

Transcript of Melissa Corbett-Robinson, Conservation Architectural Technologist

The coolest part about my job is... I get to help preserve Canada's architectural history!

A conservation architectural technologist is primarily responsible for the restoration, conservation and preservation of historic structures.

The first step is obviously to go out to the building, and we would do on-site drawings, and take photographs, we would then take these sketches back to the office and produce out preliminary sketch ups and designs. A big part of our job is working with AutoCad, which is computer aided drafting and design, which is where you're taking sketches you would have actually done on site by hand, you take them back to the office and you translate them to line drawings on the computer. With AutoCad training you can work in almost any industry, you can work in architecture or engineering, or structural, or aerospace; everything that you see and can touch has a drawing that originated that built structure.

I love my job. I find I have such a good mix of work and life; I really couldn't ask for anything better. I have good pension, my job pays well, I get to take time off to stay home with my two-year-old son; it's really, it's a perfect life for me.

One of my favorite projects that I have worked on is the Fortress of Louisbourg. It has a ton of different sites, it has a ton of different buildings, and every kind of material imaginable in the historic field.

I love art and I love science and my job is a little bit of both. Coming out of high school I was interested in many different disciplines, like, I think I could have gone any way. Picking somewhere to go as a professional career that you would be at for the rest of your life was really challenging. I did a music degree, I then took time off, reassessed, and decided that I wanted to be doing the technological side in the architectural industry.

If you are interested in this career, there are lots of free software you can download off the internet; so my advice is to just download something and give it a try and see if it is the direction you want to go.

My advice to you is to look at the things you love in your life, and what you do in your spare time can be the foundations for your future career.