

What Inspires Me to Become an Architect

David Colon

When I was 19 years old, I went to work in construction with my older brother. At first it seemed hard and exhausting, but when I got used to it and learned the basics, it became easy and exciting. When you are building something, it's hard to imagine what the finished product will look like. But once I started to see how beautiful the buildings turned out, I knew I wanted to become an architect.

At the beginning I was a laborer. I had to clean up behind more skilled workers, such as carpenters, welders, and painters. I carried steel doors and equipment up flights of stairs. Once they saw that I was a good laborer, they started to teach me other things, such as how to build cabinets, put

up sheet rock, paint professionally, and weld. As I learned more skills, I saw how beautifully my work came out. I said to myself, "I want to be an architect." Today I am working hard to reach that goal.



David Colon is a student at the Mid-Manhattan Adult Learning Center #5 in New York City. He is from the Upper West Side of Manhattan and is the proud father of a 16 year old daughter. He is a supervisor for a major clothing chain in New York City.

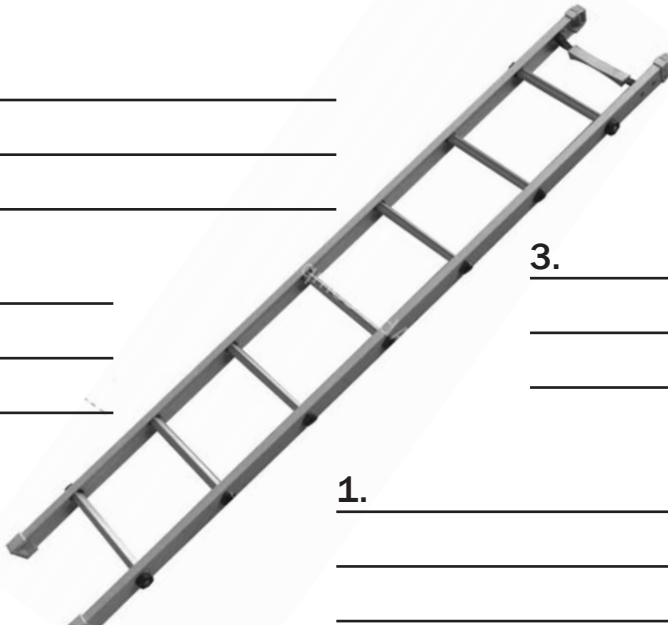
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1. _____

Career Ladder



What are the steps David Colon has taken, is taking, and probably will need to take if he wants to become an architect? Use information from the article, his biography, and what you know. Describe the steps on your own career ladder. See Resources on p. 33 for more direction.