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The best way to describe Architizer might be to call it Facebook for architects. It's probably simplifying things a bit, but for an enterprise like this, simple is key. At the West Coast Architizer launch last week, turnout was as diverse as thousands of projects presented on the site. Hundreds of firms, from big names to non-names, have created profiles and uploaded information about their work, including photos, credits, materials, even some visualizations or sketches. Each project has its own special page. And perhaps the most critically-every place is displayed in Google Maps, so you can actually go see the building in real life. I put the site to the test when I was looking for a recent project I need a link in the story (as I often do). Searching for the project on Architizer took two clicks, compared to two minutes and four clicks, to find exactly the same information on the architect's own website. As more and more firms learn that the ability to find and share their projects trumps their own outdated interacting experiences, I hope they will deliver their projects here. While it's not the slickest looking online destination, usability is what makes Architizer such a welcome, a necessary tool for the industry. Why? Because most architect websites suck. Architects are original interactive designers. They know how to create shipping structures. They specialize in developing a rich experience for their users. But if architects projected their buildings as they projected their websites, they would all fall apart. Let's visit a site that I would say is one of the smartest and most progressive architectural firms in the world, Diller, Scofidio and Renfro. Designed by Pentagram by Lisa Strausfeld, the famous interactive designer, their site is undoubtedly magnificent. It's quite a fun zipper through, too, with images of standing up as little structures myself, giving me the feeling that I'm swooping down over town blocks like Spider-Man. But if I visit your site, it's a good bet that I'm not Tobey Maguire. I'm probably a wildly wealthy potential client who wants to send one of your past projects to my business partner. Or maybe I'm an architecture student who wants to quickly link the location of one of your buildings on my phone so I can visit it. If your site is like most architecture firm sites, I can't. Most architects' sites rely on animated technologies such as Flash. While this is quite suitable for some interactive experiences, it's not something you want to use if your site, like most architectural firm sites, has a long list of projects that you want to be easy to search for. Flash sites often rely on gimmicky navigation using images and instead of simple, clickable text. And in general, a Flash site can't generate a URL for each individual individual. So to say that you end up finding the project that you were looking for, you are not able to index or email it. This is when you find yourself saying things like: Click on the designs and then flip over the little museum icon and then click Michigan and then click on the floating image in a white square... Can you imagine giving the same direction inside, say, a building? Flash-less iPad sails into our hands as early as next month, making a real case as companies that relied on bells and whistles will have to rework their interaction strategies to make sure their sites can work on different platforms and browsers. But architects are arguably the most design-savvy business people of all to suffer from an industry-wide anti-use epidemic. And the higher the profile firm, the more sorrier of the site. In response to the design critique exercises proposed by the Leagues and Legions, a new think tank on architecture models and publishing design, site Over, Under reviewed a dozen leading architectural firm sites after incorporating Click on Flash, a flash-blocking plug-in. The result is a depressing gallery of mostly empty screens, referring to the world's best architects by name in a lonely, blank screen roll call. In fact, a quick survey of the last 15 years of the Pritzker Prize winners shows that of the 13 practicing architects (two laureates died) only Lord Norman Foster and Lord Richard Rogers sites provide easy navigation and proper URLs for each project. Something has to happen to your interactive grip when you get a knight. Tom Mayne's morphosis has one leg in each camp: I suggest bypassing the totally useless official site Morphosis.com and go straight to Morphopedia, a fun Wiki-like list of projects that are infinitely easier to use. But the sites of the four main architectural players - Jean Nouvel, zaha Hadid, Renzo Piano, Rem Koolhaas' OMA-all completely Flash-reliant. They use label-free maps, wordless grids, sketches, and other rollover graphics as navigation, with no easy way to find or share projects. Loading the two sites took a full minute. One of them was-gasp! - pop-up. That was in 1998! And another puzzled fact: The surprising number of Pritzker laureates doesn't seem to have websites at all. But maybe in this case, it's good. I'm not saying that architectural firms should abandon their corporate sites in favor of a social networking platform. In fact, I can learn everything I need to know about the architect just by looking at their website. Most un-used architecture firm websites are often just like the buildings these architects design: Created to make a statement rather than focus on everyday fitness for life. Perhaps they solve one problem before they laugh with another. 