Center for an Urban Future
Innovative Ideas. Independent Policy.



Report - May 2018

New York By Design

As NYCxDESIGN kicks off, new data shows New York City leading the way in architecture and design jobs. One in two of the architecture and design jobs gained nationwide is in the five boroughs.

by Naomi Sharp

Seven years ago, the Center for an Urban Future released a report documenting the economic importance of the design sector to New York City's economy. This data brief, published as the city's sixth annual design week kicks off, offers a new look at the city's outsized role in the U.S. design economy. Our analysis finds that of the 10,850 architecture and design jobs added nationally between 2006 and 2016, 5,577 have been in New York City—meaning one in two of the country's new architecture and design jobs has been created in the five boroughs.[1]

New York City had 29,599 architecture and design workers in 2016, according to data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS)—7 percent of the nation's 422,240 architecture and design jobs, up significantly from a decade ago, when the city accounted for 5.8 percent.

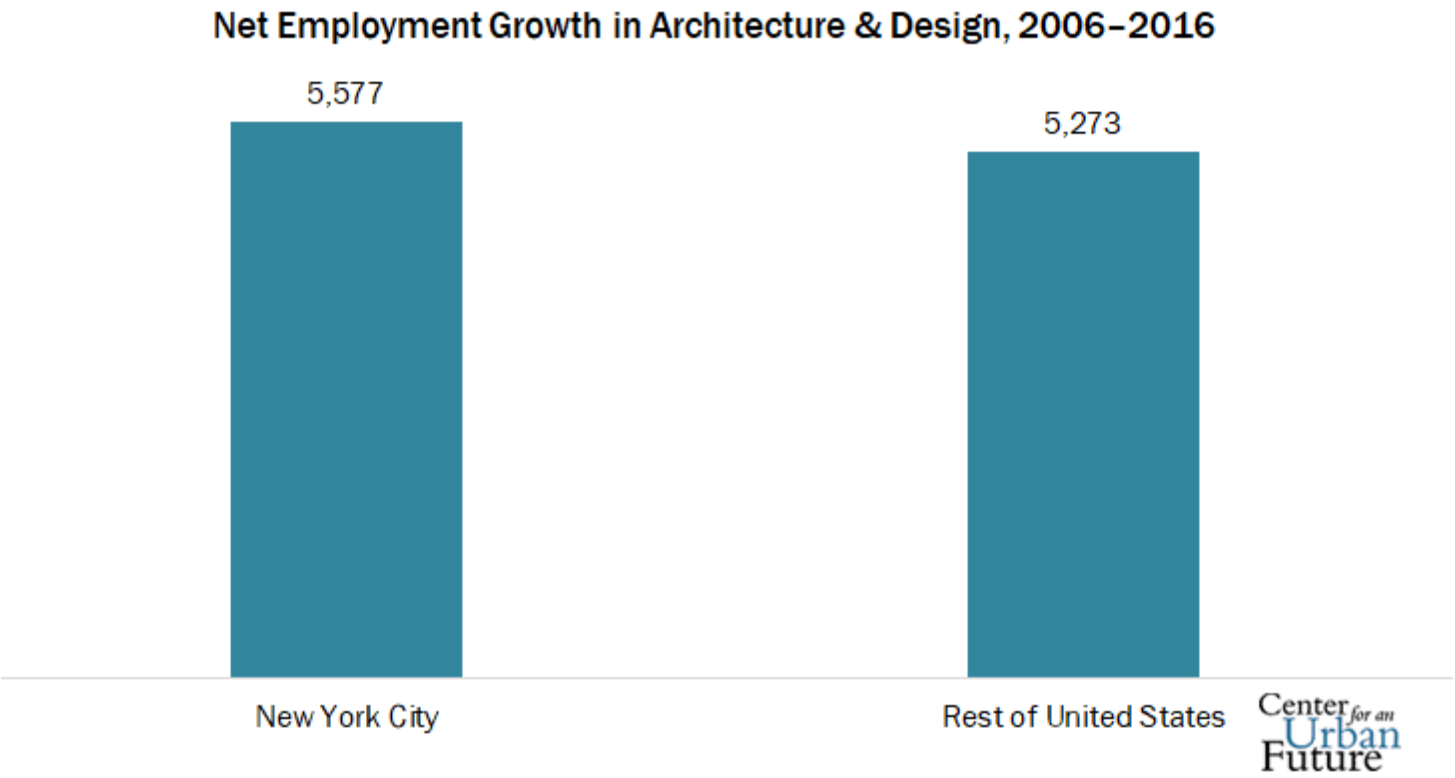
In New York, architecture and design jobs have increased at a significantly faster pace than in the rest of the country. Architecture and design jobs grew by 23 percent from 2006 to 2016, compared to a 3 percent increase in the United States overall. The number of architecture and design firms in the city also grew by 16 percent, to 575 firms, between 2006 and 2016. Of all design fields, only graphic design saw a slight decrease in the number of employees—but BLSestimates that about 1 in 5 graphic designers were self-employed in 2016, and the survey doesn't count freelancers. This data brief includes New Yorkers employed in architecture, landscape architecture, interior design, industrial design, graphic design, and other specialized design.

