

# Dion always had designs

**What are the educational qualifications to become an architect?**

I have a Bachelor of Architecture degree. To actually call yourself an "architect" though requires a lot of practical experience, pre-preparation small courses, then a major written and oral exam. It takes five to six years depending where you go to get qualified.

**What is your salary?**

Salaries for graduates range from about \$50K and for directors or principals from about \$80K and upwards. Directors of

This is the first of a new question and answer series featuring businessmen and women in the *South-East Advertiser* area. Starting with the letter "A" we will run through the alphabet of occupations and find out what makes them tick, beginning with Morningside architect Dion Seminara.

large firms can get as much as \$180K and profit ... if only to be a large practice director!

**How many hours a week do you work?**

Between 50-70 hours so the hourly rate per annum is not that great.

**What is the most satisfying part of your job?**

Having a satisfied, happy cli-

ent and producing a well-designed building.

**What did you want to be when you were a child?**

From about Year 10 I was considering architecture or town planning.

**What was your first job?**

My first job was in an architectural firm as a bit of a rouseabout.

**Do you specialize in your position?**

I'm the principal of my practice. I have been in private practice for 14 years.

**What part of your work are you most proud of and why?**

To be able to interpret client requirements and satisfy them with the architecture we create.

■ To Page 19

## on architecture

■ From Page 18

**Is there anything that frustrates you about your occupation?**

It is very labour-intensive and reliant on technology that does not always work. Sometimes some clients are a bit of a problem too ... but we usually get by.

**What effect has technology had on your occupation?**

I started out manually drafting, then we went into computer-aided drafting using Autocad and now we have just started using a 3D program at great expense called Revit.

**If you could have designed one structure in world history, what would it have been?** The Sydney Opera house - unique in my book.

**What advice would you have for anyone considering a career in architecture?**

Do work experience. Architecture is part of the construction industry - although being an artist may help.

You deal with a lot of diverse people and issues. Design task is a small component, but extremely important to produce good architecture

■ Mr Seminara's website is [www.dsarchitecture.com.au](http://www.dsarchitecture.com.au), or phone 3899 9450.



RD121717

■ Diverse issues ... architect Dion Seminara.