

Job Opportunity

Assistant Architect

About Us

Studio FH Architects is a founding member of the Localworks design and build collaborative, specialising in the design and realisation of green architecture in East Africa. Motivated in equal parts by idealism, pragmatism and professionalism, we have assembled a closely-knit team of building professionals – architects, interior and landscape designers, civil/structural and mechanical/electrical/appropriate technology engineers, quantity surveyors, project and construction managers, and skilled craftsmen of all relevant trades – who together are committed to advancing eco-friendly construction in theory and in practice.

As building designers from diverse professional backgrounds we know that the East African environment we operate in presents a unique set of challenges – from climate and terrain to economic and logistical considerations to available materials and skills – but we are also of the view that these challenges do not represent a good enough excuse to settle for poor planning, unimaginative designs or bad construction quality.

Our work is deeply rooted in the principles of sustainable design, with a particular focus on a site sensitive, contextual design approach as well as socioeconomic, environmental and technological appropriateness. Our aim is to promote knowledge and skills in line with this approach, to encourage their wider adoption in the region, and to show that local solutions really can and do work.

Job Description

Position: Assistant Architect
Reports to: Project Architects and Principal Architect
Liaises with: Design team, sub-consultants, contractors and suppliers

The Assistant Architect provides design, drafting, presentation and technical supervision support on various projects as part of a team. The role includes an assisting role in coordinating the work of sub-consultants, by checking and incorporating their output, taking part in regular design team meetings and updating the project programme. For projects on site, the role is largely technical. Since much of our work is located in remote locations, a fair bit of travel may be involved.

As a mission-driven studio an idealistic mindset, a curious and communicative nature and hands-on creativity are generally more important to us than an enhanced skill of applying predefined technical solutions. That said, the successful applicant should have excellent design skills demonstrated in projects prepared at University or during previous employments. Good communication skills are combined with the ability to quickly understand the general direction a project is taking and then to independently explore and adopt creative solutions. The applicant should be proficient in the use of relevant design software and be able to efficiently and comfortably check and coordinate multi-disciplinary project information.

Key Responsibilities

Tasks and responsibilities of the position include, but are not limited to, the following:

- ▶ Support Project Architects in the day to day running of projects at various stages;
- ▶ Develop design information, either as part of a team or individually;
- ▶ Prepare clear and attractive presentations;
- ▶ Ensure the timely provision of information within the design team;
- ▶ Organise, document and follow up on outcomes of design team and site meetings;
- ▶ Any other task that may ordinarily be assigned to an Assistant Architect.

Skills & Experience:

- ▶ Bachelor's degree in Architecture (or similar) with particular interest and experience in ecological architecture, including but not limited to the use of local materials, the application of passive design principles, the incorporation of appropriate technologies etc.;
- ▶ A minimum of prior office experience, such as internships or student employments, demonstrated through references from previous employers;
- ▶ Good levels of proficiency in Revit, AutoCAD, SketchUp, InDesign, Photoshop and Microsoft Office;
- ▶ Excellent communication skills, self-drivenness, the ability to manage and motivate a team and to work well under time constraints.

What we offer

The position is full-time (40 hours per week) and based in our Kampala office. We offer a locally competitive salary package including basic health insurance. All our employees are being technically and financially supported on their path towards professional registration.

Is this you?

If you think your profile matches (most of) the criteria described above, and if the prospect of being part of a growing team of idealistic and collaborative building designers and builders interests you, then we look forward to hearing from you.

Please send your CV, together with your portfolio and a motivational letter to opportunities@localworks.ug.