

A Statistical Portray of Architects in Nepal

Counting The Creators

2026



Society Of Nepalese Architects
(SONA)

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Forewords

President's Message



As President of the Society of Nepalese Architects (SONA), I am pleased to present ***Counting The Creators: A Statistical Portray of Architects in Nepal.***

For many years, architects have played a vital role in shaping Nepal's built environment through education, professional practice, public service, research, development initiatives, and emerging creative fields. However, information related to the profession has remained fragmented across academic institutions, professional bodies, government agencies, architectural firms, and other organizations. This report seeks to consolidate these records and provide a clearer understanding of where architects are, how they contribute, and how the profession is evolving.

The findings reveal that architecture in Nepal is growing not only in numbers but also in diversity. Architects are now contributing beyond conventional design practice, engaging in academia, government service, development agencies, construction, housing, research, entrepreneurship, freelancing, and various interdisciplinary sectors. At the same time, the report highlights important gaps in documentation, professional registration, institutional recognition, gender representation, and leadership opportunities within the profession.

More importantly, this publication provides a foundation for evidence-based policymaking, professional development, and strategic planning to strengthen the future of architecture in Nepal. It is our hope that the insights presented here will support informed decision-making and encourage meaningful discussions among policymakers, practitioners, educators, and stakeholders for the advancement of the profession.

On behalf of SONA, I extend my sincere gratitude to all individuals and institutions who contributed through data sharing, guidance, support, and valuable feedback. I hope this publication serves as a catalyst for informed dialogue, stronger collaboration, and greater recognition of the architectural profession in Nepal.

Together, let us continue to strengthen the profession and shape a more sustainable, inclusive, resilient, and people-centered built environment for future generations. By understanding who we are today, we can better envision and build the future of architecture in Nepal.

Ar. Iswar Lal Joshi

President

Society of Nepalese Architects (SONA)

Vice- President's Message



It is with great satisfaction that I share a few words on the preparation of ***Counting the Creators: A Statistical Portray of Architects in Nepal***. This document began with a simple but important intention: to make the presence, contribution, and professional engagement of architects in Nepal more visible through data.

For many years, information related to architects has remained scattered across institutions, professional bodies, academic records, government offices, and private firms. This made it difficult to understand the actual scale and direction of the architectural profession in Nepal. Through this initiative, we attempted to bring together available records, surveys, and sector-wise information to create a clearer national picture of where architects are, how they are working, and how the profession is expanding.

The process of preparing this document required continuous research, coordination, data collection, verification, and content development. While the figures may still have limitations due to unavailable or incomplete records, this effort marks an important beginning toward building a more organized database of architects in Nepal. I believe this document will serve as a useful reference for SONA, academic institutions, policymakers, researchers, students, and the wider architectural community.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to everyone who contributed to this work through data, guidance, feedback, and support. I hope this publication encourages further documentation, stronger institutional recognition, and a more inclusive understanding of the architectural profession in Nepal.

Ar. Bhubaneswari Parajuli

Vice President (Professional Practice)

15th Executive Committee

Society of Nepalese Architects (SONA)

Disclaimer

The information contained in this document is valid up to August 2025 and has been compiled from institutional records, surveys, public documents, and secondary sources. As data on architects in Nepal is dispersed and not consistently updated, minor variations may occur in the reported figures. Certain statistics are derived from proportional estimates, assumptions, and available records. Accordingly, the data should be regarded as an informed national overview rather than an absolute or definitive count.

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Abbreviations

AASA – Architects Association of South Asia
ADB – Asian Development Bank
ACME – Acme Engineering College
ARCASIA – Architect’s Council of Asia / Architects Regional Council Asia
B. Arch – Bachelor of Architecture
BS – Bikram Sambat
CEC – Chitwan Engineering College
COSMOS – Cosmos College of Management and Technology
CRS – Catholic Relief Society
CTEVT – Council for Technical Education and Vocational Training
DUDBC – Department of Urban Development and Building Construction
ERC – Eastern Regional Campus
FCAN – Federation of Contractors Association of Nepal
FWU – Far-Western University
GDP – Gross Domestic Product
GIZ – Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
HCOE – Himalayan College of Engineering
HMG/N – His Majesty’s Government of Nepal
ICOMOS – International Council on Monuments and Sites
INGO – International Non-Governmental Organization
IOE – Institute of Engineering
JICA – Japan International Cooperation Agency
KEC – Kathmandu Engineering College
KHEC – Khwopa Engineering Campus
KIC – Kantipur International College
KOICA – Korea International Cooperation Agency
KU – Kathmandu University
KVDA – Kathmandu Valley Development Authority
KVPT – Kathmandu Valley Preservation Trust
MBMA – Madan Bhandari Memorial Academy
NEC – Nepal Engineering Council

NEC₁ – Nepal Engineering College
NEA – Nepal Engineers Association
NCIT – Nepal College of Information Technology
NGO – Non-Governmental Organization
NLHDF – Nepal Land & Housing Developers Federation
NPR – Nepalese Rupee
NSET – National Society for Earthquake Technology
OCR – Office of the Company Registrar
PEC – Pokhara Engineering College
PIN – People In Need
PoU – Pokhara University
PU – Purbanchal University
PULCHOWK – Pulchowk Engineering Campus
PWD – Public Works Directives
SAARC – South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
SAARCH – South Asian Association of Architects
SCAEF – Society of Consulting Architectural and Engineering Firms, Nepal
SDC – Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
SLC – School Leaving Certificate
SOE, KU – School of Engineering, Kathmandu University
SONA – Society of Nepalese Architects
TC – Thapathali Campus
TSLC – Technical School Leaving Certificate
TU – Tribhuvan University
UIA – International Union of Architects
UESC – Universal Engineering and Science College
UN – United Nations
UNDP – United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO – United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UN-Habitat – United Nations Human Settlements Programme
UNOPS – United Nations Office for Project Services
UNV – United Nations Volunteers
USAID – United States Agency for International Development

Acknowledgement

The Society of Nepalese Architects (SONA), 15th Executive Committee proudly presents *“Counting the Creators - A Statistical Portray of Architects in Nepal”*. This publication marks a significant step in documenting and mapping the professional landscape of architects across the nation.

We extend our sincere gratitude to Ar. Bhubaneswari Parajuli, Vice President of SONA, 15th Executive Committee, for her vision and leadership, and to Ar. Nishaj Kunwar and Ms. Tinkal Pathak for their dedicated contributions throughout the development of this document. We also acknowledge the valuable support of consulting firms, government agencies, academic institutions, and professional associations, as well as the architects who participated in surveys and interviews.

This document is enriched by the contributions of the Nepal Engineering Council (NEC), Nepal Engineers Association (NEA), colleges, municipal authorities, and government departments whose records and statistics were indispensable.

Ultimately, this publication stands as a tribute to all architects, past and present, whose work has shaped Nepal’s built environment and strengthened its architectural identity.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Historical Context of Architectural Education and Practice in Nepal

The formalization of architectural education and professional practice in Nepal commenced only after the nation opened its doors to the outside world in 1951. The country's first architect, Gangadhar Bhatta, graduated in 1961 after pursuing architectural studies in India.

In the decades that followed, the profession grew gradually, with a small number of architects entering the field each year from various countries. This continued until Nepal established its own architectural education programs domestically.

A landmark development occurred in 1995, when the Institute of Engineering (IOE) launched the nation's first architecture program. The inaugural batch of graduates entered the profession in 2000, marking the beginning of a significant expansion. Since then, architectural education and professional practice in Nepal have grown substantially, shaping the country's-built environment and strengthening its architectural identity.

As of August 2025, there are 17 colleges and universities in Nepal offering programs in architecture, although three of these institutions are yet to produce graduates. Collectively, these colleges contribute approximately 500 new architects annually, supplemented by a small number of graduates from abroad, as the tradition of pursuing architectural education outside Nepal continues.

In the early years, aspiring architects primarily pursued studies in India and later in the Soviet Union. According to SONA records, 128 architects had studied in India by August 2025. Furthermore, Mitra Kunj, an association of alumni from institutions and universities of the former Soviet Union, was established in May 1967 with the

objective of fostering professional expertise and academic cooperation. Among its 1,031 members, 25 are architects.

Today, architects educated both within and outside Nepal are engaged across diverse sectors nationally and internationally. However, information regarding their professional distribution remains scattered and fragmented.

This document, *"Counting the Creators: A Statistical Portrayal of Architects in Nepal"*, seeks to consolidate available data to provide a comprehensive overview of the architectural profession in Nepal, highlighting its growth, diversity, and evolving contributions to the nation's-built environment.

1.2 Objectives

The primary objective of this document is to consolidate available data and establish a comprehensive database of Nepalese architects. This initiative is undertaken with the following specific objectives:

- To estimate the overall number of architects in Nepal.
- To identify the sectorial engagements of architects across the country.
- To document the affiliations of Nepalese architects with various professional organizations.

1.3 Scopes

This document primarily examines the professional engagements of Nepalese architects, supported by numerical statistics across a wide spectrum of service sectors. These include government and non-governmental organizations, academia, and the private sector, spanning consulting firms, building and housing development, and the construction industry following the establishment of formal architectural education in Nepal.

The data was collected over a three-month period, from June to August 2025, and encompasses the following areas:

- *Graduate trends* from institutions offering bachelor's degrees in architecture.
- *Gender ratios* among students, academic faculty, academic positions, and professional firms.
- *Affiliations* of architects with professional bodies and identification of registration gaps.
- *Emerging professional trends*, including alternative practices in architecture and dual career paths.

1.4 Methodology

The preparation of “*Counting the Creators: A Statistical Portray of Architects in Nepal*” employed a combination of methods and approaches, drawing upon both secondary and primary sources of data.

As the principal objective was to consolidate scattered information on Nepalese architects engaged across various sectors and to initiate a comprehensive database, existing organizational records were extensively utilized. To supplement this, an online questionnaire survey was conducted, distributed to consulting firms via Google Forms, thereby generating primary data.

» Institutional Records

Data for this document was obtained from institutional websites, official public records, and registration listings of the NEC, SONA, NEA, and SCAEF, supplemented by information from municipal authorities and government departments.

» Probability Sampling

A random sampling approach was employed to segregate construction companies engaged in the building sector from the broader pool of firms. This method allowed the proportion of companies providing building-related services to be generalized to the entire construction industry, ensuring representative and reliable estimates.

» Interviews and Surveys

Data was collected through an online questionnaire survey (via Google Forms) and direct outreach to over 100 architectural firms. Additional inputs were obtained from practicing architects through structured questionnaires and direct communication, ensuring both breadth and depth in the information gathered.

» Visual Analytics

Quantitative estimates, such as graduate numbers, were derived from annual student intake trends and the years of institutional operation. To ensure clarity, charts, tables, and graphs were employed to illustrate distribution patterns, gender balance, and registration comparisons.

A blend of quantitative and qualitative approaches was applied to ensure a more holistic understanding of the profession. This enabled the identification of correlations among diverse aspects of architectural practice, education, and professional engagement, thereby providing a comprehensive portrayal of the field.

1.5 Shortcomings

The document applies a rigorous methodology but remains subject to certain limitations. Data gaps from restricted access, outdated records, incomplete datasets, and varied formats required assumptions that reduced precision, while gender information was sometimes inferred from names. Additionally, time and resource constraints limited more detailed data collection from institutions.

Architects shape the world we live in, turning dreams into structures and spaces into experiences.

- ***Anonymous***

2. ARCHITECTURE IN NEPAL

2.1 Architectural Evolution of Nepal

The mother art is architecture. Without an architecture of our own, we have no soul of our own civilization.

- Frank Lloyd Wright

Nepal possesses a rich and distinctive architectural tradition, visible in its residential, religious, and public buildings. Much of this history is closely tied to the dynasties that ruled the country, with architecture evolving as both an artistic discipline and a cultural response that shaped the built environment and envisioned future spaces. Situated at the crossroads of India, Tibet, and China, Nepali architecture reflects influences from these cultural centers, blending artistry with practicality. The pagoda tradition became a hallmark of Hindu temples, while Buddhist architecture, inspired by Tibetan forms, found expression in stupas and monastic structures.

The Lichhavi period marked the beginning of monumental construction, with landmarks such as the Changu Narayan Temple in Bhaktapur and the Swayambhunath Stupa in Kathmandu, setting standards for tiered roofs, intricate carvings, and spiritual symbolism.

The Malla dynasty further advanced the pagoda style, making it widespread and deeply rooted in Nepalese identity. During the Shah dynasty and continuing to the present, architectural development has been enriched by both government initiatives and contributions from local and foreign architects, blending European influences with traditional elements.

The Rana dynasty introduced a significant shift toward modern architecture, with palaces and mansions heavily influenced by European

aesthetics, adorned with features such as marble, chandeliers, and ornate detailing.

Today, Nepalese architecture continues to evolve, integrating heritage with modern and contemporary styles, while preserving its cultural essence.

2.2 Architectural Journey in Nepal

The formal academic journey of architects in Nepal began only during the Shah period. In the absence of domestic institutions offering architectural education, many aspiring professionals pursued studies abroad, primarily in the USSR (Soviet Union) and India, followed later by the Philippines, USA, Bangladesh, and Pakistan. These graduates returned with diverse international perspectives and practices, enriching Nepal's architectural landscape.

A turning point came in 1995, when the Pulchowk Campus of the Institute of Engineering (IOE) formally introduced architecture as an academic discipline in Nepal. This milestone marked the beginning of a structured professional pathway for architects within the country.

It is estimated that over the past six decades, more than 150 architects have studied abroad, with an average of three graduates annually over forty years and one annually over twenty-five years. This international exposure, combined with domestic education, has significantly shaped the professional identity and growth of architecture in Nepal.

2.3 Formal Recognition and Regulation

Architectural practice in Nepal is formally recognized and regulated through a set of key professional and institutional bodies. These organizations oversee registration, uphold professional standards, and provide representation for architects, ensuring that the profession remains connected to education, public service, and the wider construction industry. Collectively, they define who is acknowledged as an architect and how the discipline maintains credibility and accountability. In Nepal, three principal professional bodies serve this role.

2.3.1 Nepal Engineering Council (NEC)

Nepal does not yet have a dedicated Council for Architects, as found in many other countries. Instead, the responsibility of recognizing and certifying graduate architects is undertaken by the Nepal Engineering Council (NEC), a government body established on 11 March 1999 under the *Nepal Engineering Council Act*. NEC is vested with statutory authority to oversee registration, regulate professional practice, and monitor the coordinated development of engineering education and the profession in Nepal.

Until 2022, architects and engineers were registered based solely on academic certificates. However, following the amendment bill introduced in June 2019 and passed in August 2022, it became mandatory

to pass a licensing examination conducted by NEC to obtain professional certification. As of 2022, NEC issues licenses across 37 engineering disciplines, including architecture.

For architecture graduates in Nepal, passing the NEC licensing exam is a formal requirement to practice as registered architects in consulting firms, government departments, and academic institutions. Nevertheless, many architects who pursue further studies abroad, teach in private colleges, or work informally remain outside the formal NEC registration system.

As of August, 2025; 2,392 architects were formally registered in Nepal Engineering Council (NEC)

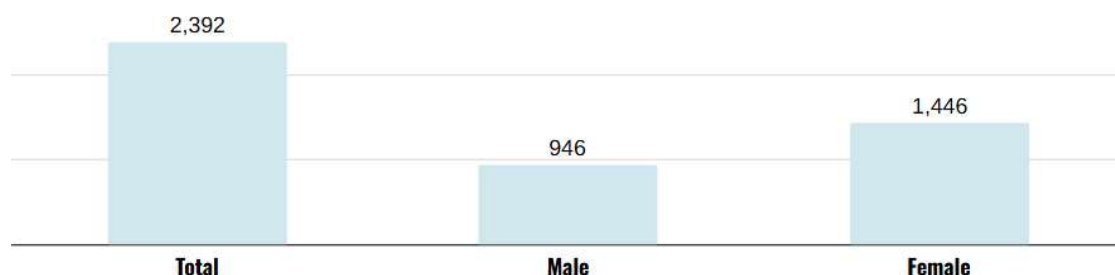


Figure 1: Total number of registered architects in National Engineering Council (NEC)

2.3.2 Society of Nepalese Architects (SONA)

The Society of Nepalese Architects (SONA) is an independent, non-profit professional association established in 1991 by a group of committed architects. Its primary objective is to safeguard the rights and responsibilities of Nepalese architects while promoting the profession and strengthening its role in society.

