulates the plan's graphic, textual and illustrative parts in a clear, legible and comprehensible way and using correct occupational terminology under the guidance of a chartered architect. 	
B.2.2 Creating an architectural whole for a construction project, incl. indoor and outdoor spaces, in all its stages	EstQF Level 7
<p>Performance indicators:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Determines and analyses primary conditions based on the location and the user's needs and possibilities and creates a primary task and (spatial) programme for construction work within the limits of their competence or under the guidance of a chartered architect. 2. Creates spatial visions and sketch solutions for construction work based on the primary task, implementing creative imagination and finding a functional, constructively and technically operational, aesthetically and economically balanced and sustainable solution within the limits of their competence or under the guidance of a chartered architect. 3. Creates solutions for architectural parts of preliminary, main and work design documentation based on sketches and in accordance with good practice, the requirements of and other parts of design documentation within the limits of their competence or under the guidance of a chartered architect. <p>Ensures the integrity of a spatial solution and its preservation throughout the design process.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Applies the principles of designing energy-efficient buildings throughout the design process. Proves that a building being designed or significantly reconstructed meets the requirements of energy efficiency using a simplified method and awards the corresponding energy label. 5. Formulates the graphic, textual and illustrative parts of a construction project in a clear, legible and comprehensible way using the correct occupational terminology and in accordance with the requirements for formulating design documentation. 6. Determines the needs of the parties involved and finds reasonable and balanced solutions in cooperation with relevant agencies. 7. Performs designer's supervision in order to protect copyright and verifies the compliance of the construction work with the design within the limits of their competence or under the guidance of a chartered architect. Ensures the integrity of a spatial solution, clarifying and adding to the design, if needed, to ensure its preservation throughout the construction process. <p>Creates instructions for the maintenance and use of architectural elements and products, taking into account the requirements and instructions of the manufacturer.</p>	
B.2.3 Coordination and preparation of spatial decisions in the public sector	EstQF Level 7
<p>Performance indicators:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is able to take part in the creation and coordination of spatial solutions for plans and design documentation and in making other decisions that direct spatial development with a view to enabling integral, high-quality and balanced spatial development within the limits of their competence. 	

2. Participates in advising developers and interested persons about questions concerning the preparation of spatial solutions for plans and design documentation within the limits of their competence while representing the public interest and general values.

B.2.4 Leading the preparation of construction design documentation

EstQF Level 7

Performance indicators:

1. Organises and leads the preparation of design documentation, incl. the work of people creating individual parts of design documentation, for construction work that is within the limits of their competence, setting the high quality and integrity of the design documentation as their goal and coordinating and being responsible for the compatibility of its parts.
2. Determines and balances the interests and needs of the parties involved through a spatial solution, taking into account important circumstances (the needs of the users and the customer, public interest, legislation, best practice, etc.).

RECURRING COMPETENCES

B.2.5 Recurring competences of Certified Architect, Level 7

EstQF Level 7

1. Comprehends the relationship between people and the environment under construction and between the latter and the pre-existing environment, taking into account the buildings, the space between them and whether they meet people's needs and are in harmony with nature.
2. Comprehends the relationship between indoor and outdoor spaces, the connections between public, semi-public and private spaces and the differences between urban and non-urban spaces.
3. Comprehends spatial planning, the design of construction work, construction and using construction work as a uniform process that is a prerequisite for the creation of a well-constructed environment.
4. Comprehends and implements methods used for fundamental research or by similar professions to create primary conditions and spatial solutions.
5. Perceives the multiplicity of choices, tests, analyses and assesses spatial solutions, draws conclusions and makes choices based on adequate creative, aesthetic, philosophical, methodological and theoretical principles.
6. Comprehends the functional connections between spatial planning and architectural design.
7. Has and implements knowledge of engineering at a level that enables them to set tasks for the creators of individual parts of design documentation.
8. Takes into account the needs of the users of the environment under construction along with possibilities and limitations and the principles of sustainable development.
9. Leads the activity of preparing design documentation as a whole, ensuring creative and high-quality results within the limits of their competence.
10. Uses common information and communication technology during the planning, design and management process.
11. Comprehends the nature of the role of an architect, their profession and ethics in society, takes social factors into account and follows the requirements of occupational ethics in their activities. Is prepared to actively participate in civil society and tolerates diversity in attitudes and values.
12. Is prepared to contribute to the advancement of architecture as a sector.
13. Participates in teamwork, respects their colleagues and is familiar with work culture.
14. Comprehends and implements the principles of resource and energy efficiency and sustainable development in the environment under construction.
15. Uses a computer for information processing, communication, safety, content creation and problem-solving at the Independent user level on the Digital Competence Self-Assessment Scale (see Annex 1).
16. Uses the specialty-specific software solutions necessary for work.
17. Uses correct Estonian at least at the B2 level of language proficiency for their work and in drafting documents (see Annex 2 – Language skills level descriptions).

Knowledge:

- 1) architecture and other forms of art related to it, history and theories of culture and the sciences;
- 2) fields of visual art, design and interior architecture which influence the quality of architectural design;
- 3) principles, strategies, theories and history of spatial planning, urban design and environmental, landscape and interior architecture;
- 4) principles of spatial composition;
- 5) typology of urban design and architecture;

- 6) principles of empirical and construction science and construction techniques and technologies related to architecture;
- 7) legislation directing spatial development and regulating planning and the design of construction work, as well as other legislation related to the sector;
- 8) the economic and business environment and their general trends.

Part C

GENERAL INFORMATION AND ANNEXES

C.1 Information concerning compilation and certification of occupational qualification standard and reference to classification of occupations	
1. ID of occupational qualification standard in register of occupational qualifications	22-08022024-1.7/8k
2. Occupational qualification standard compiled by:	Ilmar Heinsoo, Eesti Arhitektide Liit Toomas Paaver, Eesti Arhitektide Liit Tõnu Laigu, Eesti Arhitektide Liit Andres Levald, Rahandusministeerium, Eesti Arhitektide Liit Veronika Valk, Kultuuriministeerium Kaie Enno, Eesti Planeerijate Ühing Endrik Mänd, MTÜ Linnade Liit Hindrek Kesler, Tallinna Tehnikakõrgkool Andres Ojari, Eesti Kunstiakadeemia
3. Occupational qualification standard approved by:	Architecture, Geomatics, Construction and Real Estate
4. No. of decision of Sectoral Council	52
5. Date of decision of Sectoral Council	08.02.2024
6. Occupational qualification standard valid until	31.12.2024
7. Occupational qualification standard version no.	8
8. Reference to International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO 08)	2161 Building Architects
9. Reference to European Qualifications Framework (EQF)	7
C.2 Occupational title in foreign language	
English:	Certified Architect, EstQF Level 7
English:	Diploma Architect, EstQF Level 7
C.3 Annexes	
Lisa 1 Scale of self-assessment in digital competence	
Lisa 2 Language skills level descriptions	