

1.a. | Choosing Which Department to Work In

As I explained in the Introduction, when you're trying to enter the industry, there are often four main areas to address:

1. Deciding which department you'd like to work in
2. Developing the necessary skills to work in that department
3. Finding work in that department
4. Preparing for work

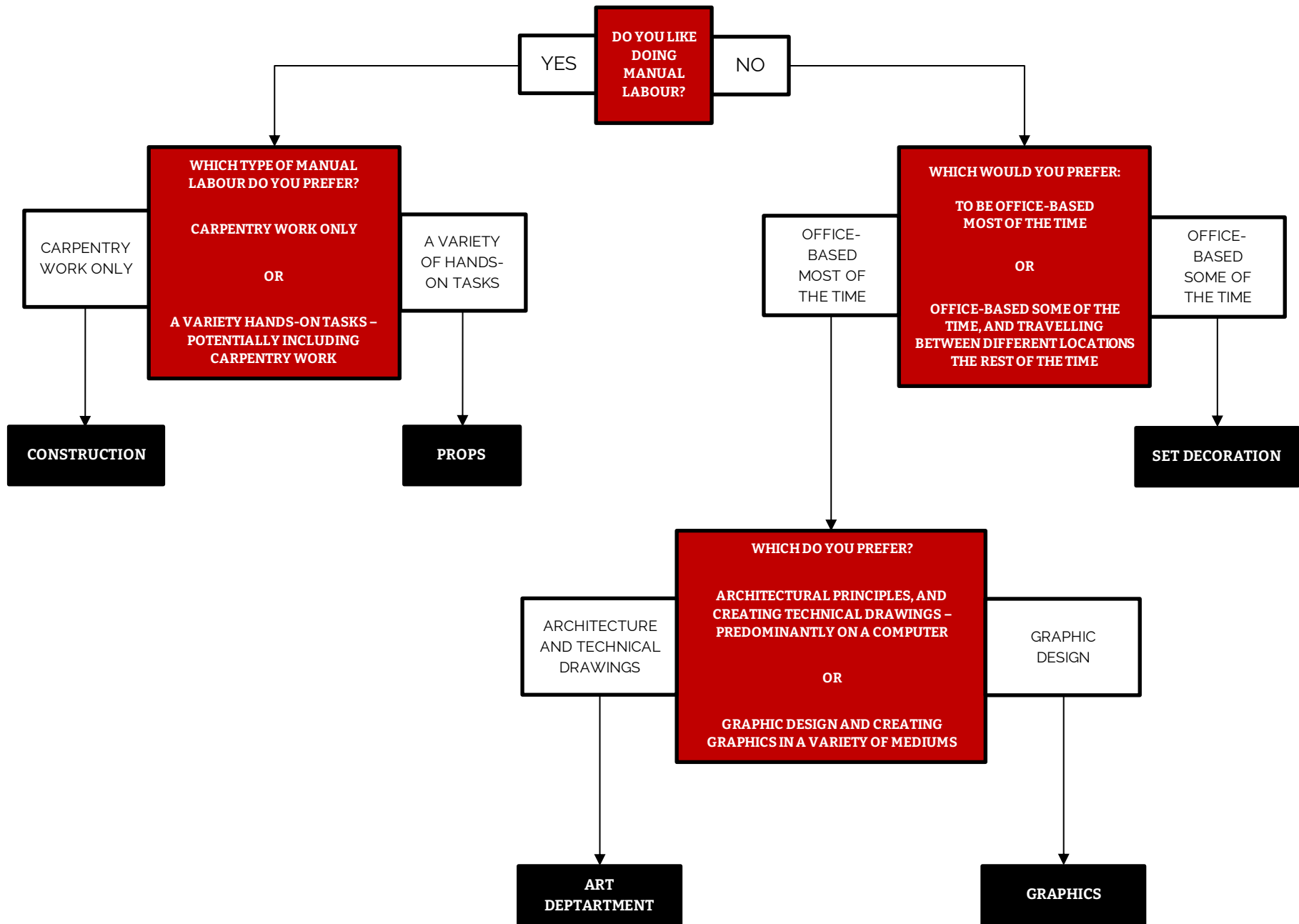
The first two sections of this course will address the first point: deciding which department you'd like to work in. In section 1, we'll explore the role of each department. Then in section 2, I'll explain what it's like to be a trainee in each department.

On the next page, you'll find a flowchart which should give you a very early indication of which department is best for you.

This flowchart asks you some basic questions about the type of work you prefer to do. Based on this, it will suggest which department might be best suited to you. When you read the rest of sections 1 and 2, you should pay particular attention to information relating to that department.

That's not to say you should ignore the information about the other departments – far from it. It's important that you understand the role of other departments as well – otherwise you'll find it very hard to do your job. The purpose of the flow chart is purely to indicate where you should focus your attention.

With that in mind, you'll find the flowchart on the next page. To use it, start at the top, and work your way down. The black boxes at the end of each branch give the names of the departments that may be best suited to you.



Now that you have a better idea of which department may be best suited to you, let's look at each department in more detail. To do that, the next document will explain how a set is created.