

DESIGNS ON CREATING

BUILDING A RESUME TAKES TIME

IT TAKES TIME

- One of the advantages of working as an architect is the ability to travel with the job and work in various countries.
- Persistence and hard work are important for architects as building a reputation and a portfolio of work takes time.
- Graduates of a five-year architecture university degree must complete two years practical work experience before they can apply to become a registered architect.
- Architects can work in a variety of occupations including urban planning, property development, teaching, furniture design and disaster relief.

Susan Liu

ARCHITECTURE permeates every aspect of our lives, from our homes to our work environment.

According to architect Nikki South, certain designs can also change our mood.

Ms South, 43, is the director of Southmarc Architects in Wollstonecraft which specialises in apartment buildings, houses, interior design and furniture design.

She has been in the industry for about 20 years having completed a Bachelor of Design in Architecture at the University of Sydney.

"I enjoy the whole creative side of things of my job and being able to help people improve their own environment by getting them to think beyond the average built environment to really improve their lives and where they live," she said.

After working for a big commercial firm in Sydney, which designed the Sydney Qantas domestic terminal, she worked in Munich and Hong Kong before returning in 2004.

"Architecture is all about what you experience. The more building and countries that you can experi-

ence is what then comes out in your own work," Ms South said.

She said architecture is a rewarding profession for those with the tenacity and staying power to work hard.

"You've got to have good people skills. It also takes quite a long time to become a good architect," she said.

However, sometimes the difficulties are beyond an architect's control.

"The biggest challenge is the cost of construction in Sydney," Ms South said. "It's hard to reconcile that with the price of the housing market and people not wanting to over-capitalise."



Architect Nikki South at a new development site in Hunters Hill.

Picture: BRENT MCGILVARY

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