SONA's long-term vision is to establish a distinct identity for architects in Nepal by embedding architectural values within society and expanding its membership nationwide. Registered with the District Administration Office, Kathmandu, SONA operates in compliance with the laws of Nepal. Internationally, it has been affiliated with the Architects Regional Council of Asia (ARCASIA) since 2002, the Union of

International Architects (UIA) since 2020, and most recently, the Architects Association of South Asia (AASA) in 2025. SONA played a pivotal role in the formation of AASA, much like its earlier contribution to reviving the South Asian Association of Architects (SAARCH) under SAARC, which had long remained dormant.

Over the past 33 years, SONA has grown from a small group concentrated in the Kathmandu Valley into a nationwide organization. Today, it represents 1,845 architects (882 male and 963 female) and is growing. While membership is not mandatory, SONA's influence and representation have been instrumental in shaping the professional landscape of architecture in Nepal.



Figure 2: Gender Distribution in SONA.

There are important differences between the three principal professional bodies in Nepal. The Nepal Engineering Council (NEC) is a statutory authority established by law to regulate the engineering and architectural professions. It is responsible for licensing, certification, and the enforcement of professional standards. In contrast, the Nepal Engineers' Association (NEA) is an independent, non-profit professional association that supports engineers, including architects through networking, professional development, and advocacy for their rights and interests. Similarly, the Society of Nepalese Architects (SONA) is also an independent, non-profit professional association, but its focus is exclusively on architects, working to protect their rights, promote the profession, and strengthen its identity within Nepalese society.

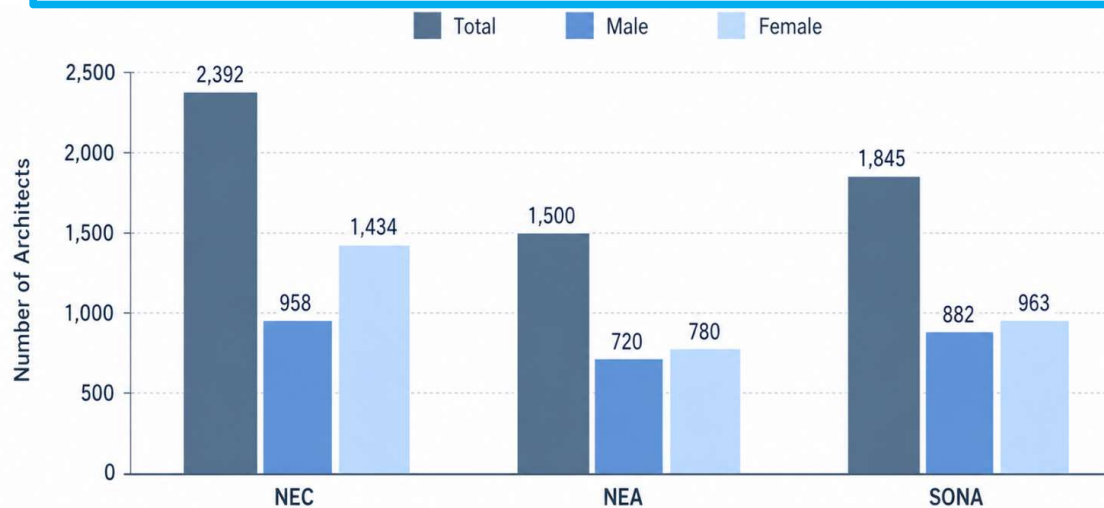


Figure 3: Membership status across three professional bodies

The data highlights a clear distinction in registration figures among the three professional bodies. The Nepal Engineering Council (NEC) records the highest number of registrations, primarily because NEC certification is a mandatory requirement for architects to obtain legal recognition and practice professionally in Nepal. In contrast, membership in the Society of Nepalese Architects (SONA) and the Nepal Engineers' Association (NEA) is voluntary, resulting in comparatively lower registration numbers. These figures reflect professional affiliation and representation rather than a statutory obligation.

2.4 Sectorial Engagement of Architects in Nepal

Architects in Nepal contribute to the nation's-built environment through diverse professional pathways. Their work is primarily concentrated in the **service sector**, encompassing roles in both government and non-governmental organizations, the **academic sector**, and the **private sector**, which includes consulting firms, developer companies, and the construction industry.

Beyond these core areas, a growing number of architects are expanding their scope by engaging in **alternative practices**. These include event planning, media, and architectural graphics, particularly in

visualization and design communication. Such diversification reflects the evolving nature of the profession and highlights how architects are redefining their role in society by applying architectural thinking across multiple domains.

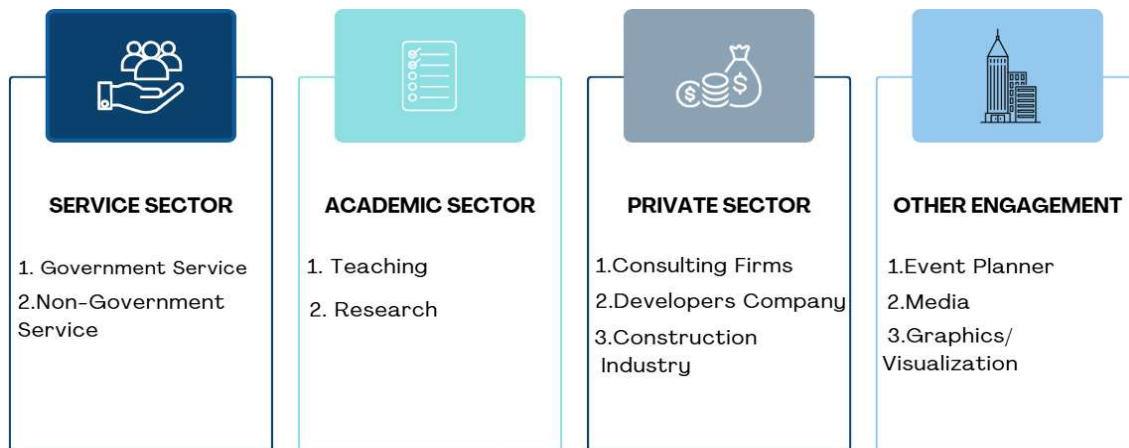


Figure 4: Sectorial Engagement of Architects in Nepal

3. ARCHITECTURAL EDUCATION

Architecture education provides the essential foundation for the profession, shaping future architects through a balanced blend of theoretical knowledge, technical skills, and creative exploration. Academia plays a pivotal role not only in producing graduates but also in influencing the direction of architectural discourse and professional practice.

In Nepal, architectural education is offered at four levels.

Masters Level	Bachelors Level	Diploma Level	Pre-diploma Level
<i>Advanced specialization and research in architecture.</i>	<i>Core professional training and qualification for practice.</i>	<i>Technical and applied training for support roles in the industry.</i>	<i>Introductory programs that prepare students for higher studies in architecture.</i>

This structured academic pathway ensures that the profession remains dynamic, responsive to cultural and technological shifts, and capable of nurturing architects who contribute meaningfully to the built environment.

3.1 Masters level

Postgraduate education in architecture and allied fields has steadily expanded in Nepal over the past three decades. The Master in Architecture program at Pulchowk Campus was introduced in 2020, with an annual intake of 20 students, creating a dedicated postgraduate track specifically for architects.

For a longer period, advanced study was primarily pursued through the Master in Urban Planning, launched in 1996 with an intake of 20 students per year, and the Master in Energy Efficient Building, introduced in 2016 with the same annual capacity. Taken together, these three programs account for approximately 800 postgraduate seats up to 2023. While not all graduates are architects particularly in Urban Planning, which also attracts civil engineering students the number of architects completing these programs is still significant, likely in the range of several hundred.

In addition, the Master of Science in Energy for Sustainable Social Development has emerged as another important postgraduate pathway, reflecting the growing emphasis on sustainability and energy-conscious design in Nepal's development agenda.

In recent years, architecture graduates have also increasingly enrolled in allied postgraduate programs such as Construction Engineering and Management, Disaster Risk Engineering and Management, and Energy Systems Planning and Management. This diversification demonstrates how the postgraduate landscape for architects in Nepal is becoming more interdisciplinary, equipping professionals to address complex challenges in urbanization, sustainability, and resilience.

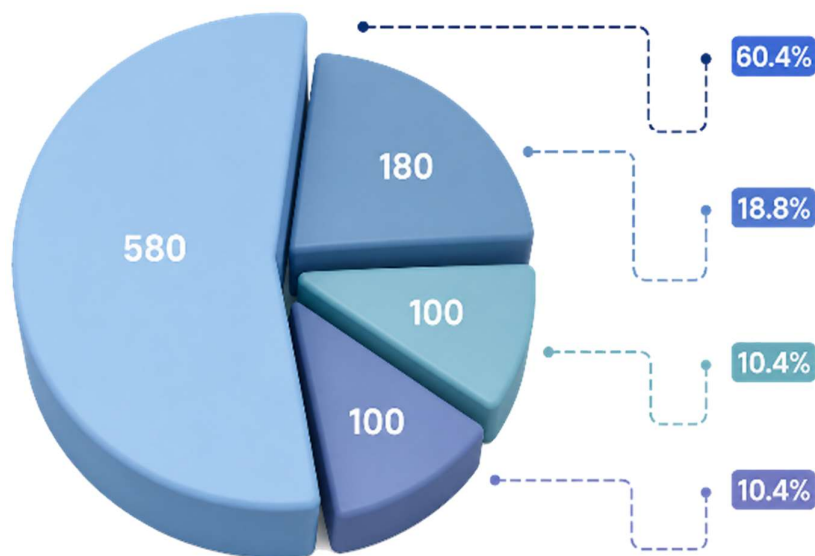


Figure 5: Estimated Masters Students produced till date

Sn	Course	Est. date	Total Batches	Intake	Total	Intake Composition
1	MSc. in Urban Planning	1996	29	20	580	Architects and Civil Engineers
2.	MSc. in Energy for Sustainable Social Development	2015	5	20	100	Architects and Engineers (Mechanical, Civil & Electrical)
3.	MSc. in Energy Efficient Buildings	2016	9	20	180	95% Architects
4.	Master in Architecture	2020	5	20	100	100% Architects

Table 1: Architecture Student enrolled in master's education

To date, approximately 960 students have graduated from master's programs in architecture and allied fields in Nepal. On a biannual basis, around 120 students are continuously engaged in master's-level studies. Of these, 10–15% come from other disciplines such as civil and mechanical engineering, leaving an estimated 100 architects actively pursuing higher education within each two-year cycle.

3.2 Bachelors level

The Bachelor of Architecture (B. Arch) in Nepal is a five-year, ten-semester professional degree program designed to provide comprehensive training in architectural design, planning, and construction. The program is currently offered by 17 colleges across the country, affiliated with five universities:

- Tribhuvan University (TU)
- Kathmandu University (KU)
- Pokhara University (PoU)
- Purbanchal University (PU)
- Far-Western University (FWU)

This undergraduate pathway serves as the primary entry point into the profession, equipping students with the theoretical foundation, technical skills, and creative capacity required to contribute meaningfully to the built environment.

3.2.1 Annual Intake and Graduation Trends

The annual intake capacity for the Bachelor of Architecture programs across Nepal currently stands at 781 students. However, four universities are yet to produce graduates, accounting for 192 students, which reduces the effective annual intake to 589 students at present.

Records indicate that approximately 12% of students drop out and around 3% remain unrolled, resulting in an average attrition rate of 15%. This translates to about 89 students annually. Consequently, the effective number of architecture graduates produced each year is approximately 500.

This figure reflects both the expansion of architectural education in Nepal and the challenges of retention and completion within the system.

Sn.	Universities	Annual Intake	Name Of The College	Est. Year	B.Arch. Est. Year
1	Tribhuvan University (TU)	264	Pulchowk Campus	2029 BS	2052 BS
			Kathmandu Engineering College	2055 BS	2056 BS
			Himalaya College of Engineering	2057 BS	2066 BS
			Thapathali Campus	2023 BS	2071 BS
			Purwanchal Campus	2033 BS	2072 BS
			Chitwan Engineering Campus	2076 BS	2076 BS
2	Kathmandu University (KU)	35	Kathmandu University School of Engineering	2050 BS	2074 BS

3	Pokhara University (PoU)	242	Nepal Engineering College	2051 BS	2053 BS
			Pokhara Engineering College	2055 BS	2074 BS
			Cosmos College of Management and Technology	2057 BS	2074 BS
			Universal Engineering and Science College	2056 BS	2081 BS
			Nepal College of Information Technology	2057 BS	2081 BS
4	Purwanchal University (PU)	192	ACME Engineering College	2056 BS	2057 BS
			Khwopa Engineering College	2056 BS	2058 BS
			Kantipur International College	2055 BS	2067 BS
			Madan Bhandari Memorial Academy	2050 BS	2075 BS
5	Farwesten University	48	School of Engineering	2069 BS	2081 BS
5 Universities		781	17 Colleges		

Table 2: Universities and their affiliated campus with architecture department

3.2.2 Graduating Architects

With architecture education starting in 1995 at Pulchowk Campus, Nepal has seen consistent growth in the number of institutions offering Bachelor's degrees in Architecture. As of 2024, there are 17 active colleges, and the graduate production rate has increased accordingly.

Sn.	Name of College	Est. of Arch. Dept.	Total Batches	Annual Intakes	Estimated. No. of Graduates*
1	SOE, KU	2074	4	35	140
2	NCIT	2081	-	48	-
3	NEC ₁	2053	25	50	1,250
4	PEC	2074	4	48	192
5	UESC	2081	-	48	-
6	COSMOS	2074	4	40	160
7	ACME	2057	20	24	480
8	MBMA	2075	3	48	144
9	KIC	2067	11	48	528

10	KHEC	2058	20	24	480
11	PULCHOWK	2052	26	48	1,248
12	TC	2071	7	48	336
13	ERC	2072	6	48	288
14	CEC	2076	-	24	-
15	KEC	2056	22	48	1,056
16	HCOE	2066	12	48	576
17	FWU	2081	-	48	-
18	From Foreign Universities and Colleges			-	-
TOTAL					6,878*

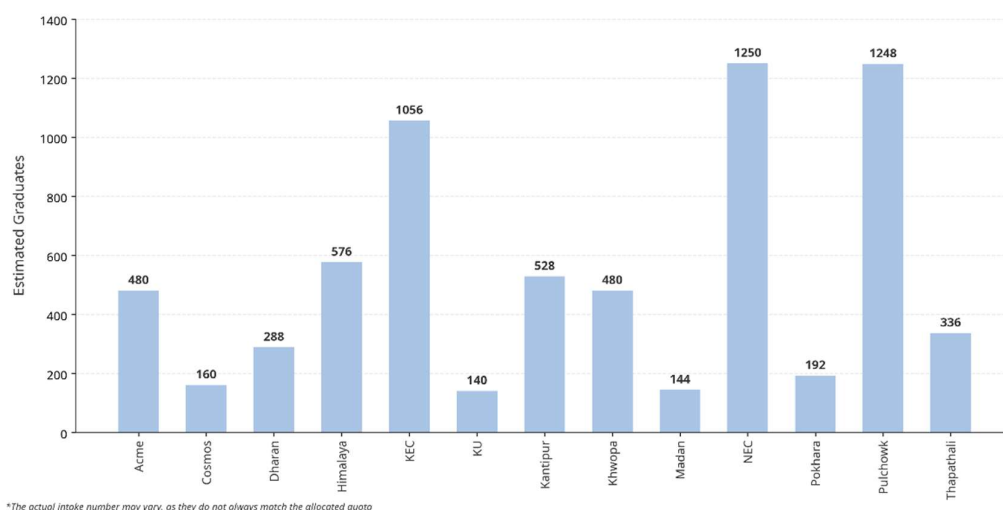
*The actual intake number may vary, as they do not always match the allocated quota

Table 3- Estimated graduates from different architecture colleges

As of today, the estimated total number of architecture graduates in Nepal stands at 6,878 students. However, institutions such as NCIT, Universal, Chitwan, and Far-Western University are yet to produce graduates, accounting for 192 students.

Records indicate that approximately 13% of students drop out and around 2% of seats remain unfilled, resulting in a combined reduction of 15%. Applying this adjustment to the total intake (6,878), the effective number of graduates is approximately 5,845.

Additionally, the Pulchowk Campus admitted only 24 students per batch in its first three cohorts, amounting to 72 students. Factoring this into the calculation, the adjusted estimate of architecture graduates produced to date is approximately 5,773.



*The actual intake number may vary, as they do not always match the allocated quota

Figure 6: Total Number of Estimated Architects Produced throughout different architecture Colleges

3.2.3 Gender Ratio in Architecture Students

Currently, there is no consolidated nationwide dataset that disaggregates male and female student enrollment across all government and private architecture colleges in Nepal. To provide a basic comparison, this document draws on six years of enrollment records from one government institution (Pulchowk Campus) and one private institution (Cosmos College).

