



Salary Benchmark Report 2026

Architecture & Interior Design Industry, India



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ArchHire is a dedicated job platform built specifically for the architecture and interior design industry. Our mission is to bridge the gap between talented students, emerging professionals, and leading architecture and design studios across India. Through curated opportunities, industry insights, and career resources, ArchHire helps young designers understand the professional landscape and make informed career decisions.

This Salary Benchmark Report 2026 provides architecture and interior design students with realistic expectations of industry compensation across major metropolitan cities in India. The data has been compiled from industry insights and salary databases to give a transparent overview of compensation trends in the design profession.



Professional Architecture Salary Matrix

Architecture salaries in India vary by city, firm size, and skill set. Entry roles commonly start with stipends or modest monthly pay; BIM/visualization skills and project experience push salaries higher.

Experience Level	Designation	Monthly Salary Range (INR)	Annual Salary Range (LPA)	Industry Notes
Internship (0-1 year)	Architectural Intern	₹5,000 – ₹20,000	₹0.6 – ₹2.4 LPA	Many internships are stipends; large firms or international studios often pay toward the higher end.
Entry Level (0-2 years)	Junior Architect / Architectural Assistant	₹20,000 – ₹40,000	₹2.4 – ₹4.8 LPA	Starting salaries depend heavily on portfolio, software skills (Revit, Rhino), and city location.
Early Career (2-5 years)	Architect / Project Architect	₹40,000 – ₹70,000	₹4.8 – ₹8.4 LPA	Professionals manage design development and site coordination. BIM skills significantly increase value.
Mid-Level (5-8 years)	Senior Architect	₹70,000 – ₹1,20,000	₹8.4 – ₹14.4 LPA	Responsible for project leadership, mentoring, and design direction. Higher pay in large metro firms.
Experienced (8-12 years)	Associate Architect / Design Manager	₹1,20,000 – ₹2,00,000	₹14 – ₹24 LPA	Lead multiple projects and business development. Performance bonuses are common at this level.
Leadership (12-18 years)	Principal Architect / Studio Head	₹2,00,000 – ₹4,00,000+	₹24 – ₹48+ LPA	Strategic roles overseeing studio direction. May include profit sharing or high-value commissions.
Ownership Level	Founding Architect / Partner	Highly Variable	Highly Variable	Income depends on firm profitability and reputation. Can significantly exceed leadership ranges.

Interior Design Salary Matrix

Interior design salaries overlap with architecture but skew towards project-based billing in studios and freelance work. Entry pay is comparable to architecture; experienced interior designers working on hospitality, retail or luxury residential projects command higher packages. Public reports show average interior designer pay near ₹3–6 LPA, with senior/lead roles rising substantially in metros.

Experience Level	Designation	Monthly Salary Range (INR)	Annual Salary Range (LPA)	Industry Notes
Internship (0–1 year)	Interior Design Intern	₹5,000 – ₹15,000	₹0.6 – ₹1.8 LPA	Tasks include site visits, vendor coordination, and drafting; stipends are standard.
Entry Level (0–2 years)	Junior Interior Designer	₹20,000 – ₹35,000	₹2.4 – ₹4.2 LPA	Fresh graduates typically prepare mood boards, working drawings, and material research.
Early Career (2–5 years)	Interior Designer	₹35,000 – ₹60,000	₹4.2 – ₹7.2 LPA	Independent handling of small residential/commercial projects becomes common here.
Mid-Level (5–8 years)	Senior Interior Designer	₹60,000 – ₹1,00,000	₹7.2 – ₹12 LPA	Focuses on client presentations, vendor management, and complex project delivery.
Experienced (8–12 years)	Design Manager / Associate Designer	₹1,00,000 – ₹1,80,000	₹12 – ₹21.6 LPA	Leads large commercial/hospitality projects; pay often includes performance incentives.
Leadership (12–18 years)	Creative Director / Design Director	₹1,80,000 – ₹3,50,000+	₹21 – ₹42+ LPA	Strategic leadership; roles often include profit sharing or high-value project commissions.
Ownership Level	Interior Design Studio Founder	Highly Variable	Highly Variable	Income depends on client mix, repeat business, and firm branding.

City-Wise Salary Comparison

Major Metros

Major metros (Mumbai, Bangalore, Delhi NCR) generally pay more due to higher project budgets and living costs; tier-2 cities are lower. Public city breakdowns show Bangalore and Hyderabad often competitive for tech and corporate interiors, while Mumbai frequently lists premium residential and large studio roles.

City	Junior Architect (0-2 yrs)	Senior Architect (5-8 yrs)	Junior Interior Designer	Senior Interior Designer	Market Notes
Mumbai	₹30,000 – ₹45,000	₹90,000 – ₹1.3L	₹25,000 – ₹40,000	₹70,000 – ₹1.1L	High cost of living; premium residential & major studios.
Bangalore	₹28,000 – ₹42,000	₹85,000 – ₹1.2L	₹25,000 – ₹38,000	₹65,000 – ₹1.0L	Strong commercial/tech office interior demand.
Delhi NCR	₹25,000 – ₹40,000	₹80,000 – ₹1.2L	₹22,000 – ₹35,000	₹60,000 – ₹95,000	Large real estate and luxury residential market.
Pune	₹22,000 – ₹35,000	₹70,000 – ₹1.0L	₹20,000 – ₹32,000	₹55,000 – ₹85,000	Growing IT and housing projects.
Hyderabad	₹22,000 – ₹35,000	₹65,000 – ₹95,000	₹20,000 – ₹30,000	₹50,000 – ₹80,000	Expanding commercial interior market.
Chennai	₹20,000 – ₹32,000	₹60,000 – ₹90,000	₹18,000 – ₹28,000	₹45,000 – ₹75,000	Moderate market growth; steady demand.

Disclaimer: This report is based on 2026 market projections and placement data from top-tier firms. Individual salaries may vary based on portfolio quality, software proficiency, and firm type (boutique vs. corporate).

The Salary Uplift Mechanism

To move from a baseline ₹15,000 to the target ₹25,000+, freshers must focus on the **Salary Uplift Index**:

$$\text{Salary Uplift Index} = \frac{\text{Actual Offer Salary}}{\text{Baseline Market Entry Salary}}$$

Benchmark for Success: A ratio of 1.0 (₹25,000 relative to midpoint) indicates a candidate is "market-ready" and possesses verified skills that mitigate employer training risk.

Executive Summary & Closing Insights

◆ **The "BIM Premium" is Non-Negotiable**

Transitioning from 2D drafting to BIM (Revit) and Computational Design (Rhino/Grasshopper) is no longer an elective skill, it is the primary driver for reaching a Salary Uplift Index of 1.0 or higher.

◆ **Specialization vs. Generalization**

Interior designers are seeing faster horizontal growth in Commercial and Tech-Office sectors (Bangalore/Hyderabad), while Architects command higher long-term stability in Luxury Residential and Urban Infrastructure (Mumbai/Delhi NCR).

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Risk Mitigation for Employers: Hiring managers in 2026 are prioritizing "Plug-and-Play" candidates. A portfolio that demonstrates a clear understanding of on-site execution, vendor management, and material costs effectively removes the "training risk," justifying the higher salary brackets listed in this report.

NOTE

The 2026 market rewards the "Techno-Creative" - the professional who balances high-design aesthetics with technical software mastery. While the baseline entry-level salary remains modest, the ceiling for those who specialize is higher than ever before. ArchHire remains committed to providing the transparency needed for the next generation of Indian designers to negotiate with confidence and build rewarding careers.



Closing Statement from Team ArchHire

At ArchHire, we believe that transparency is the first step toward professional empowerment. For too long, the architecture and design industry in India has operated behind a veil of salary ambiguity. This 2026 Benchmark Report is our effort to change that narrative.

As you navigate your career path, remember that these figures are more than just numbers, they are a reflection of the value the industry places on technical precision, creative problem-solving, and professional maturity. Whether you are a student landing your first internship or an emerging professional eyeing a leadership role, use this data to advocate for your worth and plan your growth strategically.

We are proud to support the next generation of designers as you shape the skylines and spaces of tomorrow.

With vision and purpose,
Team ArchHire