Today one in six of the nation's architecture jobs is in New York City, as well as half of all jobs in "other specialized design" (a category that includes fashion, costume, and jewelry design). New York City has increased its share of jobs in nearly every design field, led by a 156 percent increase in the share of all other specialized design jobs, a 60 percent increase in the share

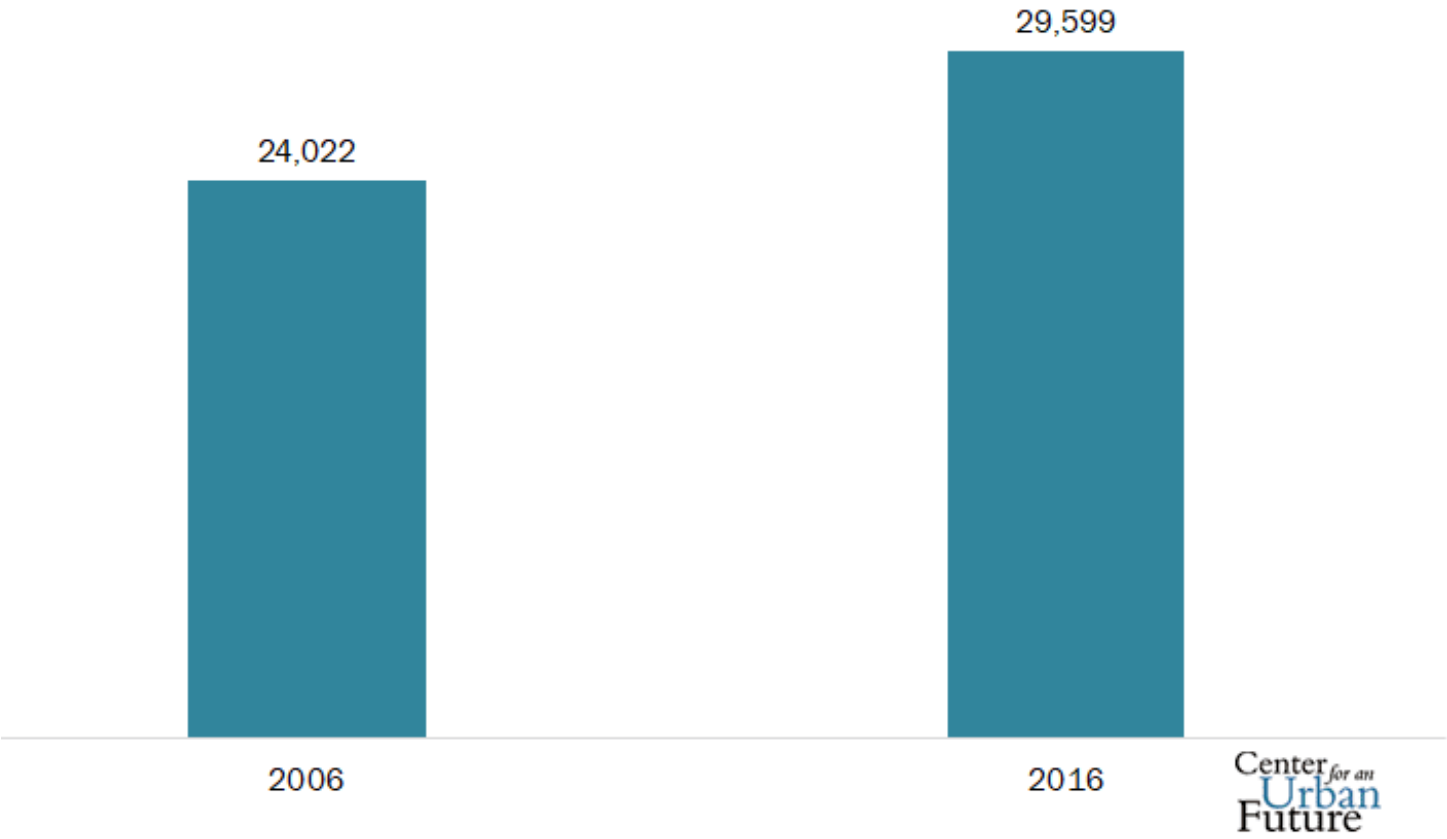
of all industrial design jobs, and a 38 percent increase in the share of all landscape architecture jobs.