The data reveals a significant difference in gender ratios between public and private colleges. While government institutions show a relatively balanced distribution, private colleges reflect distinct variations, highlighting how institutional type influences gender representation in architectural education.

For example, in the 078 batch of Cosmos College, the number of female students is 45 and male students are 3 out of 48.

Sn.	Pulchowk Campus	Female	Male	Cosmos College	Female	Male
1	2075 BS	26	22	2075 BS	29	2
2	2076 BS	25	23	2076 BS	35	4
3	2077 BS	25	23	2077 BS	34	4
4	2078 BS	24	24	2078 BS	45	3
5	2079 BS	25	23	2079 BS	34	7
6	2080 BS	32	16	2080 BS	31	9

Table 4- Gender-wise student distribution in Pulchowk and Cosmos College over six academic batches

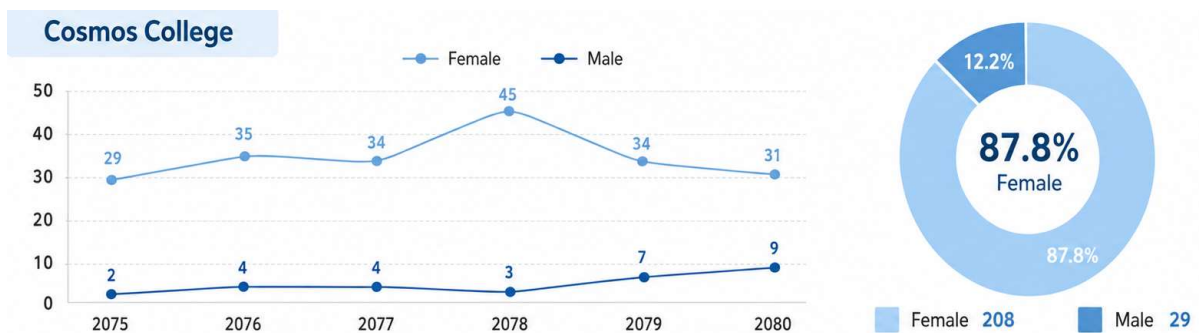


Figure 7: Male and Female Gender ratio of 6 years in Cosmos College

While, the number of male and female students in the 078 batch of Pulchowk College is equal, that is, 24 and 24.

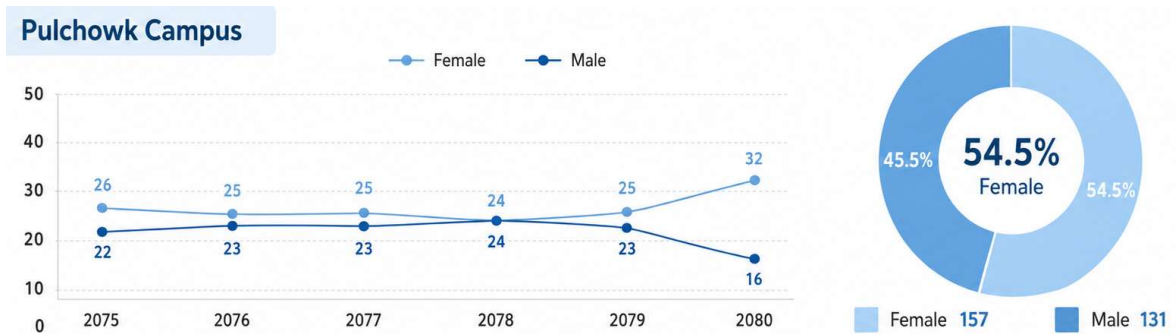


Figure 8: Male and Female Gender ratio of 6 years in Pulchowk Campus

While the enrollment of male and female architecture students in Nepal initially appeared balanced, subsequent years have shown a steady rise in female enrollment alongside a decline in male participation. Public institutions such as the Institute of Engineering (IOE), Pulchowk Campus continue to maintain a relatively balanced gender ratio. In contrast, private colleges demonstrate a substantial disparity, with female students significantly outnumbering their male counterparts.

This trend highlights a shifting demographic in architectural education, where private institutions are increasingly dominated by female students, while public institutions sustain a more even distribution.

3.3 Diploma Level

Nepal offers a three-year, six-semester Diploma in Architecture program through affiliated colleges under the Council for Technical Education and Vocational Training (CTEVT). This curriculum is designed to cultivate Diploma Engineers, specifically Junior Architects, by equipping students with essential expertise and competencies relevant to the architectural field.

Eligibility for enrollment includes successful completion of the School Leaving Certificate (SLC) with English, Science, and Mathematics, or an equivalent qualification. Candidates holding a Technical School Leaving Certificate (TSLC) in related fields are also eligible to apply.

This diploma pathway provides a practical and technical foundation, preparing graduates to support architectural practice and contribute to the construction industry in applied roles.

There are 11 such institutes that offer this course. The list is as follows:

1. Adarsha Secondary School – Biratnagar, Morang
2. Asian Engineering College – Gwarko, Lalitpur
3. Central Engineering Campus – Balkumari, Imadol, Lalitpur
4. Kathmandu Institute of Technology (KIT) – Dhapasi, Kathmandu
5. Mahanagar Multi Technical Institute – Sombare Hat, Biratnagar-2, Morang
6. Manmohan Memorial Polytechnic Institute – Budhiganga, Morang
7. Martyr Krishna Sen Ichhuk Polytechnic Institute – Gairagaun, Ghorahi-17, Dang
8. Mechinagar Polytechnic Institute – Mechinagar, Jhapa
9. Shankharapur Polytechnic Institute – Sankhu, Kathmandu
10. Shree Sahid Smiriti Aawasiya Madhyamik Vidhyalaya – Bankatti, Tulsipur-17, Dang
11. Shree Surya Binayak Madhyamik Vidhyalaya – Ghorahi, Dang

3.4 Pre-Diploma Level

A Pre-Diploma in Architecture typically refers to a short-term vocational program focused on developing practical skills in architectural drafting and construction. It serves as a pathway for individuals interested in the field but not yet prepared to pursue a full diploma or bachelor's degree.

These programs are offered by various polytechnics and technical institutes and are designed to equip students

with the competencies required for entry-level roles such as junior architect or draftsman. In Nepal, the pre-diploma acts as a stepping stone, enabling learners to gain hands-on experience and practical knowledge while preparing for higher studies or immediate employment in the construction and architectural sectors.

The following institutions offer pre-diploma programs.

1. Madan Ashrit Memorial Polytechnic Institute offers an 18-month pre-diploma program in construction engineering and technology.
2. Kathmandu Institute of Technology and other polytechnics under CTEVT offer Diploma in Architecture, which can be a progression from a pre-diploma (edusanjal.com).

4. ARCHITECT'S ENGAGEMENTS

Architects in Nepal are engaged across a wide spectrum of roles that shape the nation's built environment. Their professional involvement is concentrated primarily in three key sectors:

1. Academic Sector

- Focused on teaching, research, and curriculum development.
- Plays a vital role in shaping future architects and advancing architectural discourse.

2. Service Sector

- **Government Service:** Architects contribute to policy-making, regulation, planning approvals, and the delivery of public infrastructure projects.
- **Non-Government Service (NGOs/INGOs/UN Agencies):** Increasingly involved in post-disaster

reconstruction, resilient housing, heritage conservation, and community-focused development initiatives.

3. Private Sector

- Includes consulting firms, developer companies, and the construction industry.
- Architects here are central to design, project execution, and innovation in the built environment.

Beyond these core areas, architects are also diversifying into other engagement sectors, such as event planning, media, visualization, and architectural graphics. These emerging pathways reflect the evolving nature of the profession and its adaptability to broader societal needs.

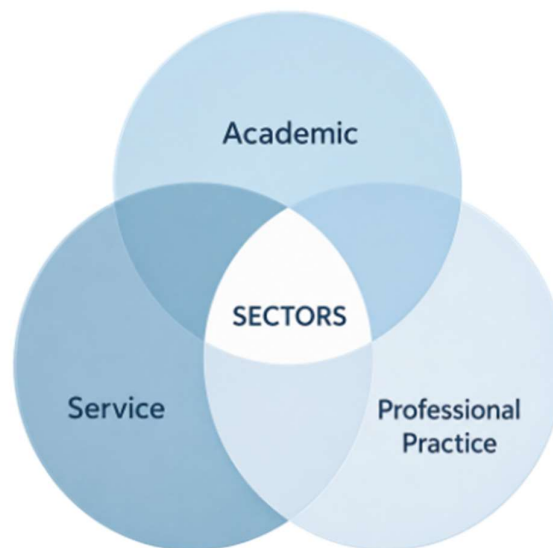


Figure 9: Core Engagement Sectors of Architects

4.1 Academia

Academia is one of the prominent career opportunity sectors for architects. A total of 248 architects are faculty members currently engaged in teaching architecture across 17 colleges in Nepal.

Sn	Name of the College	Total	Male	Female
1	Pulchowk Campus	27	13	14
2	Thapathali Campus	9	7	2
3	Purwanchal Campus	10	10	-
4	Chitwan Engineering Campus	9	8	1
5	School of Engineering, KU	9	3	6
6	Nepal College of Information Technology	7	4	6
7	Nepal Engineering College	18	9	9
8	Madan Bhandari Memorial Academy	8	4	4
9	Kantipur International College	25	11	14
10	Khwopo Engineering College	11	4	7
11	Universal Engineering and Science College	9	3	6
12	Cosmos College of Management and Technology	44	20	24
13	Acme Engineering College	9	3	6
14	Pokhara Engineering College	14	5	9
15	Kathmandu Engineering College	8	3	5
16	Himalaya College of Engineering	25	9	16
17	Farwestern University	6	3	3
TOTAL		248	119	129

Table 5- College-wise academic engagement of architects in Nepal with male and female faculty distribution.

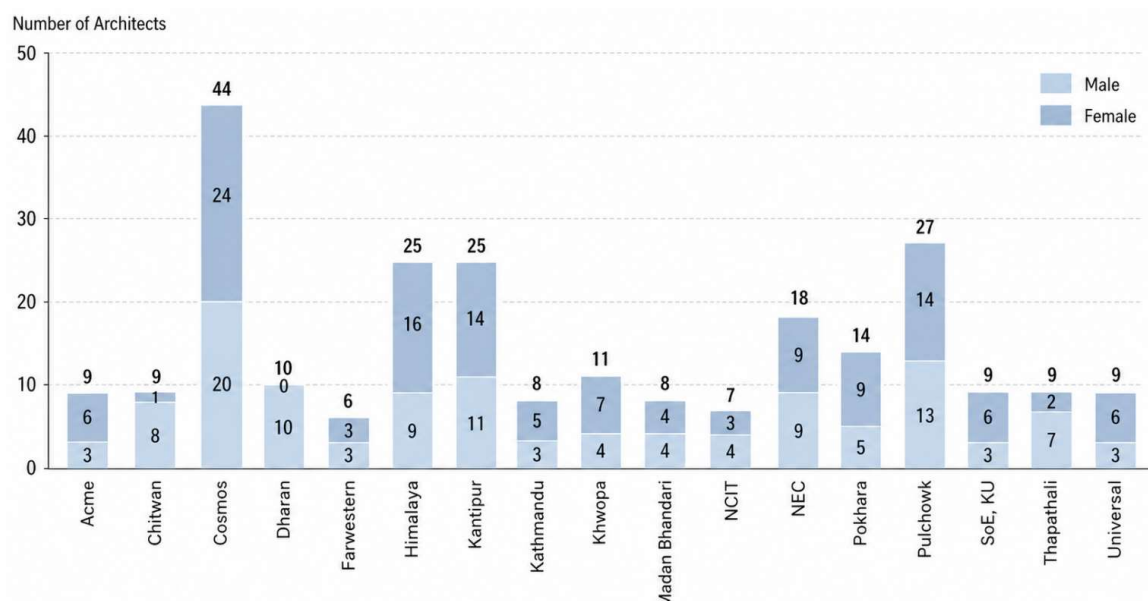


Figure 10: Total and Gender Distribution of Work force in Academia

4.1.1 Gender Representation in Academia

Among a total of 248 academic staff, 119 are male and 129 are female, showing a relatively balanced distribution where males constitute approximately 52% of the academic workforce and females account for about 48%.

While colleges demonstrate this near parity in teaching staff, the professional field reveals a notable difference. Male architects significantly outnumber their female counterparts, particularly in technical institutes and practice-oriented roles. This contrast highlights the divergence between gender representation in academia and in the broader professional landscape of architecture in Nepal.

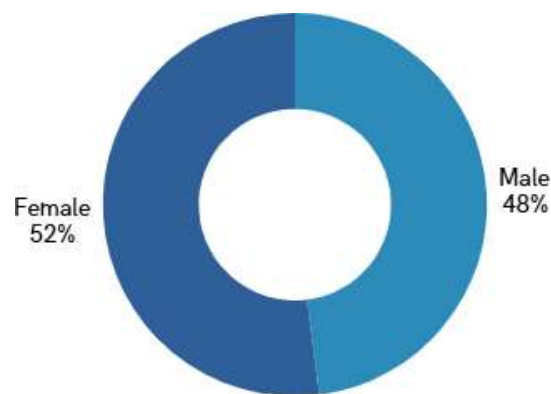


Figure 11: Gender Distribution in Academic Engagements

4.1.2 Overlapping Academic Roles in Architecture Colleges

Academic overlapping within architecture colleges in Nepal is observed in two major ways:

1. Dual Roles of Academic Professionals

- Many faculty members are not limited to teaching alone.
- They are simultaneously engaged in research, consultancy, and professional architectural practice, contributing to both academia and the broader field.

2. Cross-Institutional Engagement

- Overlapping also occurs within the academic sector itself, as many part-time teachers are employed across multiple institutions.

For example, Cosmos College employs 13 part-time teachers, while Himalayan College has over 10, with several faculty members teaching in both institutions.

This practice reflects the interconnected nature of academic staffing in Nepal's architecture education system.

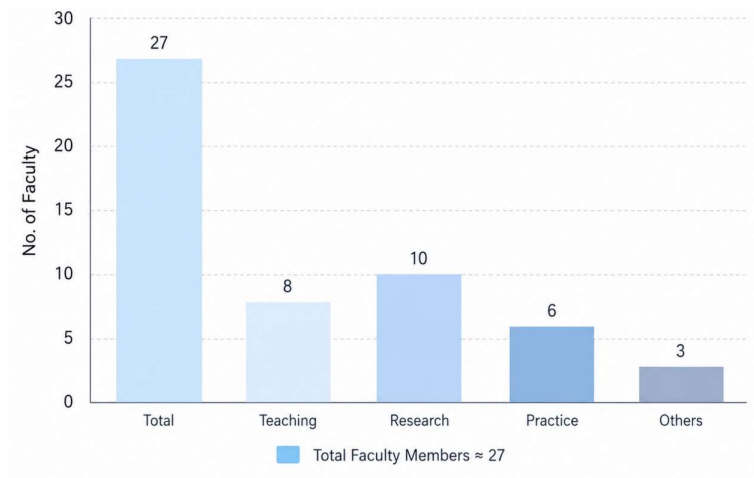


Figure 12: Overlapping roles in Academia in Pulchowk Campus

Taking Pulchowk Campus as an example, the distribution of faculty roles clearly illustrates the overlapping nature of academic engagement in architecture education:

- Out of approximately 27 faculty members:
 - 8 are primarily engaged in teaching.
 - 10 are actively involved in research-related activities.
 - 6 combine their academic responsibilities with professional practice in the architectural field.
 - 3 are engaged in other sectors, extending their expertise beyond academia and practice.

This breakdown highlights how faculty members often balance multiple responsibilities, enriching the academic environment by integrating teaching, research, and professional practice. It also underscores the interconnectedness of academia with the broader architectural profession in Nepal.

4.2 Service Sector

4.2.1 Government Service

In Nepal, the government sector provides career opportunities for architects across the federal, provincial, and local levels. Following the country's transition to a federal system in 2008 and the adoption of the 2015 Constitution, three tiers of government were established:

- Federal Government
- 7 Provincial Governments
- 753 Local Units

The government employs a staff structure system known as "Darbandi", which refers to the officially approved number of employees for each department or office. This system applies to technical staff, including architects. When the available human resources are insufficient or positions remain vacant, the government also outsources engineers and architects on a short-term or project basis.

Importantly, architects and engineers are grouped together under the same category, meaning both are equally eligible for the same positions. As a result, the number of architects in government service can only be estimated by counting the actual individuals occupying these roles.

