

Pulling up stakes required to find architecture job

Editor's Note: This article is part of a series on the job-market outlook for University graduates.

By CAROL MORTON
Of the Emerald

Most University architecture graduates should consider leaving the state if they want jobs.

Because of Oregon's depressed economy, chances are better for architecture graduates in other parts of the United States, says Gene Brockmeyer, president of the Eugene chapter of the American Institute of Architects.

Architecture is closely tied to Oregon's declining major industries — lumber and construction.

"Students are graduating at a bad time," says Mac Hodge, associate dean of the school of applied arts and architecture. "They will have to work harder to find a job."

But most graduates can find the job they want if they're willing to go where the jobs are, says architecture department head Jerry Finrow.

"Our department has a good national reputation. Offices are eager to invite our students in their firms," Finrow says.

Cities that are "red hot, job-wise" include Los Angeles, San Francisco, Houston, Dallas,

Atlanta, Phoenix and Chicago, Finrow says.

"There are plenty of jobs — and a lot of money — in southwest Texas and that area," Hodge says.

Larger architectural firms that concentrate in cities like these offer more job possibilities for graduates, Finrow says.

"A firm with about 500 employees has a greater turnover than the average architectural firm with about five people."

The architecture profession operates on an internship basis, Finrow explains.

Traditionally, beginning architects are paid an hourly wage of about \$5 or \$6 an hour, he says. A graduate who works for three years at one or more firms becomes eligible to take a three-day licensing exam that includes design, calculations and an oral interview, Finrow explains.

"A license usually means a shift to a salary. Then they can start working their way up in the structure."

Finrow emphasizes the wide range of architecture-related opportunities available to graduates who have good general training in problem solving and creative processes.

A typical alternative job for people holding architecture

degrees is in the construction industry, he says.

"Students are prepared to be construction managers or to own construction companies because of their background in subjects like design and structural engineering."

Firms with both designing and building operations are becoming more common, Finrow says.

An architecture degree also gives students the background to understand the basic issues in urban and regional planning and in general business management positions, he adds.

A professional degree in architecture coupled with a business degree is a highly sought-after combination in some areas, Finrow says.

But the demand "has had no effect on the number of students training for this."

Architecture students don't necessarily have strong business motivation, and they often are more interested in creativity, Finrow says.

"Architecture is a field where people with fine arts-oriented skills can actually get a job."

University architecture graduates have good general training in decision making, and there is a high demand for that training in business and industry, Finrow says.

Convicted killer converts

By SALLY HODGKINSON
Of the Emerald

Convicted murderer Manuel Cortez is a "different person" because of his conversion to Christianity, several witnesses testified in a sentence hearing Tuesday.

Cortez was convicted in November on two counts of first-degree murder in the torture-murders of Ashland girls Deanna Jackman and Rachael Isser on December 27, 1979. Lane County Circuit Court Judge George Woodrich is expected to sentence Cortez today. The maximum sentence Cortez could receive is life plus 25 years.

Eugene Realtor Leslie Jackson, one of the witnesses called by defense attorney Harry Carp, said she has visited Cortez on a number of occasions and she is convinced his conversion is authentic.

"Manny isn't the same person today that murdered those two little girls. I know that in my heart."

Garry Van Landingsham, a Washington pastor who headed Medford's Faith Bible Center until November, said he has visited Cortez several times and also is convinced of the change.

Although Van Landingsham said some convicts present phony conversions in an attempt to manipulate people, he's convinced Cortez's faith is authentic.

Van Landingsham said his years of counseling experience with felons and street people have sharpened his perception of false conversion.

"We've been had a few times. But no matter how clever a person is, they slip up, and I know what questions to ask."

But Van Landingsham, the father of four daughters, said he

wouldn't release Cortez without close observation.

"But we can't throw him in the refuse pile. He's a valuable resource. He has a great deal to give."

However, three state psychiatrists were leery of Cortez's conversion. Although they admitted that true conversion is possible among convicts, they added that religious conversions are common among felons and few seem to stick to their beliefs once they are released.

They said chances of

rehabilitating Cortez with current programs are slim. "In our present state of treatment, I think there is no chance of rehabilitation," said Wesley Weissert. "There is no viable treatment in the state of Oregon for a sexually dangerous person."

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