
THANKS FOR READING THE SAMPLE

Thanks for reading this sample of *The Architect's eGuide To Interviews: 82 Question and Answer Flashcards*.

If you enjoy the sample please purchase the full set.

Thanks!

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Instructions

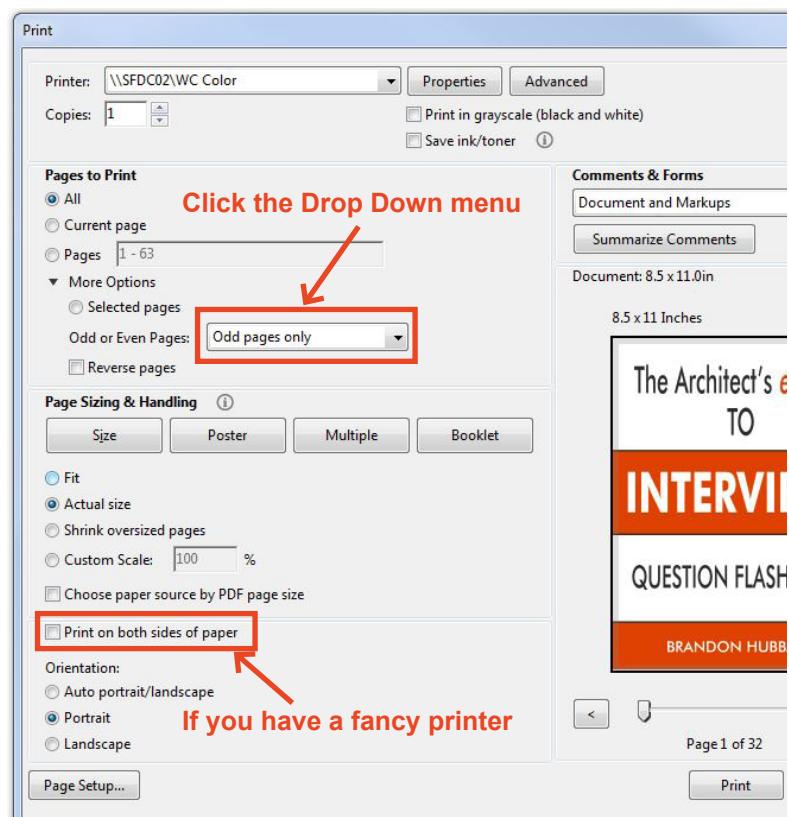
Congratulations, these flashcards are an awesome resource!

It will take a little effort to get them printed out and trimmed but the effort will be worth it.

They are an excellent preparation tool for your architecture interview.

I recommend using card stock paper like 65lb, just be sure it is compatible with your printer. Using Adobe Acrobat Reader works best to print the pages.

Once you open the file, you can select FILE then PRINT which will bring up the print dialog box. Under Pages to Print, select the drop down and choose EVEN PAGES ONLY (these are the questions) then select OK to print. Once the pages are printed, turn them over and select FILE then PRINT and this time, select ODD PAGES ONLY (these are the answers) and then select OK to print. I recommend TESTING this out with your printer and setting before printing all of the pages.



It is a little easier if you have a printer capable of double sided printing. If you do just check the box "Print on both sides of paper", starting with page 6.

Once you have the cards printed out, you can trim them using an exacto knife and a straightedge, scissors, or a paper trimmer.

82 Interview Question and Answer Flashcards

“It is better to know some of the questions than all of the answers.”

—James Thurber

The interview questions in these flashcards come up in almost every profession. However, as an architect I am primarily focused on how to best respond to these common questions in the context of an architecture interview.

As you go through each of the questions think about your response.

WHY is the interviewer asking this question?

Put yourself in his or her shoes. This will help you to understand that they are not trying to stump you but rather get an idea if you will be a good fit within the firm.

If they do throw you a curveball with a question you haven't prepared for don't be afraid to say *“I don't know but... I can check on that and get back to you”*.

The worst thing you can do is make something up on the spot then look foolish later in the interview. This is especially true with an architecture interview.

You can very easily go down a drawing detail rabbit hole that you can't escape.

As part of this conversation the interviewer (usually a senior architect or director within the office depending on the size of the firm) will generally ask a series of questions.

The following questions are what I have found to be the most common throughout my architecture career and from many discussions with architects over the years.

Question:

Tell me about yourself

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Question:

Tell me about your recent work experience

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Question:

Why are you leaving your current job?

Why did you leave your previous job?

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Question:

Tell me what you do on a typical day at work

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Question:

What are your weaknesses?

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Question:

Where do you see yourself in five years?

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Answer:

If your interviewer spent 20 years designing airports, you may want to structure your discussion and/or portfolio to larger scale projects if possible. However, having a clear, written description of the expected role is very useful as part of your preparation. Treat this description as bullet points for you to address in the interview.

Go through the description line by line. Think about how you can list any relevant projects/experience that would show how you work in a team or how you solved a problem.

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Answer:

You should give a few highlights of where you are from just to build up a little personality but don't spend more than 30 seconds.

To begin, don't just start listing off projects, you need to treat the interview as if you are telling a story. This is where your research becomes very important.

Depending on how much information you have gathered on the interviewer, (years of experience, previous offices, project experience) the more you can discuss technical details or project specifics.

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Answer:

You should always have a short few sentences ready that summarizes a typical day for you. Make sure it aligns with the job description and what you included in your resume and portfolio so you are not overemphasizing your roles and responsibilities.

"On a typical day, I arrive at work around 8:00 (make sure this is at or before your required arrival time) get caught up on any client emails. Typically coordination meetings are scheduled in the morning to discuss with consultants the various deadlines and deliverables for the week. In the afternoons I am updating the BIM model to reflect the design changes

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Answer:

Be sure to not criticize your previous employer and make sure that it is a reason that does not relate to this potential employer.

Example:

"I know you have an office project that has just started design development and at my previous employer we focused mainly on design competitions. The majority of my experience is with the later project phases so I am looking to leverage my knowledge in a new environment."

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Answer:

Since I am mainly discussing getting a job in an office a response you normally want to avoid is "*I want to start my own office*". What the interviewer is looking for is someone to fill the position now but is also looking for a long term commitment. Admitting you would like to jump ship and go out on your own does not accomplish this.

A more appropriate response might be, depending on the stage of your career, "*I would like to get my architecture license to expand my knowledge base*" or "*I want to lead a residential project*". Pick something relevant to the job and to the firm, show that you are looking to grow with the company, not away from it.

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Answer:

Think about a time when you did legitimately make a mistake (pick a minor one though) and explain what you learned from it. Show that you have taken a setback and turned it into a learning experience.

"When I first started at Archifirm I had trouble sorting out a good balance between life and work. I realized my time management skills needed improvement. I worked hard to develop a strict calendar schedule to break work into discrete chunks which I found greatly reduced my hours. While long hours and weekends are sometimes unavoidable the regularity has been reduced, making me much more productive and efficient."

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