Manhattan is home to 87 percent of the city's architecture and design jobs, but as CUF first reported two years ago, Brooklyn is driving New York's growth. Brooklyn's design economy hasn't just increased over the past decade—it's multiplied. Between 2006 and 2016, Brooklyn almost tripled its architecture and design jobs, from 942 to 2,589. Even the slowest-growing categories—interior design and other specialized design—doubled employment in Brooklyn over the past decade. In the borough, the number of employees in industrial design (which designs products meant for mass production, from surgical equipment to toasters) increased 779 percent, to 187 in 2016 from 24 ten years earlier. The number of graphic design jobs quadrupled, to 823 from 202. As of 2016, Brooklyn had more graphic design jobs than 29 states, including Arizona, Utah, Kentucky, and Washington, DC.

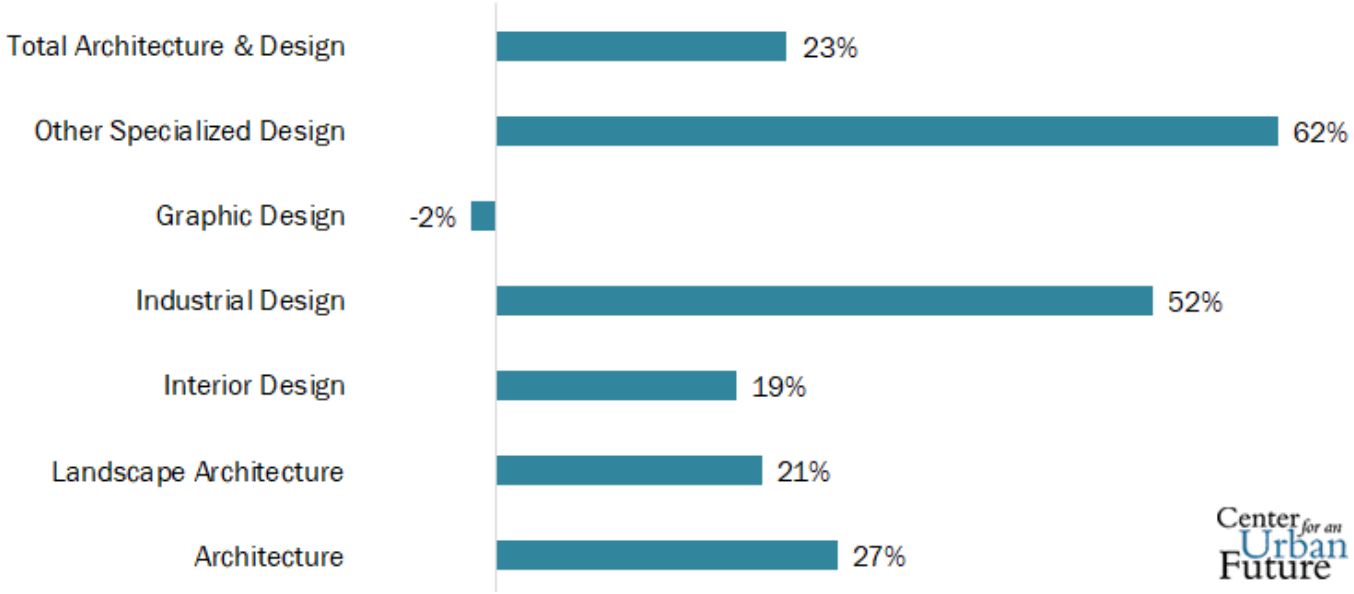
All data in this analysis comes from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW). Data is calculated through 2016, which is the most recent period for which QCEW data is available.



