

Ever wanted to design playgrounds?

Noel Farrer is a founding partner of Farrer Huxley Associates. He has wide experience in public sector landscape design and is a leading designer for play. He offers his tips for a successful career...



What do you enjoy most about your job?

"No two communities and no two environments are the same. Every project is interesting and unique. It can be real get out of bed in the morning stuff."

How did you get involved in designing spaces for play?

"My first job as a landscape architect was working for a local authority in the 1980s on deprived estates. I noticed how we were designing children out rather creating spaces that gave them a sense of equity and ownership."

What is the most interesting play space you have worked on?

"At Paddington Street Gardens (see photos), Westminster, we renovated an existing and popular playground, consulting local children and reaching a good compromise on design with the council."

What do you enjoy least about your work?

"It can be frustrating getting clients to think imaginatively and they can be very hard to convince. Local authorities can be very paranoid about risk and playground design. Risk is an important part of every child's development."



Does playground design have an important future role?

"Very much so. Every local authority needs to write a play strategy and it is higher up the government's agenda. But there is still a long way to go."



What qualifications do you need?

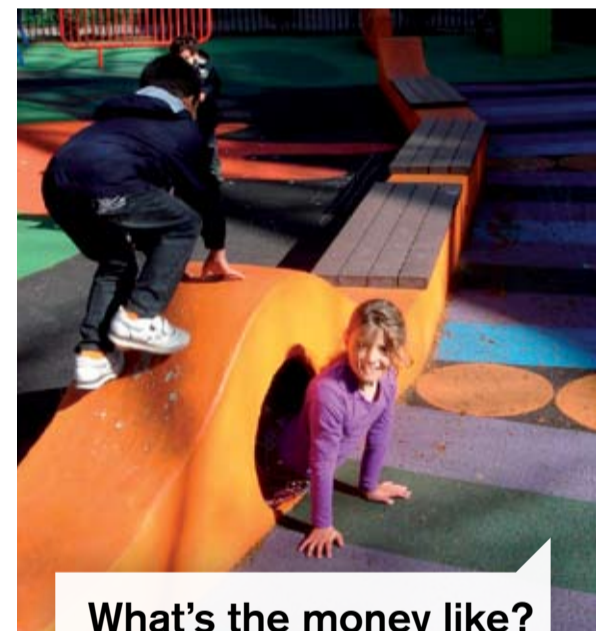
"A broad range of A-levels such as biology, geography and art. You can study landscape architecture at university (usually a seven-year course including two years' professional practice). Or you can do a post-graduate diploma, (one year studying, then two years' professional practice)."

Ever wanted to is a guide to careers in the built environment. It is published by CABE as a poster with its education magazine *360*. For further information please visit www.cabe.org.uk or email education@cabe.org.uk

Careers in the built environment professions appeal to people who:

- care about their communities and want to improve them
- care about the environment and want to work towards a greener future
- are creative, practical and enjoy solving problems
- are good communicators and enjoy working with people
- are curious about the natural or built environment and how it can be influenced, shaped and designed.

Could it be you?



What's the money like?

"During professional practice (post-degree and diploma) landscape architecture students usually earn £22,000–£30,000. Once chartered, earnings range from £26,000–£50,000."

More information about built environment careers:

www.tinyurl.com/4n5hso
www.regen.net/careers



Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment