

# INTERVIEW WITH AN ARCHITECT

By Diego Lopez

Class: Introduction to  
Architecture





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- For my presentation I interviewed an architect that happens to be a client of my Dad.

# Architect information

- Name: Michael McElhaney, AIA, LEED AP.
- Architect Firm: Jackson & McElhaney Architects.
- Office Address: 3108 N. Lamar Blvd.,  
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Austin, Tx  
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(512) 412-5132 Ext. 30  
[www.JacksonMcElhaney.com](http://www.JacksonMcElhaney.com)

# Q. What do you recommend an architecture student to start doing to prepare for a career in architecture?

- "A: Hand sketching and hand lettering are important throughout your career, even though technology allows you to avoid them much of the time, you will have *many* opportunities to communicate by in your career. I recommend that architecture students take hand drawing/sketching classes and practice architectural lettering. This way, your communications skills will be more successful as an architect."
- "B. Also, please understand that architecture is not a get-rich-quick career path. This career is one of passion...if you have the passion for creating architecture, and if you are willing to often work long hours (both academically and professionally), then you will succeed. Otherwise, you might be better served by other career paths. I support students interested in architecture, however they should be aware of the time and effort it takes. Architecture can be *very* rewarding."

# Q: What skills are you looking for when hiring?

- A: "Several skills are considered when we interview applicants:
  - A. Design
  - B. Understanding of Building Construction
  - C. Professionalism & Communication
  - D. Software
  - E. Hand Drawing

**Q.** What software is used mostly in the office?

- **A.** "We use Autodesk Revit (BIM), Bluebeam Revu, Adobe Photoshop & Illustrator."




**Q:** Do you have a favorite architect or type of architecture you would recommend?


- **A:** "Frank Lloyd Wright has always been influential and inspirational to me, but I'm also impressed with Frank Gehry and Santiago Calatrava."

# Proof of Contacting the Architect

Interview

Inbox x





**Diego Lopez** <brickman1502@gmail.com>  
to mike ▾

Apr 30, 2021, 11:37 AM (2 days ago) ☆ ↩ ⋮

Good afternoon Mr. McElhaney.  
My name is Diego Lopez. I am an Introduction to Architecture Student. I truly appreciate your guidance and advice. I apologize in advance for such short notice as this is due on Sunday. Your responses to the following questions will provide great value to me and all that I would like to accomplish.:

1. What do you recommend an architecture student to start doing to prepare for a career in architecture?

2. What skills are you looking for when hiring?


3. What software is used mostly in the office?

4. Favorite architect or architecture you recommend?

5. Must Include name of Architect and architecture Firm

Thank you again in advance for your time. I hope to have an opportunity to cross paths with you in the future.

Respectfully yours,  
Diego Lopez




**Mike McElhaney** <mike@jacksonmcelhaney.com>  
to me ▾

Apr 30, 2021, 11:40 AM (2 days ago) ☆ ↩ ⋮

Hi Diego - Thanks for the note. I'll get a reply to your questions before the end of the day tomorrow, Saturday, if that's okay with you.

**Michael McElhaney, AIA, LEED AP**  
Jackson & McElhaney Architects



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