Current data shows that there are over 120 government-employed architects nationwide. Of these:

- Around 70 are full-time government staff.
- Over 50 are engaged on an outsourcing or contract basis.

This distribution highlights a significant reliance on temporary staffing, with outsourced architects making up nearly 42% of the total architectural workforce in the public sector.

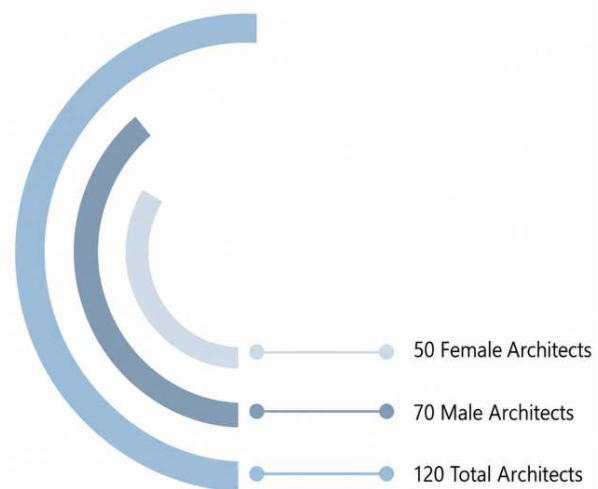


Figure 13 : Gender Distribution in Government Service

4.2.1.1 Federal Level

At the federal level, the government consists of several ministries, departments, constitutional bodies, agencies, and national organizations. Architects are actively engaged across these institutions, contributing to policy-making, infrastructure development, heritage conservation, and specialized technical roles. Their involvement is concentrated in the following ministries, departments, and offices:

1. Ministry of Urban Development
2. Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation
3. Nepal Army, Nepal Police, and Armed Police Force
4. National Academy of Science and Technology

5. Department of Urban Development and Building Construction
6. Department of Local Infrastructure
7. Department of Archaeology
8. Kathmandu Valley Development Authority
9. Town Development Fund Board
10. Rastriya Awash Company Limited
11. Ministry of Education
12. Ministry of Youth and Sports

This distribution highlights the diverse roles architects play in shaping Nepal's built environment at the national level, from urban planning and infrastructure delivery to cultural heritage preservation and academic development.

Sn.	Federal Ministries, department, Agencies, Organizations	No. of Architects
1	Ministry of Urban Development	2
2	Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation	2
3	Nepal Army, Nepal Police & Armed Police Force	6
4	National Academy of Science and Technology	1
5	Department of Urban Development and Building Construction	61
6	Department of Local Infrastructure	1
7	Department of Archaeology	1
8	Kathmandu Valley Development Authority	2
9	Town Development Fund Board	2
10	Rastriya Awash Company Limited	1
11	Ministry of Education	1
12	Ministry of Youth and Sports	1
Total		81

Table 6- Federal-level ministries, departments, and agencies employing architects in Nepal.

At the federal level, the Ministry of Urban Development and its key agency, the Department of Urban Development and Building Construction (DUDBC), stand out as the largest single employer of architects. Together, they employ 63 architects, all holding permanent positions within the *Building and Architect* subgroup, distributed across different ranks.

The Nepal Security Forces (Nepal Army, Nepal Police, and Armed Police Force) collectively

employ around 6 architects, while other federal bodies; including agencies such as the Department of Archaeology, Kathmandu Valley Development Authority, and Town Development Fund Board add approximately 12 architects.

This distribution underscores the dominant role of the Ministry of Urban Development and DUDBC in providing stable, long-term employment for architects, while other federal institutions contribute smaller but significant opportunities.

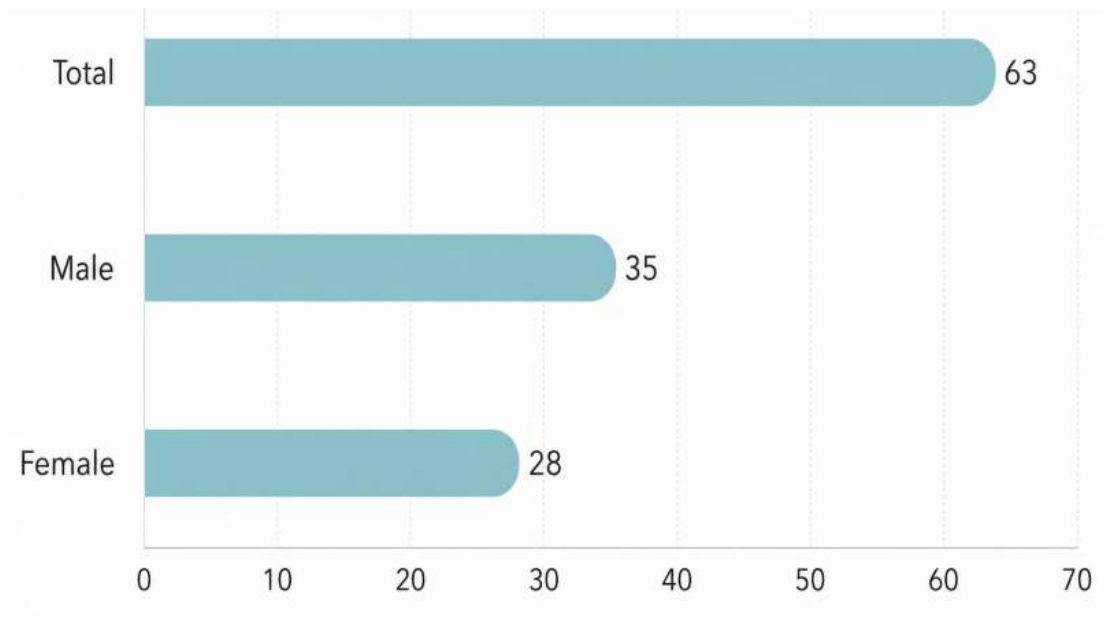


Figure 14: Gender Distribution in Federal Government

Out of 63 architects currently working at the federal level of the government sector, **35 are male** architects and **28 are female**. They are engaged in various sectors and subdivisions inside various offices

4.2.1.2 Provincial Level

Nepal is divided into 7 provinces, each governed by its own Office of the Chief Minister and Council of Ministers, forming the second tier of governance after the federal government. These offices oversee provincial projects related to infrastructure, urban planning, and development works, implemented through various ministries.

Among these, the Ministry of Physical Infrastructure Development is the primary body requiring technical professionals such as architects and engineers. Despite the demand for architectural expertise, however, there are currently no recorded numbers

of architects employed in provincial offices across the seven provinces. At present, much of the work is being carried out by engineers, reflecting a gap in the integration of architects at the provincial level.

This absence highlights a critical opportunity for strengthening provincial governance structures by incorporating architects into planning and development roles, ensuring more holistic and sustainable approaches to infrastructure and urban growth.

4.2.1.3 Local Level

Local government in Nepal represents the third tier of governance, administered under the provincial governments and ultimately beneath the federal government. Nepal has 753 local levels (local governments), which are divided into two main types:

- **Urban Municipalities (नगरपालिका):** These are urban local bodies responsible for governing towns and cities. They are further categorized into:
 1. Metropolitan Cities (महानगरपालिका)
 2. Sub-Metropolitan Cities (उपमहानगरपालिका)

3. Urban Municipalities (नगरपालिका)

- **Rural Municipalities (गाउँपालिका):** These govern rural areas and villages, focusing on the needs of dispersed and less urbanized populations.

Local governments play a critical role in urban planning, infrastructure development, and community services, directly shaping the built environment at the grassroots level. Their structure ensures that both urban and rural populations are represented, with municipalities addressing city growth and rural bodies focusing on localized development needs.

Sn	Types of Local Level	Total No.	Remarks
1	Urban Municipalities		
a	Metropolitan City	6	Pokhara, Bharatpur, Biratnagar, Lalitpur, & Birgunj, Kathmandu
b	Sub Metropolitan City	11	Dhangadhi, Itahari, Janakpur, Butwal, Ghorahi, Hetauda, Jitpur-Simara, Kalaiya, Dharan, Nepalganj, and Tulsipur
c	Urban Municipality	276	
2	Rural Municipalities	460	
Total		753	

Table 7- Number of architects working across different levels of municipalities in Nepal.

- Urban Municipalities

Nepal has a total of 293 urban municipalities, including metropolitan cities and sub-metropolitan cities. These urban local bodies are responsible for a wide range of administrative and developmental functions, typically covering:

- Administration and Finance
- Social Welfare and Education
- Infrastructure Development and Health
- Environment and Urban Development
- Agriculture and Animal Husbandry

Each municipality operates through multiple departments, which are further divided into divisions ranging from 7 to 16 in number.

Among these, the Department of Infrastructure Development, Planning, Housing, Building Construction, and Urban Development is particularly significant. It demands the expertise of technical professionals such as engineers and architects, who play a central role in shaping urban growth, ensuring sustainable planning, and delivering essential infrastructure projects.

This structure highlights the critical importance of architects at the local level, where their skills directly influence the quality of urban environments and community development.

- Metropolitan City

All six metropolitan cities in Nepal share a similar organizational structure, with provisions for employing engineers and architects to carry out

development works. In addition to permanent staff, some metropolitan cities have also outsourced architects to meet project demands.

Among them, Kathmandu Metropolitan City employs the highest number of architects, followed by Lalitpur Metropolitan City. Collectively, approximately 83 architects are engaged across the six metropolitan cities, contributing to urban planning, housing, building construction, and infrastructure development.

This distribution highlights the central role of metropolitan cities in providing structured opportunities for architects, while also reflecting the reliance on outsourcing to supplement technical expertise.

Sn	Metropolitan City	Architects			Engineers
		P	O	T	
1	Kathmandu	32	20	52	40
2	Pokhara	0		0	7
3	Bharatpur	6		6	50
4	Biratnagar	1	3	4	4
5	Lalitpur	6	15	21	50
6	Birgunj	0		0	3
Total				83	154

Note: P = Permanent, O = Outsource, T= Total

Table 8- Architect and engineer distribution across metropolitan cities in Nepal

Across Nepal's six metropolitan cities, the staffing pattern reveals a clear imbalance: engineers are employed in much higher numbers than architects. In most cities, the number of architects is either very low or, in some cases, absent altogether, while engineering staff remain comparatively high and dominant in the workforce.

The notable exception is Kathmandu Metropolitan City, which stands out as the only city where architectural staffing appears substantial. Kathmandu employs 52 architects, making it the largest architectural workforce among the metropolitan cities. Interestingly, this figure is relatively close to the number of engineers in the city, which is 40. This near parity contrasts sharply with other metropolitan areas, where architects are far fewer in number compared to engineers.

This distribution highlights Kathmandu's unique role as the center of architectural employment at the metropolitan level, while also underscoring the broader trend of engineering dominance across urban governance structures in Nepal.

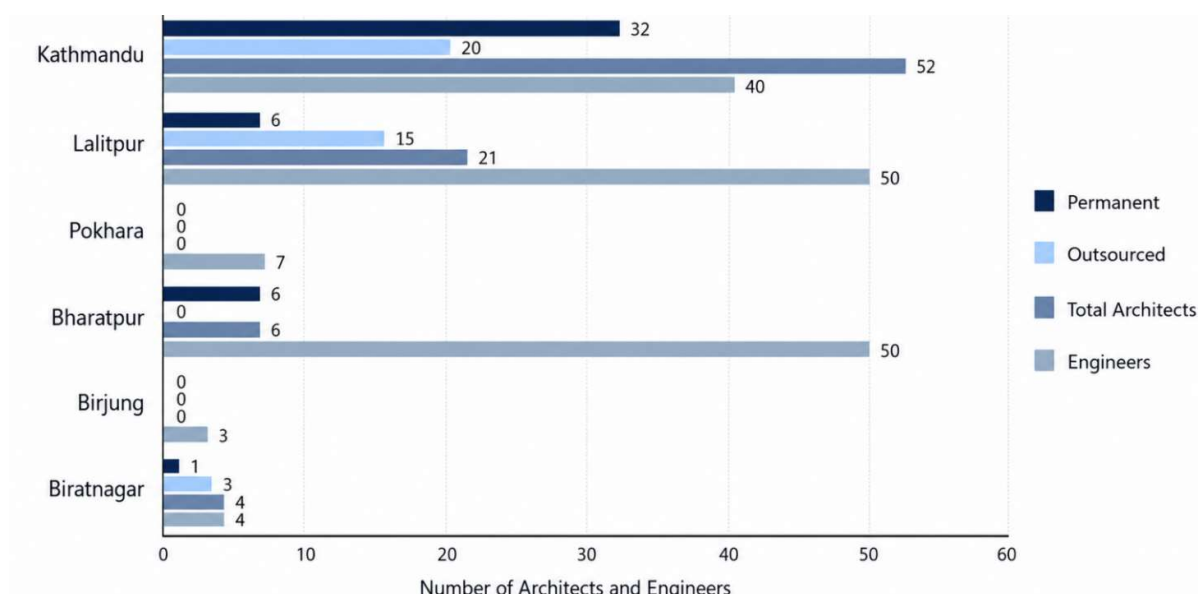


Figure 15: Metropolitan-Wise Distribution of Engineers and Architects in Local Governments

- Sub-Metropolitan City

The organizational structure of all 11 sub-metropolitan cities in Nepal remains more or less the same, with clear provisions for employing engineers but not architects. As a result, only a few sub-metropolitan cities have either:

- Outsourced architects to meet project demands, or
- Appointed architects permanently under the position of engineers.

Currently, it is estimated that approximately 8 architects are engaged across the sub-metropolitan cities. Their roles are primarily linked to infrastructure development, planning, housing, and building construction, though their presence remains minimal compared to engineers.

This situation highlights the structural gap in architectural staffing at the sub-metropolitan level, where reliance on engineers dominates and architects are either absorbed under engineering positions or engaged through outsourcing.

Organizational structure of Butwal Sub-Metropolitan City as an example is provided in the Annex 2

Sn	Sub-Metropolitan City	Architects		Engineers
		Permanent	Outsource	
1	Dhangadhi	2	0	
2	Itahari	0	0	2
3	Janakpur	-	-	20
4	Butwal	0	0	1

5	Ghorahi	1	0	15
6	Hetauda	1	-	10
7	Jitpur- Simara	1	0	4
8	Kalaiya	0	0	4
9	Dharan	0	1	15
10	Nepalgunj	1	0	20
9	Tulsipur	1	0	5
Total		6	1	96

Table 9- Architect and engineer distribution in sub-metropolitan cities of Nepal

- Municipality

Urban municipalities, popularly known simply as municipalities, often encompass both urban and rural areas. As a result, their organizational structures typically include divisions for both rural development and urban development, ensuring balanced attention to diverse community needs.

Some municipalities, however, are more urban in character—such as those located in the Kathmandu Valley and other relatively larger cities. These municipalities tend to emphasize urban and infrastructure development divisions within their organizational structures, reflecting their greater focus on city planning, housing, and infrastructure growth.

For example, the organizational structure of Bhaktapur Municipality (Annex 3) illustrates how municipalities integrate urban development functions into their governance framework.

Based on these variations, the 276 municipalities across Nepal can be further segregated into three categories:

1. Predominantly Rural Municipalities: with stronger emphasis on rural development divisions.
2. Mixed Municipalities: balancing both rural and urban development functions.
3. Predominantly Urban Municipalities: larger municipalities with a stronger focus on urban and infrastructure development.

This categorization highlights the diversity of municipal governance in Nepal and the varying degrees of demand for architects and technical professionals depending on the urban or rural character of each municipality.

Municipalities represent a diverse category of local governance, ranging from highly urbanized areas to predominantly rural regions. Their organizational structures typically include both urban development and rural development divisions, reflecting the dual character of many municipalities. A closer look reveals three distinct categories of municipalities:

1. Municipalities in Kathmandu Valley

- Comprising 19 municipalities (10 in Kathmandu District, 5 in Lalitpur District, and 4 in Bhaktapur District), excluding Kathmandu Metropolitan and Lalitpur Sub-Metropolitan.
- Some municipalities, such as Bhaktapur and Tokha, employ architects either in permanent positions or on a short-term hire basis.
- Altogether, around 10 architects are engaged across these valley municipalities.

2. Municipalities of Larger Cities

- Includes about 11 municipalities such as Banepa, Dhulikhel, Inerwa, Birendranagar, Panauti, and Vyas.
- Approximately 3 architects are expected to be working in these municipalities.

3. Municipalities in the Rest of the Country

- The remaining 246 municipalities are more rural in nature.
- Currently, no architects are employed in these municipalities, with technical responsibilities largely handled by engineers.

