Center for an Urban Future
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Data - May 2016

Brooklyn Design Boom

Our new data brief highlights the growing importance of the design sector to New York City's economy, and details that a disproportionate share of the growth in the sector is now occurring in Brooklyn. It shows that employment at architecture and design companies in Brooklyn increased by 86 percent between 2010 and 2014, significantly outpacing the growth citywide (23 percent) and in Manhattan (19 percent).

by Jonathan Bowles

Five years ago, the Center for an Urban Future published a report documenting the economic importance of the design sector to New York City's economy. This data brief, published as the city's fourth annual multi-disciplinary design week is getting underway at venues across the five boroughs, shows that the growth of the city's design industries has only accelerated in recent years and that the fastest growth is now occurring in Brooklyn.

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Between 2010 and 2014, the city added more than 5,000 jobs in architecture and design, a 23 percent increase. New York City was home to 27,037 jobs in architecture and design in 2014. This includes jobs in architecture, landscape architecture, interior design, industrial design, graphic design and other specialized design (including fashion, costume, and jewelry design).

Manhattan remains the city's principal hub for design companies, boasting 89 percent of all jobs at architecture and design companies in the five boroughs. However, Brooklyn is experiencing the fastest growth. Employment at architecture and design companies in Brooklyn increased by 86 percent between 2010 and 2014, significantly outpacing the growth citywide (23 percent) and in Manhattan (19 percent).

Between 2010 and 2014, the number of graphic design jobs in the borough increased by 94 percent, from 285 to 552. During the same period, the number of graphic design jobs in Manhattan declined by 6 percent. In 2004, Brooklyn was home to just

3 percent of all graphic design jobs citywide; by 2014, it was up to 14 percent.

In architecture, the number of jobs in Brooklyn increased by 90 percent, from 387 to 737. Manhattan also experienced significant job growth in architecture, with employment rising by 28 percent.

Brooklyn also experienced a jump in the number of jobs in landscape architecture (a 376 percent increase – from 21 to 100), industrial design (90 percent – from 67 to 127), interior design (40 percent – from 167 to 234) and other specialized design (65 percent – from 124 to 204).

All data in this analysis comes from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW). Data is calculated through 2014, which is the most recent period for which QCEW data is available.

Brooklyn Employment in Architecture and Design

	2004	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Architecture	344	387	506	551	644	737
Landscape Architecture	39	21	82	92	86	100
Interior Design	114	167	130	139	195	234
Industrial Design	19	67	88	88	103	127
Graphic Design	147	285	335	425	498	552
Other Specialized Design	107	124	141	177	192	204
Total Architecture & Design	770	1051	1282	1472	1718	1954

Manhattan Employment in Architecture and Design

	2004	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Architecture	9538	10396	10788	11406	12233	13354
Landscape Architecture	350	346	304	323	352	398
Interior Design	2185	2166	2255	2399	2571	2797
Industrial Design	253	350	252	264	287	324
Graphic Design	4485	4260	4464	4317	4326	4004
Other Specialized Design	1973	2663	2563	2975	3142	3168
Total Architecture & Design	18784	20181	20626	21684	22911	24045

Bronx Employment in Architecture and Design

	2004	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Architecture	18	13	11	11	10	12
Landscape Architecture		15				
Interior Design	19	11	11	12	7	10
Industrial Design						
Graphic Design	6	9	14	13	21	25
Other Specialized Design		16	11	10	9	8
Total Architecture & Design	43	64	47	46	47	55

Queens Employment in Architecture and Design

	2004	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Architecture	248	297	287	323	372	423
Landscape Architecture		16	14	21	24	28

Queens Employment in Architecture and Design

Interior Design	112	129	138	178	172	170
Industrial Design	16					
Graphic Design	143	132	135	195	206	195
Other Specialized Design	32	48	74	68	57	66
Total Architecture & Design	551	622	648	785	831	882

Staten Island Employment in Architecture and Design

	2004	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Architecture	109	72	74	75	79	83
Landscape Architecture						
Interior Design	18	15	14	17	19	
Industrial Design	17					
Graphic Design		10				9
Other Specialized Design			9		10	9
Total Architecture & Design	144	97	97	92	108	101

NYC Employment in Architecture and Design

	2004	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Architecture	10,257	11,165	11,666	12,366	13,338	14,609
Landscape Architecture	389	398	400	436	462	526
Interior Design	2,448	2,488	2,548	2,745	2,964	3,211
Industrial Design	305	417	340	352	390	451
Graphic Design	4,781	4,696	4,948	4,950	5,051	4,785

NYC Employment in Architecture and Design						
Other Specialized Design	2,112	2,851	2,798	3,230	3,410	3,455
Total Architecture & Design	20,292	22,015	22,700	24,079	25,615	27,037

BROOKLYN DESIGN BOOM is a publication of the Center for an Urban Future written by Jonathan Bowles, researched by Kathleen Gorman and designed by Ahmad Dowla.

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