

Architectural Drafter interview questions

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What to expect

Architectural drafter interviews focus on your technical documentation skills, software proficiency, and ability to coordinate with other disciplines. Employers want to know you can produce accurate drawings that meet the National Construction Code and that you work well with architects, builders and consultants.

- **Process:** Questions about how you approach a set of drawings, from brief to issue.
- **Technical:** Questions on software such as Revit and AutoCAD, and on building codes and standards.
- **Behavioural:** Questions about working with consultants, resolving clashes, or handling changes.
- **Scenario:** Questions that put you in a site query or a client request and ask how you would respond.
- **Motivational:** Questions about why you want the role and how you keep learning.

The interview usually starts with an introduction and a walk through your background. Then the panel moves to technical questions about your documentation process and software. A behavioural question about coordination or a scenario question about a site query often follows. You will usually get a chance to ask your own questions at the end.

1. Walk me through how you prepare a set of construction drawings from a design brief.

Why they ask

This tests your understanding of the documentation process and how you manage the stages from concept to issue.

How to structure your answer

Process walk-through: start with reading the brief, then sketch design, then documentation stages, coordination, checking against codes, and final issue.

Example answer

"First I review the design brief and any sketches from the architect. I set up a drawing list and a model in Revit. I then produce plans, elevations and sections, coordinating with structural and services consultants as I go. Once the drawings are complete, I check them against the National Construction Code and planning scheme, and make any amendments. Finally I issue the set for construction and respond to any site queries."

2. Tell me about a time you had to resolve a clash between architectural and structural drawings.

Why they ask

This shows your coordination skills and how you work with other consultants.

How to structure your answer

STAR: situation, task, action, result.

Example answer

"On a recent commercial project, the structural drawings showed a beam where we had a bulkhead. I noticed the clash during a coordination review. I organised a meeting with the structural engineer and we agreed to reroute the beam. I updated the architectural model and drawings, and the issue was resolved before construction. The builder did not have to stop work on site."

3. How do you check that your documentation complies with the National Construction Code and relevant Australian Standards?

Why they ask

This assesses your technical knowledge and attention to detail.

How to structure your answer

Technical explanation: describe your checking process step by step.

Example answer

"I use a checklist based on the NCC and relevant Australian Standards such as AS 1100 for drawing practice and AS 1684 for timber framing. I review each drawing for compliance with fire separation, egress, ventilation and energy efficiency. I also check the planning scheme for setbacks and height limits. If I am unsure, I ask a building surveyor or certifier for advice."

4. Describe a situation where a builder or client asked for a change that affected the drawing set. How did you handle it?

Why they ask

This tests your judgement under pressure and your client management skills.

How to structure your answer

Scenario: outline the situation, the change, your assessment, and the outcome.

Example answer

"A client wanted to move a wall to enlarge a room after the drawings had been issued. I assessed the change against the planning permit and the NCC. It was a minor change, so I prepared a variation drawing set and updated the model. I communicated the change to the builder and the certifier. The client was happy and the project stayed on schedule."

5. What is your experience with Revit and AutoCAD, and how do you manage a drawing library?

Why they ask

This checks your software proficiency and your organisational habits.

How to structure your answer

Technical with examples: describe your proficiency level and your approach to library management.

Example answer

"I use Revit daily for BIM documentation and AutoCAD for 2D detailing. I manage a drawing library by setting up standard title blocks, detail components and schedules. I keep a register of revisions and ensure all team members use the current template. This reduces errors and saves time when producing new drawing sets."

6. Why do you want to work as an architectural drafter, and how do you keep your skills current?

Why they ask

This looks at your motivation and commitment to professional development.

How to structure your answer

Motivational with evidence: explain your interest and give concrete examples of learning.

Example answer

"I enjoy turning design ideas into clear documentation that builders can follow. I keep my skills current by following updates to the NCC and attending Revit user group meetings. I also read industry publications from the Australian Institute of Building Designers. I like working in a team where I can learn from architects and engineers."