This distribution highlights the concentration of architects in urban and semi-urban municipalities, while rural municipalities remain underserved in terms of architectural expertise. The imbalance underscores the need for greater integration of architects into local governance structures to ensure sustainable and inclusive development across all regions.

- **Rural Municipalities**

Rural municipalities, also known as Gaunpalika, typically consist of divisions covering administration, finance, social welfare, education, infrastructure development, health, agriculture, and animal husbandry. Their organizational structures generally include 7 to 10 departments or divisions, ensuring comprehensive governance at the local level.

Within this framework, the infrastructure division is responsible for carrying out all development works, including planning, housing, and building design. However, while there is a clear provision for engineers in these divisions, architects have not been envisioned in the organizational structure of rural municipalities.

As a result, there are currently no architects employed across Nepal's 460 rural municipalities. All technical responsibilities; ranging from infrastructure planning to building design are handled exclusively by engineers. This absence underscores a significant gap in rural governance, where architectural expertise could play a vital role in ensuring sustainable, culturally sensitive, and well-planned development.

The organizational structure of Balefi Rural Municipality in the Annex 3 is an example of a typical Rural Municipality

Architects Across Federal, Provincial and Local Level

Across different levels of government in Nepal, approximately 150 architects are currently engaged. Their distribution reflects both permanent staffing and outsourced or contract-based appointments:

- **Federal Level**

- 70 permanent architects employed across ministries and departments.
- 5 outsourced architects, engaged on a short-term or project basis.

- **Local Governments**

- 45 permanent architects working in metropolitan, sub-metropolitan, and municipal offices.
- 30 outsourced architects, mostly hired in local offices to meet immediate project demands.

- **Provincial Governments**

- No permanent architectural appointments recorded, highlighting a significant gap in staffing at the provincial level.

Summary of Workforce Distribution

- Permanent architects: 115 (70 federal + 45 local)
- Outsourced architects: 35 (5 federal + 30 local)
- Total architects: 150

Outsourced positions account for about 23% of the total workforce, underscoring the government's continued reliance on temporary staffing to meet infrastructure, housing, and urban planning needs.

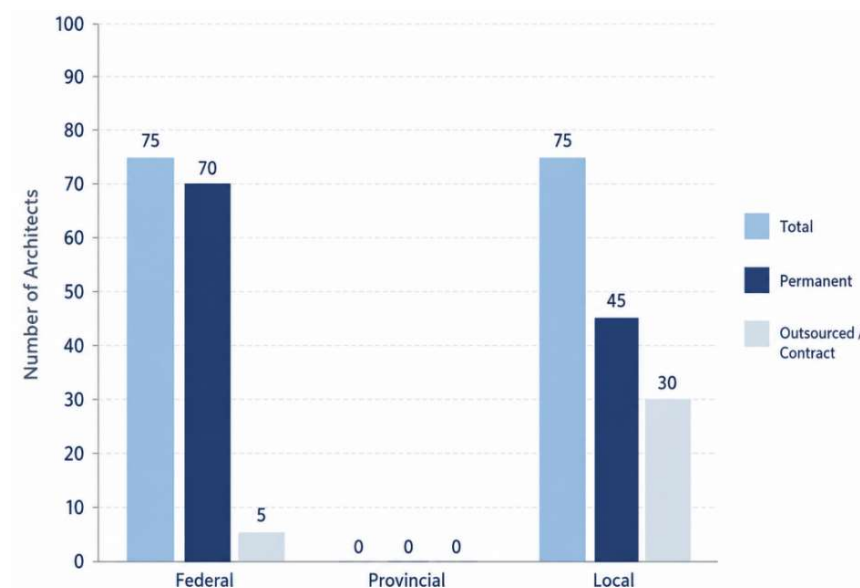


Figure 16: Distribution of Architects across different Government level

4.2.2 Non- Government Service

Beyond government service, many architects in Nepal are employed in a wide range of non-governmental and international institutional settings. These include NGOs, INGOs, and UN-affiliated agencies, where architects contribute their expertise to diverse development initiatives.

Key areas of engagement include:

- Development Projects – Supporting community infrastructure, housing, and settlement planning.
- Disaster Reconstruction – Playing a vital role in post-earthquake and flood recovery, resilient housing, and rehabilitation programs.
- Community-Focused Design – Designing facilities and spaces that address local needs, cultural contexts, and sustainability.
- Housing and Settlement Planning – Ensuring safe, affordable, and inclusive housing solutions for vulnerable populations.

This sector provides architects with opportunities to work on socially impactful projects, often emphasizing resilience, sustainability, and community empowerment. Their involvement complements government efforts, bridging gaps in technical expertise and extending architectural services to underserved communities.

4.2.2.1 International and National Organizations

- **UN Aligned Organizations**

In addition to government and NGO roles, architects in Nepal are also engaged within UN-affiliated organizations and international institutions. These organizations provide opportunities for architects to contribute to projects with global standards and community impact.

Key organizations employing architects include:

- UN-Habitat – Focused on sustainable urban development, housing, and settlement planning.
- UNESCO – Engaged in cultural heritage conservation and architectural preservation.
- UNOPS – Supporting infrastructure, project management, and technical delivery.
- UNDP – Involved in development initiatives, disaster recovery, and resilience planning.
- UNV (United Nations Volunteers) – Mobilizing architects for community-based projects and technical support.

Altogether, approximately 34 architects were currently found to be engaged across these five major international organizations in Nepal. Their work spans housing, settlement planning, disaster reconstruction, cultural heritage conservation, and community-focused design initiatives, complementing both government and NGO efforts.

Sn	Metropolitan City	No of Architects	Male	Female
1	UN- Habitat	3	2	1
2	UNESCO	2	1	1
3	UNOPS	10	3	7
4	UNDP	2	0	2
5	UNV	17	6	11
Total		34	12	22

Table 10- Architects engaged in UN-aligned organizations in Nepal with gender distribution.

Out of the 34 architects currently engaged across five key UN and international organizations in Nepal (UN-Habitat, UNESCO, UNOPS, UNDP, and UNV), 12 are male and 22 are female. This reflects a female-dominant trend in these roles, marking a notable shift compared to government employment patterns where male architects often outnumber females.

However, it is important to note that most of these positions are temporary and project-based, with hiring conducted primarily through outsourcing contracts rather than permanent appointments. This reliance on short-term staffing highlights both the flexibility and precarity of architectural employment in the international development sector.

Architects in these organizations contribute significantly to housing and settlement planning, disaster reconstruction, cultural heritage conservation, and community-focused design initiatives, but the lack of permanent placements raises questions about long-term sustainability and career stability in this field.

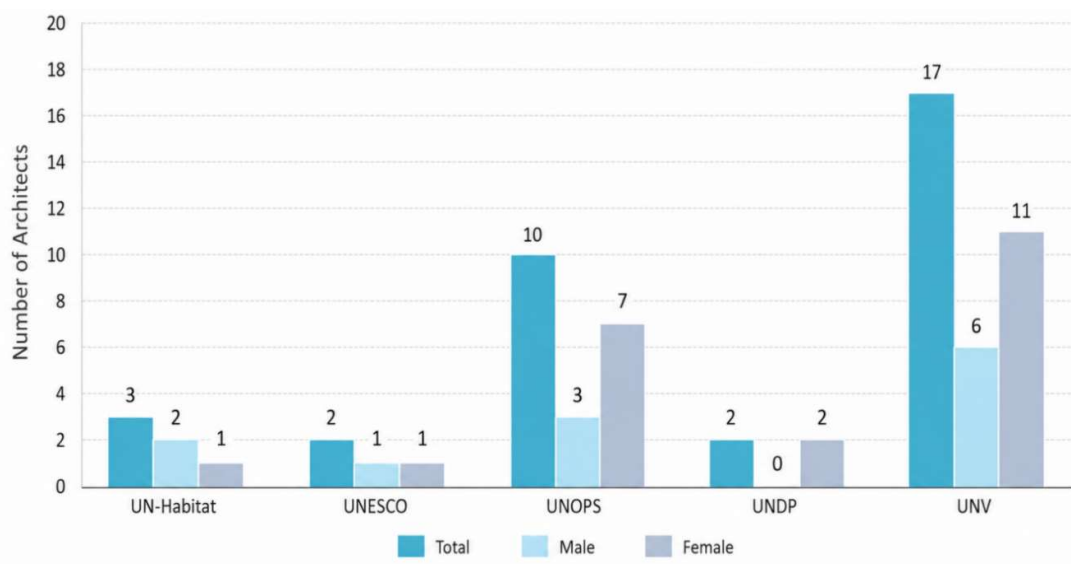


Figure 17: Architects across different UN organizations

• International and National Level Organizations

International and national non-governmental organizations provide another significant arena of work for architects in Nepal.

- International Agencies such as CARE, Save the Children, Habitat for Humanity, GIZ, ICOMOS, and the Red Cross regularly engage architects often on a project or outsourcing basis to support:

- Housing and Settlement Planning
- Post-Disaster Reconstruction
- Heritage Conservation
- Community Development Projects

- National-Level Organizations also play a role. For example, the Kathmandu Valley Preservation Trust (KVPT) works closely

with architects on heritage conservation and restoration projects, safeguarding Nepal's cultural and architectural legacy.

Altogether, these organizations represent a vital employment sector for architects, complementing government and UN agency roles by focusing on community-centered, heritage-sensitive, and resilience-driven initiatives.

The table (Annex) provides an overview of the main organizations where architects are involved and the estimated number of architects working within these networks.

INGO's	NGO's
Care Nepal	Earthquake Safety Solution
Save the Children	National Society for Earthquake Technology - Nepal (NSET)
Habitat for Humanity Nepal	Kathmandu Valley Preservation Trust (KVPT)
Catholic Relief Society (CRS)	
Caritas organization	
International Council of Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS)	
People In Need (PIN)	
Estimated Total = 5	

Table 11- Estimated architect engagement in selected INGOs and NGOs working in Nepal.

- **Bilateral and Multilateral donor Agencies**

Several bilateral and multilateral donor agencies working in Nepal—such as the Asian Development Bank (ADB), World Bank, JICA, and GIZ—also engage architects. Their involvement is typically tied to specific projects requiring built-environment expertise, including infrastructure development, housing, and urban planning initiatives.

Based on available information, approximately five architects are currently employed directly within these agencies. However, their recruitment is generally project-driven, meaning that architects are hired only when the scope of work demands specialized architectural input. The nature of these engagements varies, ranging from short-term consultancies to long-term assignments, depending on the project's scale and duration.

This reflects the flexible but limited role of architects in donor agencies, where their expertise is mobilized strategically to support development programs rather than being embedded as permanent staff.

- World Bank
- USAID
- GIZ
- JICA
- SDC
- KOICA
- Asian Development Bank



Figure 18- Bilateral and Multilateral Donor Agencies

4.3 Professional Practice

Architecture professional practice refers to the provision of a wide range of expert services for the design and construction of buildings, encompassing:

- Technical Design – from initial client briefs and site analysis to construction administration and post-occupancy evaluation.
- Project Management – coordinating multidisciplinary teams and ensuring timely delivery.
- Business Acumen – managing consulting firms, developer offices, and construction projects.
- Legal Compliance – adhering to building codes, zoning laws, and contractual obligations.
- Ethical Conduct – upholding professional standards of integrity, competence, and public trust.

It is a blend of creativity, technical skill, and business responsibility, requiring adherence to standards of conduct and performance. Professional practice extends beyond technical expertise to include ethical decision-making and accountability.

While every sector; government, non-governmental organizations, and academia involves professional practice in some capacity, architecture professional practice is primarily a private sector domain. It represents the largest sector of engagement for architects in Nepal, where they contribute to:

- Building Design and Construction
- Urban Planning
- Interior Design and Visualization
- Construction Management

In Nepal, architects mainly operate through consulting firms and the offices of building and housing developers, shaping the built environment and driving innovation in urban and rural contexts.

4.3.1 Architects in Consulting Firm

Nepal hosts a diverse range of architectural firms, specializing in areas such as modern residential design, traditional preservation, and large-scale commercial projects. Many of these firms are concentrated in the Kathmandu Valley, reflecting the region's role as the country's architectural hub.

Architectural firms in Nepal generally fall into three distinct categories:

1. Multi-Disciplinary Consultancies: Larger firms that integrate architecture with civil, structural, and electrical engineering services.
2. Design-Build Firms: Companies offering both architectural design and full construction services.
3. Specialized Design Studios: Smaller boutique firms focusing on interior design, landscaping, or sustainable vernacular architecture.

Most architects are employed in multi-disciplinary consultancies and consulting firms, though many also own their own practices. In addition, a significant number of freelance architects work independently on projects both locally and internationally, often on a time-bound contractual basis.

Precise data on the total number of architectural firms in Nepal is not consolidated into a single official figure. However, available records provide a snapshot of the industry:

- Society of Consulting Architectural & Engineering Firms, Nepal (SCAEF) lists 195 registered member firms, often operating as multi-disciplinary consultancies.
- Nepal Business Directories show approximately 70 architectural service providers, with significant concentrations in the Kathmandu Valley.
- SONA records estimate around 350 architectural consulting firms nationwide, suggesting that many firms are not formally registered with SCAEF or listed in business directories.

This indicates that the private sector is the largest domain of architectural practice in Nepal, with firms ranging from large consultancies to small studios and freelancers contributing to the country's built environment.

SCAEF (Society of Consulting Architectural and Engineering Firms, Nepal)

The Society of Consulting Architectural & Engineering Firms, Nepal (SCAEF) is a non-governmental organization established with the broader goal of developing the consulting industry in Nepal. It was formally registered with the then His Majesty's Government of Nepal (HMG/N) on November 20, 1990, through the collective initiative of professional consulting firms.

The Government of Nepal officially recognized SCAEF as the National Body on August 15, 1996, designating the Ministry of Physical Planning and Works as the "Line Ministry" responsible for safeguarding the interests of SCAEF and its member firms.

Further strengthening its role, the Public Works Directives (PWD) of January 2002, published by HMG/N, made it mandatory for consulting firms to be registered with professional societies such as SCAEF in order to be shortlisted for proposal submissions. This directive positioned SCAEF as a key regulatory and professional gateway for firms seeking to participate in national development projects.

As of August 2025, SCAEF lists 195 registered member firms, most of which operate as multi-disciplinary consultancies integrating architecture with civil, structural, and electrical engineering services.

Sn.	Information	Number
1	Total member firms	195
2	Engineering and architectural firms	25
3	Architectural firm	5
4	Authorized representative architects	13
5	Authorized representative Engineers	151
6	Authorized representative non engineers and architect	31
7	Authorized female representative:	5

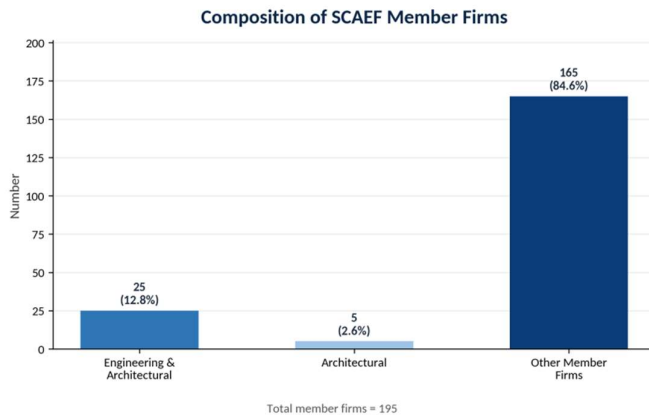
Table 12- Overview of SCAEF member firms and their authorized representatives in Nepal.

Since no aggregated national figure exists for the total number of architectural firms in Nepal, it is difficult to obtain precise data on the number of architects engaged in consulting practices. However, reasonable assumptions can be made to arrive at an approximate estimate.

- SCAEF Registered Firms
 - The Society of Consulting Architectural & Engineering Firms (SCAEF) lists 195 registered member firms as of August 2025.
 - Assuming at least 2 architects per firm in 30 of these firms, an estimated 60 architects are engaged within SCAEF-registered firms.
- Nepal Business Directories
 - Business directories list approximately 70 architectural service providers, which is more than double the number of firms assumed in the SCAEF calculation.

