

Ever wanted to° work out how much buildings cost?



Janet Goh works for Davis Langdon, a leading quantity surveying practice, responsible for costing buildings like Tate Modern (right) and Manchester City Stadium. Lydia Coelho at 360° finds out more



What does a quantity surveyor do?

“A quantity surveyor works out how much a building will cost to build and helps the client get value for money. For example, we’ll work out how many square metres of glass are needed for the windows, look up the price of glass and calculate the total cost. We do the same for each material the building uses.”

What qualifications do you need?

“A degree in quantity surveying and ideally A-levels in maths and economics. After graduating you have to work for two years before becoming a chartered surveyor.”

What is your most exciting project?

“I am working on a two-tower building in Abu Dhabi, 150 metres high with a glass façade. The building is designed to react to sunlight and has umbrella-like features on the outside which help control heat and light going in and out.”

What do you enjoy most about your job?

“Architects have very creative ideas and I enjoy the challenge of working out how much the weird, wonderful and cutting edge cost. I also enjoy getting on site, especially if the building is well-known.”

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 protected, shaped and designed.

Is this you?

How do you expect surveying to change in the future?

“Everyone is concerned with sustainability, so I expect we’ll be working out how much buildings cost to run, not just to build.”

What’s the money like?

“I started working in outer London for £19,000. Once you reach charter status you earn £30,000 to £35,000, and as a senior quantity surveyor you earn about £60,000.”

To find out more about built environment careers go to www.cabe.org.uk/careers

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



Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment