The Role of the General Contractor by Charles Saulson

An entrepreneur and real-estate development expert, Charles Saulson has built or renovated many of New York City's structures. From 2006 through 2011, Charles Saulson served an LLC formed to renovate 6 East First Street in New York. His responsibilities included hiring, supplying the funds for renovation, and, after completing the work, selling the buildings to new owners. As president of Molten Metal, Inc., from 1988 through 2005, he headed the construction of the Rivington Hotel, taking a hand in decorative and structural work. Current projects include developing a double lot on Forsyth Street.

A general contractor in the [construction](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Construction) business oversees the building process from beginning to end. General contractors preside over both residential and commercial projects and perform tasks such as bidding on the job, obtaining materials used in construction, and providing labor and equipment.

While anyone can become a general contractor without earning a college degree, all U.S. states require that individuals pass a written exam in order to earn a license. Once on the job, contractors assume responsibility for challenges such as delays during construction, as well as the costs associated with such setbacks.