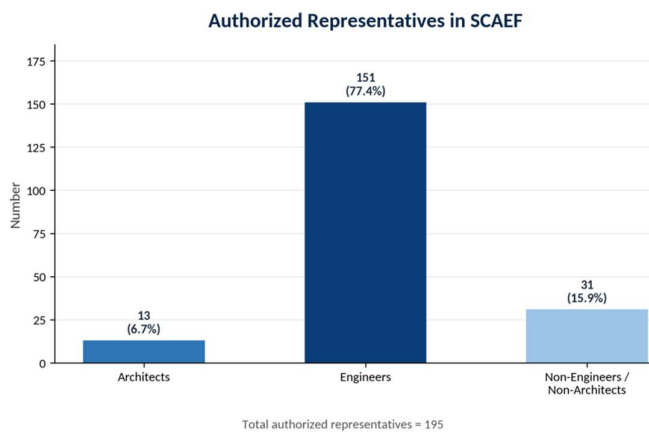
- This suggests that the actual number of architects engaged in consulting firms is likely significantly higher than the conservative estimate.
- SONA Records
 - The Society of Nepalese Architects (SONA) records approximately 350 architectural consulting firms nationwide, further indicating that many firms are not formally registered with SCAEF or listed in business directories.

Taken together, these figures highlight the fragmented nature of data collection on architectural firms in Nepal. While exact numbers remain elusive, the evidence suggests that consulting firms represent one of the largest domains of professional practice for architects, with engagement levels far exceeding the conservative estimate of 60.



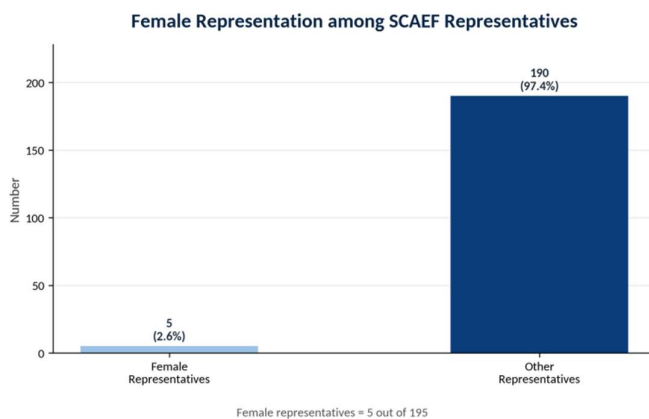
The chart shows that SCAEF has a total of 195 member firms. Among them, 25 firms are engineering and architectural firms, while only 5 firms are purely architectural firms. The remaining 165 firms fall under other member firm categories, showing that architectural firms form only a small portion of the overall SCAEF membership.

Figure 19: Composition of SCAEF member firms by firm category.



The chart shows the professional background of authorized representatives in SCAEF member firms. Out of 195 authorized representatives, 151 are engineers, making them the dominant group. In comparison, only 13 are architects, while 31 are non-engineers or non-architects, indicating that architects have a limited representation among authorized firm representatives.

Figure 20: Distribution of authorized representatives in SCAEF member firms.



The chart highlights a significant gender gap among SCAEF representatives. Out of 195 authorized representatives, only 5 are female, while 190 are other representatives.

This shows that female representation in formal representative roles within SCAEF member firms is very low and needs greater attention in future professional participation and leadership.

Figure 21: Female representation among authorized representatives of SCAEF

Findings from the Survey

According to records maintained by the **Society of Nepalese Architects (SONA)**, approximately **300 architectural firms** are currently active in Nepal. To better understand the professional landscape, a survey was conducted covering **100 firms** across the **Kathmandu Valley** and other regions—representing about **33% of the total firms**.

From this sample, a total of **663 architects** were recorded, comprising:

- **296 male architects**
- **275 female architects**
- Professionals engaged in both **sole proprietorship practices** and **larger consultancies** employing multiple architects.

Based on proportional scaling of the survey findings, it is estimated that around **1,980 architects** may be involved nationwide in professional practice.

In addition to firm-based employment, the field also includes a **significant number of freelance architects** who work independently on both local and international projects. Many of these freelancers rely on **remote collaboration tools and digital platforms**, expanding the reach of Nepalese architectural practice beyond national boundaries.

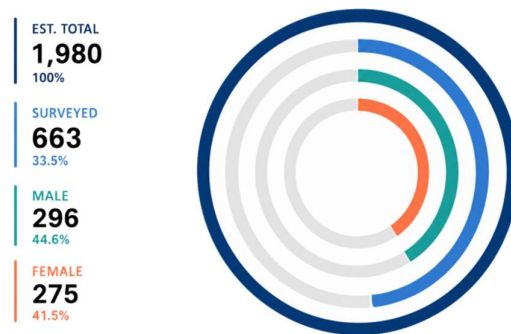


Figure 22: Surveyed firms and the results

Gender Ratio in Professional Practice

Within the architectural firms surveyed, the gender composition of practicing architects is remarkably close to parity. Out of the 663 architects recorded:

- 296 architects (44.6%) are male
- 275 architects (41.5%) are female

This near-equal ratio points to a profession that, at the level of overall workforce participation, is steadily moving toward gender balance. The findings suggest that architecture in Nepal is evolving into one of the few technical professions where female representation is approaching parity with male counterparts, particularly in private practice and consulting firms.

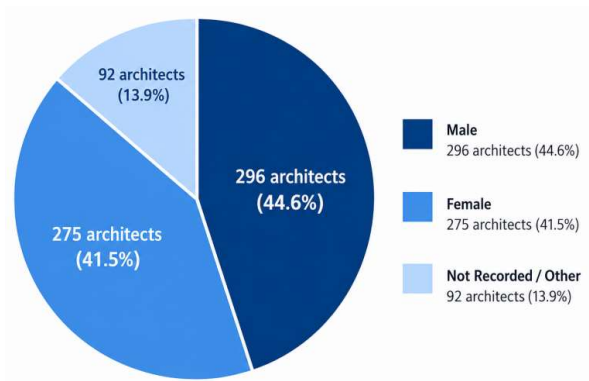


Figure 23: Gender distribution in the workforce in Professional Practice

Out of the 663 architects recorded from the surveyed firms, gender data was clearly identified for 571 architects. The remaining 92 architects were not included in the male–female distribution chart due to incomplete or unavailable gender information.

Accordingly, the gender composition chart represents only those architects with confirmed gender records. The unrecorded portion reflects both a data limitation and the presence of individuals engaged in management or administrative roles, where gender-specific information was not captured.

Gender Gap in Leadership and Workforce

The survey of 100 architectural firms revealed that 663 architects are actively engaged in professional practice. Using this sample as a basis for proportional scaling against the 300 estimated active architectural firms nationwide, it is projected that approximately 1,980 architects are currently working in consulting firms across Nepal.

This estimate provides a clearer picture of the scale of professional practice in the private sector, where consulting firms remain the largest domain of engagement for architects.

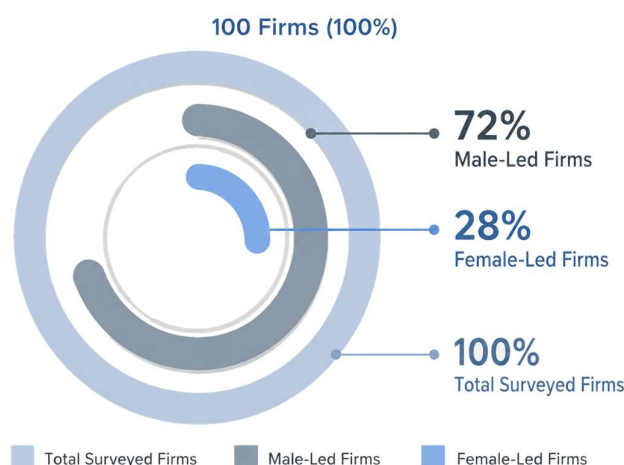


Figure 24: Gender-based division on leadership role

Key observations:

- The survey included both **sole proprietorships** and **larger consultancies**, reflecting the diversity of firm structures.
- The scaled estimate highlights the **significant role of consulting firms** in absorbing the majority of Nepal's architectural workforce.
- In addition to firm-based employment, a **substantial number of freelance architects** contribute independently to both local and international projects, often leveraging **remote collaboration tools and digital platforms**.

Together, these findings underscore the **breadth and dynamism of Nepal's architectural profession**, where consulting firms and freelancers collectively shape the country's-built environment.

Across the country, 1980 architects estimated to be working in firms

4.3.3 Architects in Building and Housing Development Company

The building and housing development industry, which occupies a major portion of Nepal's real estate sector, is a booming area that provides significant opportunities for architects to showcase their professional practice.

Determining the exact number of developers in Nepal is challenging, as the real estate category includes varied activities such as land sales, brokerage, and development. Approximately 18,000 real estate companies are registered with

the Company Registrar's Office, though only a fraction are actively engaged in large-scale housing and construction projects.

The Nepal Land & Housing Developers Federation (NLHDF), established in April 2022, serves as the primary umbrella organization for real estate developers. It represents 100 associate members and 18 district-level members, offering a clearer picture of active companies in the sector.

Architects in Nepal's housing industry typically engage in three main ways:

1. In-House Teams – Major developers such as CE Construction and Civil Homes maintain internal departments of architects and engineers to directly manage design and construction quality.
2. External Consultancy – Smaller or project-specific developers hire independent architectural firms (e.g., Bimba Architects, RG

Creations) for design, landscape planning, and urban design.

3. Collaborative Committees – For complex projects, developers form “architectural committees” of 6–7 professionals to ensure compliance with local regulations and client expectations.

As of August 2025, industry analysis identified 69 active real estate and construction companies. Of these, 16 member companies had completed large projects exceeding 25 housing units in the

Kathmandu Valley, contributing significantly to the housing industry. Leading developers include:

- CE Construction
- CG Developers
- Downtown Housing
- Civil Homes
- Brihat Investment
- Roadshow Real Estate
- CG Properties
- Mount View Developers
- Padma Colony
- Greenhill City Pvt. Ltd.
- Platinum Developers Pvt. Ltd.
- Shangrila Housing Pvt. Ltd.

Based on workforce assumptions:

- 5 architects per large developer (16 firms) → 80 architects
- 1 architect per medium/small developer (53 firms) → 53 architects
- Total estimated architects engaged in housing/real estate sector: 133

This estimate underscores the growing role of architects in Nepal's housing and real estate industry, where they contribute to design innovation, construction quality, and urban development.

4.3.4 Architects in Construction Industry

The construction sector is the second-largest employer in Nepal after agriculture, contributing approximately 5.24% to 7.7% of the country's GDP. It represents another major arena where architects find career opportunities, particularly through contractor's offices and construction companies.

In Nepal, the terms "construction company" and "contractor's office" refer to the same business entity. To operate legally, every construction business must complete two distinct registrations:

1. **Business Registration:** Establishing the company as a legal entity, typically as a Private Limited company.
2. **Contractor's License:** Obtaining a professional license that authorizes the firm to bid on and execute construction projects.

Thus, whether referred to as a construction company or contractor's office, both fall under a single category of licensed construction businesses.

For architects, this sector provides opportunities to engage in:

- **Design and Technical Oversight:** Ensuring construction quality and compliance with design standards.
- **Project Management:** Coordinating multidisciplinary teams within contractor offices.
- **Consultancy Roles:** Supporting contractors with specialized architectural input for complex projects.

The construction industry's scale and economic importance make it a critical domain for architectural practice, complementing the roles architects play in consulting firms, housing development, and donor agencies.

Registration/License	Issuing Authority	Purpose
Company Registration	Office of the Company Registrar (OCR)	Establishes the business as a legal entity.
Construction License	DUDBC or Local Municipality	Authorizes the company to undertake construction projects of a specific scale/value.

Table 13- Registration and licensing requirements for construction companies in Nepal.

Nepal's construction licensing system categorizes contractors into four classes based on their working capital, resources, and technical capabilities.

Sn.	Category	Scale	Working Capital	Technical Resources	Primary service Area
1	Class A Contractor	Large company	Exceeding 10 million NPR,	Minimum one civil engineer and supporting sub-engineers	Major national infrastructure projects like airports, bridge, and highways, hydropower
2	Class B Contractor	Mid-sized Company	Least 5 million NPR	One engineer and one overseer	Commercial complexes, malls, and luxury housing
3	Class C Contractor	Smaller Company	Above 1 million NPR	One sub-engineer or overseer	Medium-scale urban buildings, schools, and small apartments.
4	Class D Contractor	Local Company	Starting at 100,000 NPR	Minimum one certified sub-engineer	Private residential housing, local community centers, and small buildings

Table 14- Classification of construction companies in Nepal based on scale, working capital, technical resources, and primary service area.

Nepal's construction sector encompasses a wide range of services, from residential and commercial building to industrial facilities, road and bridge construction, hydropower development, and large-scale infrastructure projects. Many construction companies offer complete service packages, including:

- Architectural Design
- Project Planning and Site Supervision
- Material Sourcing
- Interior Design Solutions

Within building and housing construction companies, architects are engaged in two primary ways:

1. **Design-Build Companies:** Architects serve as in-house designers, ensuring functional and aesthetic quality, code compliance, and coordination with engineers and consultants.
2. **Contractor's Offices:** Architects are employed as part of the contractor's staff, providing internal design expertise and overseeing construction processes to bring client visions to life.

Importantly, construction companies in Nepal are not restricted by their contractor's license to a single type of work. Many firms diversify across multiple service areas, making it difficult to isolate the number of companies working exclusively in the housing and building sector, and therefore challenging to quantify the exact number of architects employed in this domain.

However, a general estimate can be generated by analyzing:

- The number of registered construction companies
- The categorization of company types
- Segregating firms focused on building and housing
- Assuming an average number of architects per company

This approach provides a reasonable approximation of architectural engagement within Nepal's construction industry, even though precise figures remain elusive due to the sector's diversity and overlapping activities.

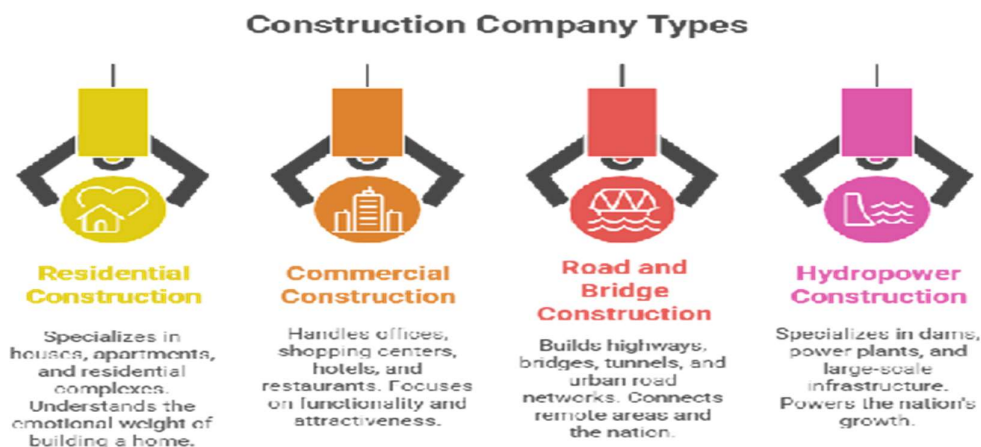


Figure 25: Construction Company Types and Their Primary Focus Areas

As of August 2025, there are more than 12,000 registered construction companies in Nepal. Most of the contractors are associated with Federation of Contractors Association of Nepal (FCAN), a purely a professional association and an umbrella organization of the contractors in Nepal. FCAN shows the following breakdown on the data.

Sn	Category	No of Company	Primary Service Area
1	Class A Contractor	228	Hydropower, Infrastructure, and commercial construction
2	Class B Contractor	282	Commercial and residential construction
3	Class C Contractor	1,158	Commercial and residential construction
4	Class D Contractor	10,740	Residential construction
	Total	12,408	

Table 15- Distribution of registered construction companies in Nepal by contractor class and primary service area.

From the survey of 35 companies randomly selected from the top 100 construction firms, 21 companies (60%) were found to be delivering services in residential and commercial construction. Extrapolating this proportion suggests that approximately 300 construction companies nationwide have their primary service area in building and housing construction, even when considering only Class A and Class B contractors.

While all four categories of construction companies occasionally engage architects, Class A and B contractors are more likely to employ architects consistently, as they handle larger-scale building and housing projects.

Based on this analysis, it can be estimated that at least 300 architects are engaged in building and housing construction companies, assuming an average of one architect per company across the 300 identified firms.

This estimate highlights the significant role of architects in Nepal's construction industry, particularly in the housing and building sector, where they contribute to:

- Design and Planning of residential and commercial spaces
- Code Compliance and Quality Assurance
- Coordination with Engineers and Consultants
- Construction Oversight to ensure client visions are realized.

5. OTHER SECTORS

Beyond regular professional practice, Nepal's architectural workforce is shaped by several mobility and attrition factors:

- Further Study and Research: A small number of architects are pursuing higher education and specialized research, both within Nepal and abroad. Only a very limited group appear to be engaged primarily in research as their main professional focus.
- International Migration: A growing outward movement of professional talent is evident, with architects migrating to countries such as Australia, New Zealand, the USA, Canada, and India in search of career opportunities and global exposure.