100 most creative people in business like sea sea Rising, Bangkok simultaneously sinks, making an apartment paved over a metropolis vulnerable to flooding when it rains. Instead of building infrastructure to conserve storm water, local architect Kotchakorn Voraakhom designs parks to capture it. Getting rid of water is an impossible approach because we are a city of water, she says. The 100-year-old Chulalongkorn Park in central Bangkok, which opened in 2017, can be powered by 1 million gallons of water. A museum on the property with a sloping green roof directs water through wetlands and into a retention pond in the lowest part of the area, helping to prevent flooding of nearby neighborhoods. Another park that Project Voraakhom, which will open this summer on a campus on the northern edge of the city, has a massive green roof that will not only grow rice and other food for students, but also (combined with other rain gardens on campus) capture more than 2.5 million gallons of water. Through a social enterprise called the Porous City Network, Voraakhom is working with communities across Southeast Asia to help find other ways to reclaim green spaces and live with water. In addition to trees, shrubs, flowers and other plant species, the living landscape may require the addition of decks, outdoor kitchens, irrigation, swimming pools and spas, structures, and children's playgrounds. A landscape architect is someone who can design all these elements and integrate them into a logical and visually appealing plan for your property. A landscape architect will also determine the best way to incorporate lighting, hard landscape, and plants (soft landscape) into open spaces. This person (or firm) should be able to develop outdoor structures, know how to deal with site issues and problems (such as drainage or slope problems), and will be able to advise homeowners on finding driveways, parking spaces, entrances and the placement of service lines. This professional is familiar with building and landscape materials and services, and should be able to work within your budget. They also design parks, campuses, streetscapes, trails, squares and other projects that help define the community. Landscape architects are currently working with health professionals to design landscapes that help reduce stress, increase immunity, increase physical activity, and reduce time spent in hospitals. Green roofs designed by landscape architects can reduce air temperature by nearly 60 degrees in summer, helping to save energy costs when cleaning and storing rainwater. They also offer habitats for pollinating birds and beneficial insects. Landscape architects can charge an hourly rate or a complete package for the homeowner, from conceptual plans (plan-view drawings or sketches) to construction drawings and overseeing actual installation and construction. The fees that are charged will depend on the scale of the project, how long it will take, the materials, the other professionals involved, the site's problems, and the amount and degree of oversight that will be needed. To become a landscape architect, you must have graduated from an accredited university with a bachelor's degree and/or master's degree in landscape architecture. Universities There are two types of undergraduate professional degrees. They usually require four or five years of study in design, construction technology, art, history and natural and social sciences: Bachelor of Landscape Architecture (BLA-right to accreditation) Bachelor of Science in Landscape Architecture (BSLA-right to accreditation). Currently, 45 states have universities offering at least one program in landscape architecture accredited by the Landscape Architecture Accreditation Council. LAAB is a specialized agency that accredits educational programs leading to the first professional degrees at the bachelor's and master's levels. Licensing Landscape Architects are licensed in all 50 states (less in the District of Columbia). There are two different types of licensing laws: states with practice acts (47) require a license to practice landscape architecture. States with title acts (3) allow anyone to practice landscape architecture, regardless of their qualifications, but only those with a license can use the name of a landscape architect or advertise as providing landscape architectural services. According to the U.S. Department of Labor in 2014, the U.S. has about 22,500 employees in landscape architecture; and about 16,400 landscape architects are licensed in the U.S. Licensure is required in all 50 states to be accurately identified as a landscape architect, and in 47 states practice landscape architecture. Each state sets its own licensing requirements, but they all require candidates to pass the landscape architect's registration exam, or LARE. Sources: American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) Further reading: What is the difference between Hardscape and Softscape? Soft landscape? site engineering for landscape architects workbook answers. site engineering for landscape architects workbook pdf

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