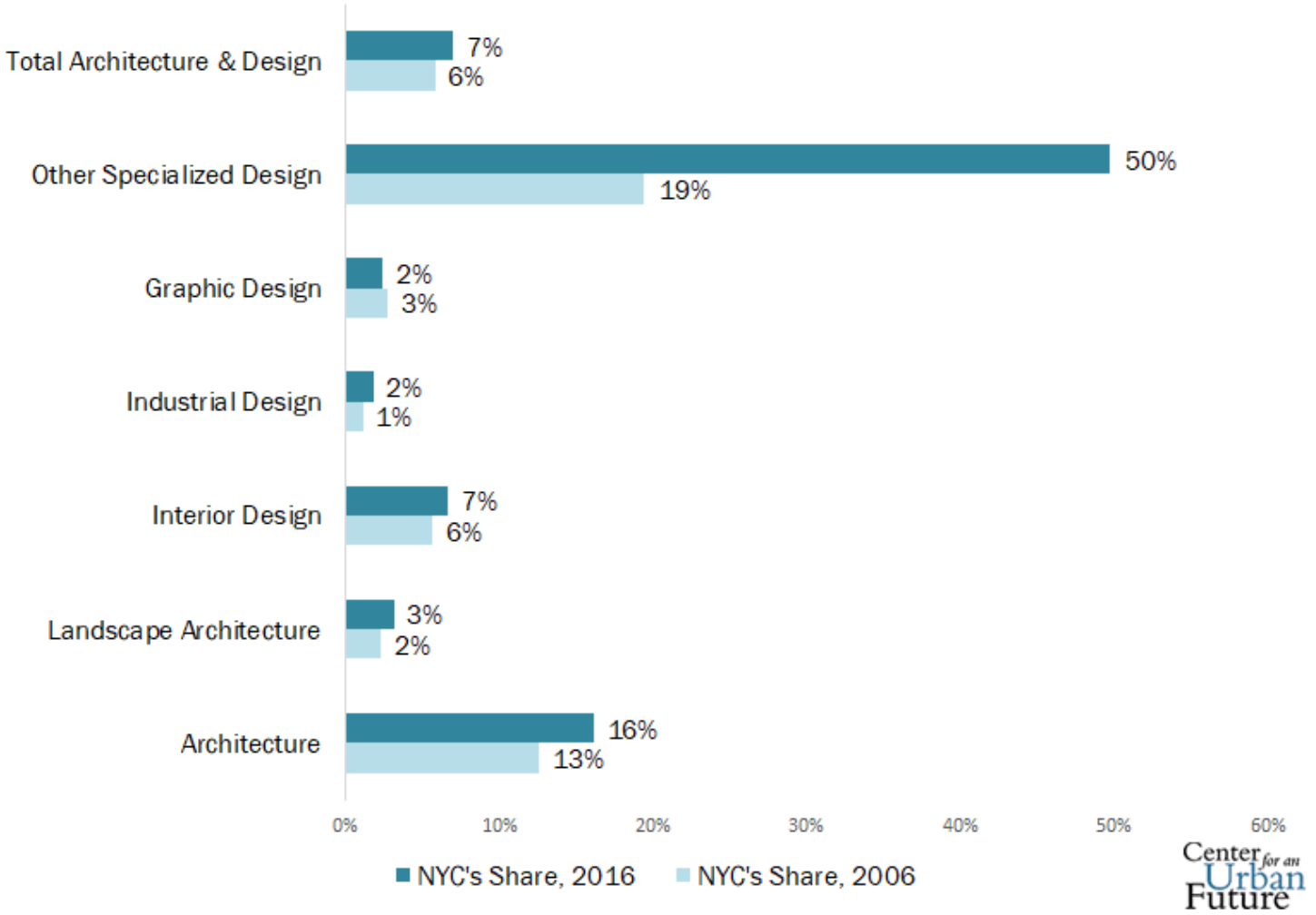
Employment at NYC Architecture and Design Companies, 2006–2016



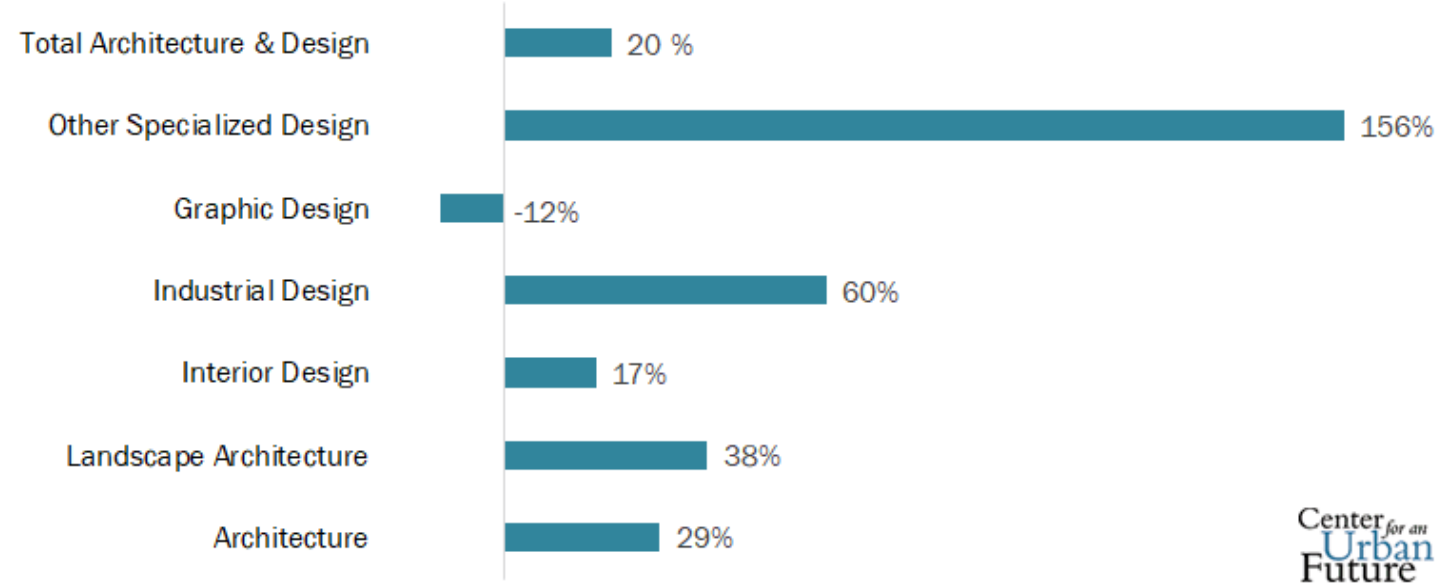
NYC Employment Growth in Architecture & Design, 2006–2016



NYC's Share of U.S. Architecture & Design Jobs, 2006–2016



Percent Change in NYC's Share of Net U.S. Architecture and Design Jobs, 2006–2016



Change in Architecture and Design Employment in the United States, 2006–2016

Industry	Employment, 2006	Employment, 2016	Change in Employment	Percent change
Architecture	101,010	99,860	-1,150	-1%
Landscape Architecture	22,130	19,420	-2,710	-12%
Interior Design	52,440	53,160	720	1%
Industrial Design	33,540	31,860	-1,680	-5%
Graphic Design	190,880	210,710	19,830	10%
Other Specialized Design	11,390	7,230	-4,160	-37%
Total Architecture & Design	411,390	422,240	10,850	3%

Center for an Urban Future

Change in Architecture and Design Employment in New York City, 2006–2016

Sector	Employment, 2006	Employment, 2016	Change in Employment	Percent change
Architecture	12,693	16,158	3,465	27%
Landscape Architecture	504	609	105	21%
Interior Design	2,971	3,531	560	19%
Industrial Design	378	573	195	52%
Graphic Design	5,260	5,134	-126	-2%
Other Specialized Design	2,216	3,594	1,378	62%
Total Architecture & Design	24,022	29,599	5,577	23%

Center for an Urban Future

---

1. These figures reflect net change in employment, given that jobs in each industry are both created and eliminated in any given year.

Photo Credit: Dorian Mongel /Unsplash

General operating support for the Center for an Urban Future has been provided by **The Clark Foundation**, the **Bernard F. and Alva B. Gimbel Foundation**, and the **Altman Foundation**. CUF is also grateful for support from **Fisher Brothers** for the Middle Class Jobs Project.

New York by Design was researched and written by Naomi Sharp. Additional research by Nate Hamowy and Jake Golvin. Edited by Eli Dvorkin.

Center for an Urban Future (CUF) is an independent, nonprofit think tank that generates innovative policies to create jobs, reduce inequality and help lower income New Yorkers climb into the middle class. For 20 years, CUF has published accessible, data-driven reports on ways to grow and diversify the economy and expand opportunity that are anchored in

rigorous research, not preconceived notions about outcome. Our work has been a powerful catalyst for policy change in New York City and serves as an invaluable resource for government officials, community groups, nonprofit practitioners and business leaders as they advocate for and implement policies to address some of New York's biggest challenges and opportunities.

RELATED PRESS

Designers in NYC Are Growing — And More Are Tackling Civic Problems

Next City, by Rachel Kaufman, May 04, 2018

CENTER FOR AN URBAN FUTURE
120 Wall Street, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10005

cuf@nycfuture.org © All Rights Reserved.