Career Change: Some architects have transitioned into other professions, applying their analytical and creative skills in different industries.

- Retirement and Attrition: A portion of architects have retired from active practice, while a few are deceased, reflecting natural attrition within the profession.

Taken together, these trends suggest that Nepal's architectural community is not only defined by its domestic professional practice but also by continued education, overseas migration, and modest research engagement. This dynamic highlights both the global mobility of Nepalese architects and the evolving pathways that shape the profession's future.

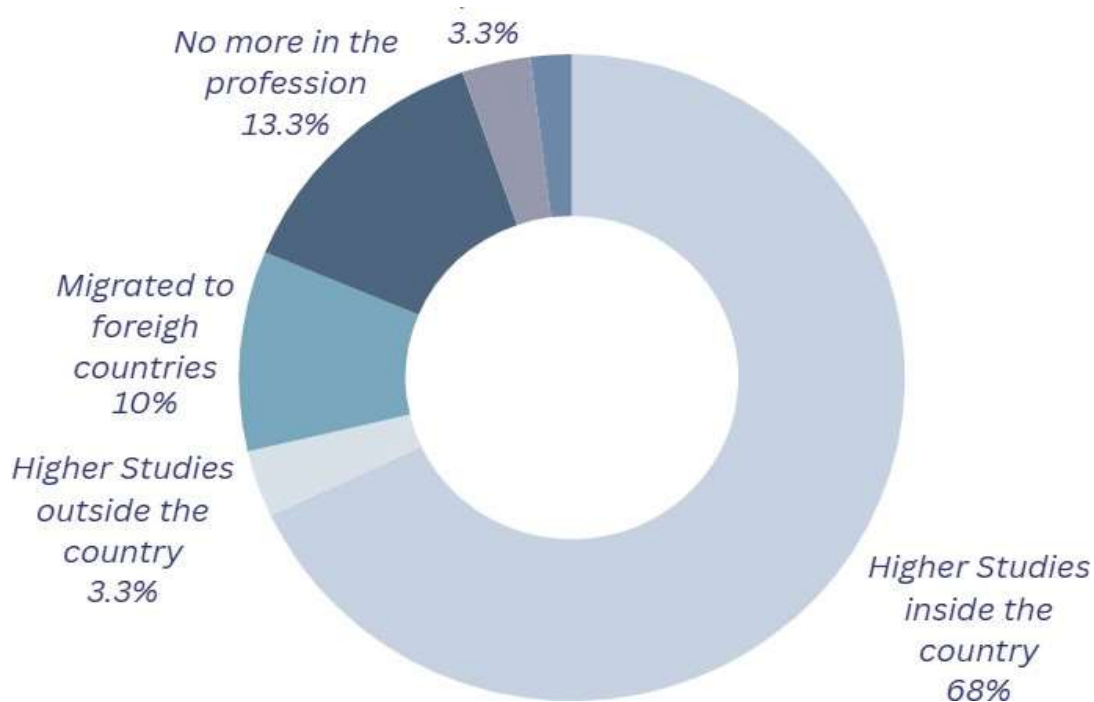


Figure 26: Distribution of Architects beyond Core Work Sectors

6. CHANGING EMPLOYMENT PATTERNS AND SECTORIAL DIVERSIFICATION OF ARCHITECTS IN NEPAL

6.1 Shifting Employment Patterns in Architecture

In recent years, employment patterns within the architectural profession in Nepal have begun to shift noticeably. Alongside conventional roles in firms, a growing number of architects are:

- Working as freelancers, taking on project-based collaborations and specialized consultancy work.
 - Diversifying into adjacent creative fields, including product design, UX/UI design, graphic design, visualization, research, and policy-oriented consultancy.
 - Pursuing higher education, with many enrolling in master's programs both within Nepal and abroad, reflecting a strong emphasis on specialization and global exposure.
 - Flexibility in career pathways
 - Specialization in niche areas of design and consultancy
 - International mobility and education as a means of professional advancement
- Taken together, these shifts suggest that Nepal's architectural workforce is evolving beyond traditional firm-based practice, embracing freelance work, interdisciplinary creativity, and global opportunities as defining features of the profession's future.

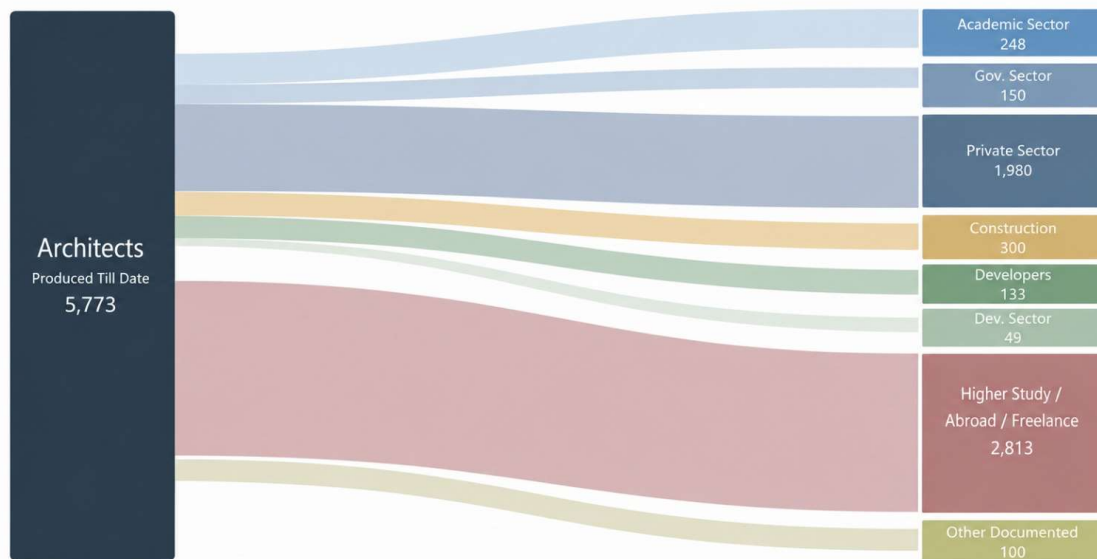


Figure 27: Flow of Architects across Engagement Sectors and Pathways

6.2 Dual Roles in Architectural Practice

A notable duality exists within architectural practice in Nepal, where many professionals simultaneously engage in multiple roles. It is common to find architects who:

- Balance design and practice with teaching, contributing to both the professional field and academic institutions.
- Combine research and teaching, enriching academic discourse while advancing practical knowledge.

This blending of roles creates a continuous exchange between theory and practice, strengthening the profession by ensuring that academic insights inform real-world projects, while practical experiences shape teaching and research.

Such dual engagement not only enhances the quality of architectural education but also fosters a dynamic professional community, where architects serve as practitioners, educators, and researchers at the same time.

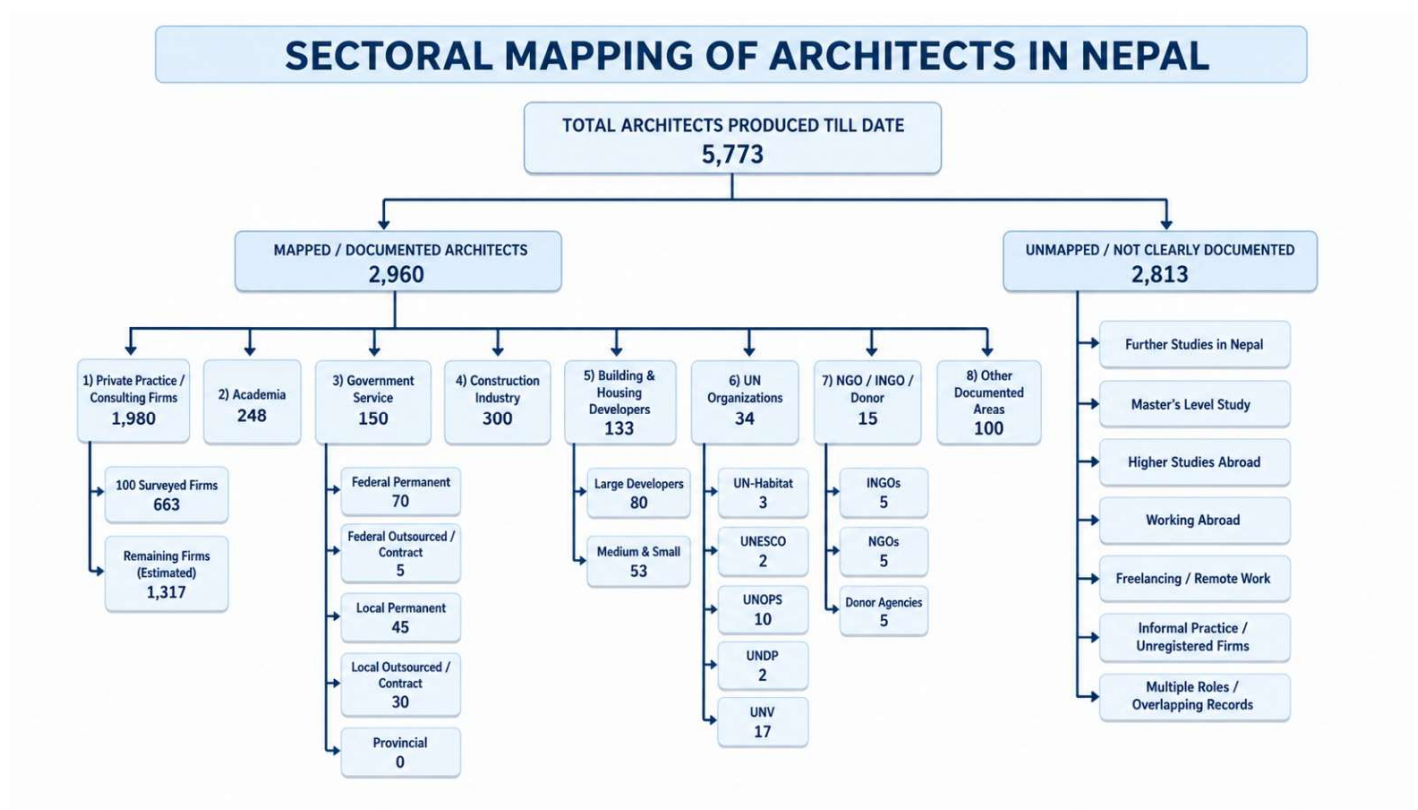


Figure 278: Estimated Workforce Mapping of Architects in Nepal

6.3 Sector-Wise Comparison

Based on cumulative calculations, Nepal has produced an estimated 6,223 architecture graduates to date. Within this total, the study was able to identify and estimate architects actively engaged across visible professional sectors, including:

- Consulting firms
- Academic institutions
- Government service
- Construction companies
- Building and housing developers
- UN agencies, NGOs/INGOs, and donor agencies
- Other related professional areas

This consolidated estimate provides a comprehensive overview of the architectural workforce, highlighting both the scale of graduates and their diverse professional engagements. While precise figures remain challenging due to data gaps and mobility trends (migration, career change, retirement, and research), the study underscores that the majority of Nepal's architects are absorbed into consulting, construction, and housing development sectors, with additional representation in academia and international organizations.

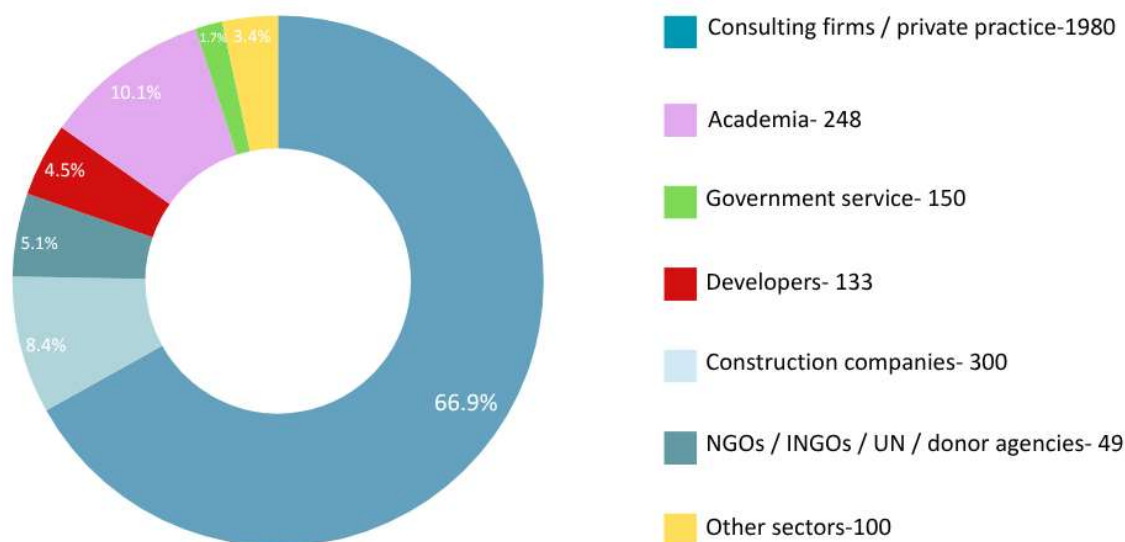


Figure 289: Sector-Wise Engagement of Architects in Nepal

When the reported and estimated sector-wise numbers are combined, approximately 2,960 architects are visibly mapped across different professional engagements. This leaves around 3,263 architects who are not clearly traced within one specific category.

It is important to note that this undocumented number should not be interpreted as inactivity or absence from the profession. Many among them are likely:

- Pursuing further studies in Nepal or abroad, including enrollment in master's programs.
- Working overseas, particularly in countries such as Australia, New Zealand, the USA, Canada, and India.
- Engaged in freelance or remote projects, often through digital platforms.
- Practicing through unregistered firms or informal consultancy networks.
- Involved in visualization, project-based work, policy and development sectors, real estate roles, or entrepreneurship.
- Shifting between multiple professional roles, reflecting the fluidity of modern architectural careers.

Thus, the unmapped portion primarily reflects a data visibility gap rather than a lack of professional activity. The figures presented in this document are based on institutional records, surveys, membership data, and informed estimates, offering an important first overview of Nepal's architectural workforce. At the same time, the findings highlight the need for a more complete, centralized, and regularly updated national database of architects to ensure accurate workforce planning and representation.

7. OVERVIEW OF ARCHITECT'S IN NEPAL

The findings from *“Counting the Creators: A Statistical Portray of Architects in Nepal.”* (data collected June August 2025) reveal that Nepal’s architectural profession has entered a significant stage of growth and transition. Architecture is no longer confined to building design or private consultancy practice; architects are now actively engaged in:

- Academic institutions
- Government offices and municipalities
- Development organizations, NGOs/INGOs, and donor agencies
- Construction companies and housing developers
- Research, freelancing, visualization, and creative/technical sectors

The rapid expansion of architecture colleges and graduates has created a larger professional community than ever before, diversifying the scope of architectural practice.

At the same time, the document highlights persistent gaps:

- Incomplete record-keeping – Registrations with NEC, SONA, and NEA do not fully represent the actual number of graduates or practicing professionals. Many architects

abroad or working in informal/undocumented sectors remain outside official records.

- Gender dynamics – Female participation in education and practice is steadily increasing, in some areas approaching parity with men. Yet, leadership roles and senior positions remain predominantly male, underscoring the need for more inclusive pathways to decision-making.
- Data visibility – A substantial portion of architects remain unmapped due to fragmented records, reflecting a data visibility gap rather than professional inactivity.

Overall, the document provides an important first national overview of Nepal’s architectural workforce. It shows a profession that is expanding, diversifying, and becoming more visible, while also emphasizing the need for:

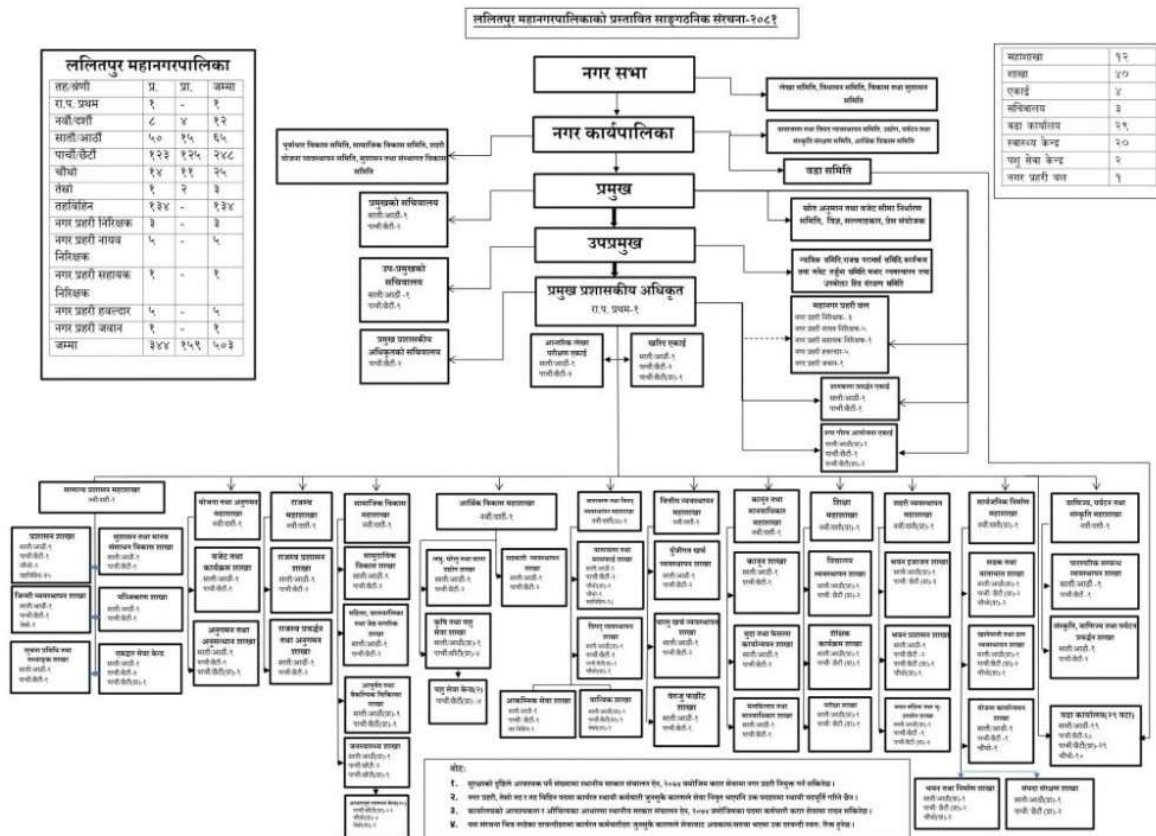
- Stronger institutional support
- Clearer professional recognition
- Better data management systems
- More inclusive leadership structures

This report can therefore be understood as a foundation for future research, policy-making, and professional development, helping to build a comprehensive national understanding of architects in Nepal.

ANNEX

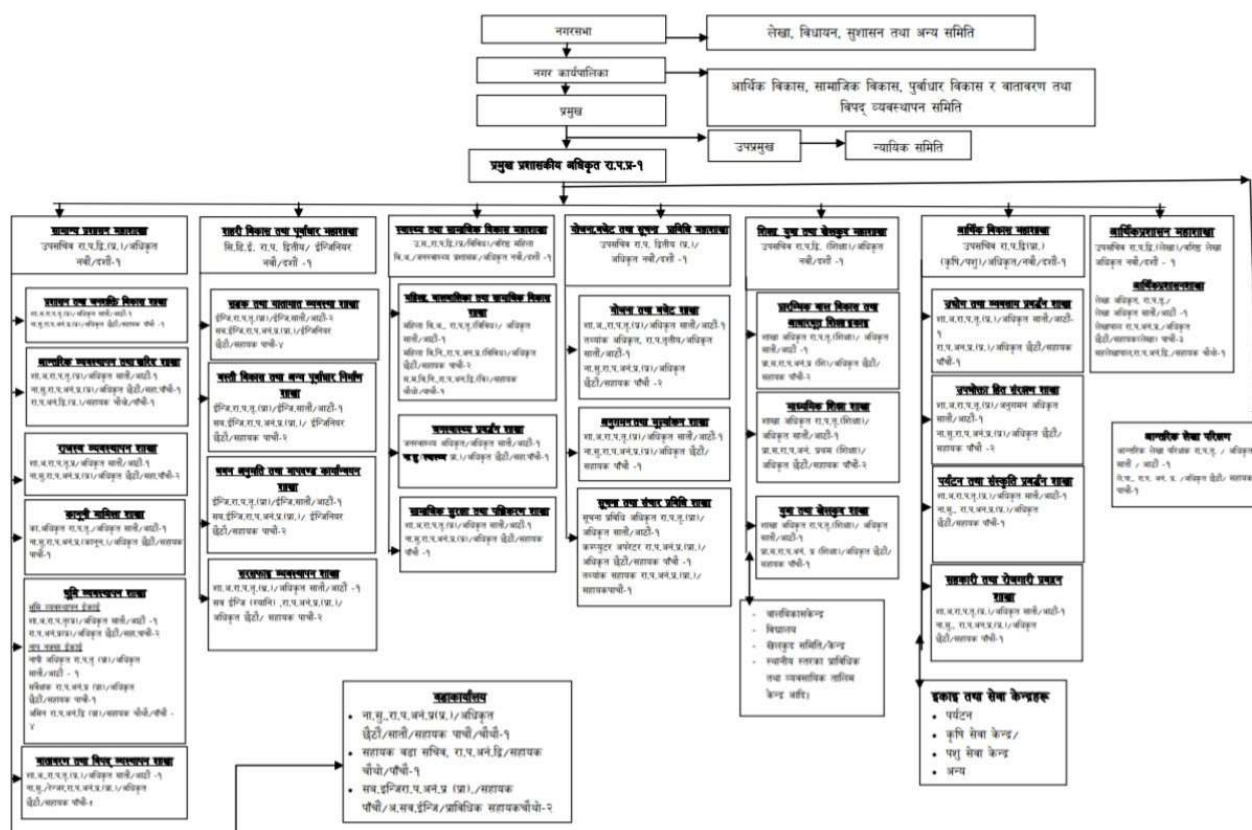
ANNEX 1

Organizational structure of Lalitpur Metropolitan City



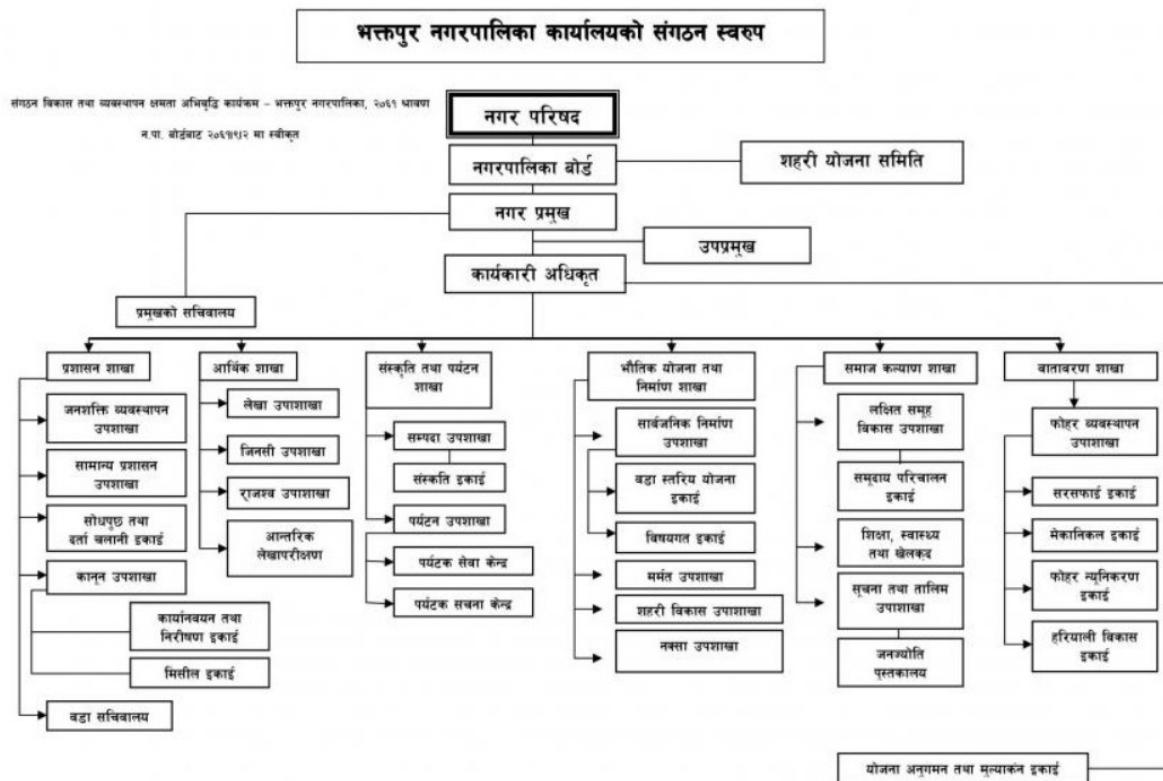
Organizational structure of Janakpur Sub Metropolitan city

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ANNEX 3

Organizational structure of Bhaktapur Municipality



Organizational structure of Balefi Rural Municipality



ANNEX 5

The below list presented below includes the names of firms that actively participated in the 2025 survey. However, the actual number of firms may vary from what is documented here.

Sn.	Name of the Firm	Principal Architect	Total	M. Ar.	F. Ar.
1	Civilization Pvt Ltd	Ar. Bikash	5	1	0
2	Stream architecture and engineering	Ar. Smarika Bam	7	1	1
3	Krithya Studio Pvt. Ltd.	Ar. Garima Nakarmi	9	1	3
4	Tessellate Design Studios	Ar. Abhishek Rai	4	3	1
5	Urban Park	Ar. Abushan Pant	6	3	1
6	AKARANG	Ar. Nistha Nakarmi	3	0	3
7	Briksha studio	Ar. Anil Bhattarai	2	2	0
8	Outré Design	Ar. Sanjay Shrestha	9	3	6
9	Baha Spatial Agency	Ar. Saurav Shrestha	2	2	0
10	Nirmal Rana Creative studio	Ar. Nirmal Rana	1	0	1
11	C. P. Design Pvt. Ltd.	Ar. Ranjan Prajapati	3	0	1
12	Nirmanika Consultants pvt ltd	Ar. Manjari Shakya	1	0	1
13	Archicube Design Studio	Ar. Anil Acharya	6	3	3
14	Meadow Design and Consulting	Ar. Amrita Poudel	4	1	1
15	Fore sight architects pvt. ltd		3	1	2
16	Tattva Consult	Ar. Abhishek M. Bajracharya	8	6	2
17	Design and Architectural Firm	Ar. Suresh Singh Thing	2	1	1
18	Wonaw and Associates	Ar. Alex shrestha	4	1	3
19	Innovative CREATEERS Pvt. Ltd.	Ar. Ujjwal Man Shakya	12	5	7
20	Elite Space Consultancy Pvt. Ltd.	Ar. Binaya Rajan Shrestha	8	1	2
21	Kamero Consults	Ar. Pramod Rai	6	2	1
22	Maze Solution	Ar. Kiran Joshi	4	3	1
23	B. One Architect Pvt. Ltd.	Ar. Bimal Prajapati	4		
24	Arch Aid Planners and Developers	Ar. Mahendra Raj Khatri	7	4	3
25	Piccaso Consutants	Ar. Poonam Bajracharya	3	1	2
26	Sarga Architects	Ar. Rakesh Lamsal	4	1	3
27	SkyLine Architects	Ar. Prabin Laghu	6	2	4
28	Tekton consultancy	Ar. Dinayandra Bdr. Shrestha	11	5	6

29	Vaastu Interiors		7	4	3
30	Outre Design	Ar. Sanjay Lal Shrestha	9	4	5
31	Archio design	Ar. Pramod Maharjan	5	1	4
32	Arch Solar	Ar. Shree Jay	3	2	1
33	Pumori Engineering	Ar. Sidhharth Karki	3	2	1
34	Atelier	Ar. Abhishek Gupta	5	3	2
35	Karu Design Studio	Ar. Tenzing T. Lama	7	4	3
36	Mathema and Partners	Ar. Ajay B. Mathema	16	8	8
37	Archi Plan	Ar. Sanjay Bahadur Thapa	9	5	4
38	Saroj Pradhan and Associates	Ar. Saroj Pradhan	19	9	7
39	Osho Sustainable and Associates	Ar. Suresh Poudyal	4	2	2
40	One Line Architects		13	5	8
41	Aaju design	Ar. Animesh Shrestha	7	1	6
42	Studio Neba	Ar. Sagar Chitrakar	3	3	0
43	Needle Weave		4	3	1
44	3-Dots Architects	Ar. Sandip, Niran, Suyog	15	9	6
45	Saa Studio	Ar. Kaushal Shrestha	6	3	3
46	A. Sharma Associates	Ar. Anil Kumar Sharma	13	3	10
47	Zero Dia Designs	Ar. Toran Pandit	5	3	2
48	Trihaus	Ar. Prabal Batajoo	7	4	3
49	Abari	Ar. Asmita Sidgel	23	20	3
50	Aericon	Ar. Gopal Kunwar	4	1	3
51	Scope engineering	Ar. Prabha sedhain	12	5	7
52	Scale and spaces	Ar. Yateendra Labh	5	1	2
53	Shankar Architects	Ar. Shankar Chapagain	4	1	1
54	Saarathi Design Studio	Ar. Ujjwal Guragain	2	1	1
55	Building Design Nepal	Ar. Bijaya Shrestha	4	3	1
56	Nepal Designers and Builders	Ar Rajan Karki	11	3	8
57	Mithila architects		5	3	2
58	Codenix Engineering Consultancy		6	2	1
59	Linelab Architects and Planners	Ar. Snehi Karmacharya	3	1	2
60	Line Work Architects Pvt. Ltd	Ar. Sabin Maharjan	7	5	2
61	Morphogenesis consultant	Ar. Amir Maharjan	7	2	2
62	Sthapit architects	Ar. Sagun sthapit	7	5	2
63	Archivitus Design Studio pvt.ltd	Ar. Jenish maharjan	4	4	0
64	Rich Architecture	Ar. Sabina Tandukar	12	4	2
65	Prabal Thapa Architects	Ar. Prabal Thapa	7	4	1
66	ML Kayastha and Associates	Ar. Manish Lal Kayastha	13	3	2
67	Linework Architects	Ar. Sabin Maharjan	7	5	2

68	Design Cell	Ar. Arun Dev Pant	35	7	8
69	Voxel Architecture	Ar. Ujjwal Ghimire	4	3	1
70	Vaastu Architecture	Ar. Manisha Shah	3	1	2
71	Ridge Architects		2	2	0
72	CE. Service Pvt. Ltd	Ar. Bijay Raj Bhandari	4	4	0
73	Ink Sync Design	Ar. Uttam Thapa SHrestha	4	2	2
74	Kaari Architects and Construction	Ar. Tenzing T. lama	10	7	3
75	A not architects	Ar. Mitra Lal Gurau	28	11	17
76	Dream Developers	Ar. Sandip Dotel	14	5	3
77	Build Innovations		5	2	3
78	MRS Engineering	Ar. Sweta Mam	2	0	2
79	Ace Associates Pvt Ltd	Ar. Jun Gurung	6	3	3
80	Metalwood	Ar. Shreya Thapa Magar	8	2	6
81	Gaatha	Ar. Shrinkhala Khatiwada	5	2	2
82	Karma Architects	Ar. Nikesh Adhikari	6	4	2
83	Design Station	Ar. Nabin Shrestha	12	4	8
84	Ripple	Ar. Sugandha Subedi	8	8	0
85	Aakar		2	1	1
86	Dristanta Nirman sewa	Ar. Shyam Lal Pahadi	1	0	1
87	Shah Consults	Ar. Poonam Shah	4	1	3
88	Square Unit	Ar. Sanjay Ratna Shakya	7	5	2
89	Pasa designs	Ar. Sanjeev Shrestha	5	4	1
90	Sustainable Mountain Architecture		4	2	2
91	Naksha design	Ar. Prakash Paudel	1	0	1
92	Shristi We. Create Pvt. Ltd	Ar. Arjun Basnet	3	2	1
93	MRB and Associates	Ar. Mona Rajbhandari	3	1	2
94	Bimba Architects	Ar. Anmol Bhattachan	4	1	1
95	Griha Prabesh design Studio	Ar. Manjil Bista	4	1	0
96	Archie Architects	Ar. Binish Maharjan	2	1	1
97	Ceda Design Studio		7	0	7
98	KSM services	Ar. Karishma Manandhar	5	2	3
99	Amar Gurung Architect	Ar. Amar Gurung	1	1	0
100	Kalap architects	Ar. Yazma Raj Bhandari	7	3	5
101	Ridge Architects	Ar. Nishaj Kunwar	4	3	1