Core Foundation Skills for a Solutions Architect

" SAFe - The Solution Architect/Engineering role represents an individual or small team that defines a shared technical and architectural vision for the Solution under development. They participate in determining the system, subsystems, and interfaces, validate technology assumptions and evaluate alternatives, working closely with the Agile Release Train (ARTs) and Solution Train."

Reference – (a) Description of all SFIA 7 skills according to category and subcategory and (b) The Open Group Certified Architect Program Skill Mappings to the Skills Framework for the Information Age (SFIA) and (c) SAFe - System and Solution Architect/Engineering

Core Foundation Skills	Open CA Program Reference	SFIA Level of Responsibility
Lead Individuals and Teams *Given a scope of architectural work to be accomplished, plan the work, form a team to perform the work, and guide the team in performing the work to completion.*	CFS02	**Level 6 -** Leads the development of architectures for complex solutions, ensuring consistency with specified requirements agreed with both external, and internal customers. Takes full responsibility for the balance between functional, service quality and systems management requirements within a significant area of the organisation. Establishes policy and strategy for the selection of solution architecture components, and co-ordinates design activities, promoting the discipline to ensure consistency. Ensures that appropriate standards (corporate, industry, national and international) are adhered to. Within a business change programme, manages the target design, policies and standards, working proactively to maintain a stable, viable architecture and ensure consistency of design across projects within the programme.
Develop IT Architecture *Given one or more business requirements, create the structures of a solution that can be validated to meet those requirements.*	CFS06	
Use Modeling Techniques *Use modeling techniques – such as use-case, scenario modeling, prototyping, benchmarking, and performance modeling – to describe the problem space, to size the solution, and to validate that the proposed architecture addresses the business requirements.*	CFS07	
Perform Technical Solution Assessments *Given a technical solution and the underlying business requirements that drove its development, assess the technical integrity and risks inherent in that solution in such a way that the recommendations and findings are appropriate and implementable.*	CFS08	
Apply IT Standards *Given project requirements that call for or would benefit from the use of standards, establish, implement, and enforce appropriate standards in the creation and implementation of the solution to meet those requirements.*	CFS09	
Establish Technical Vision *Given requirements and a list of stakeholders, identify approaches, tools, techniques, and technologies to meet the requirements, and explain the present and future rationale so that stakeholders accept the choices and agree with the rationale.*	CFS10	
Use of Techniques *Given an architectural question, use and apply various techniques – such as data collection, data analysis, hypothesis, and solution formulation – to produce a supportable answer to the question.*	CFS11	
Apply Methods *Given a work effort, adapt, apply, and enforce the use of a method to successfully create architectural work products that meet the requirements of the work effort. Demonstrated ability to follow a recognized method ensures repeatability of delivery and success. Candidates are not required to have used more than one recognized method.*	CFS12	**Level 5 -** Leads the development of solution architectures in specific business, infrastructure or functional areas. Ensures that appropriate tools and methods are available, understood and employed in architecture development. Within a change programme, leads the preparation of technical plans and, in liaison with business assurance and project staff, ensures that appropriate technical resources are made available. Provides advice on technical aspects of solution development and integration (including requests for changes, deviations from specifications, etc.) and ensures that relevant technical strategies, policies, standards and practices (including security) are applied correctly.
Define Solution to Functional and Non-Functional Requirements *Given the functional and non-functional requirements, define a solution that meets the stated requirements using the Organization's and industry standard procedures and tools.*	CFS13	
Manage Stakeholder Requirements *Given approved business goals, objectives, and constraints, document, clarify, refine, detail, and prioritize functional and nonfunctional requirements.*	CFS14	
Establish Architectural Decisions *Determine, document, and communicate architectural decisions to support and rationalize the design of the solution.*	CFS15	
Validate Conformance of the Solution to the Architecture *Given a set of requirements, define and execute strategies and plans for ensuring and demonstrating that the solution satisfies the documented architecture.*	CFS16	
Perform as Technology Advisor *Maintain IT industry knowledge to advise on technical trends and techniques and apply them to the development of solution designs.*	CFS16	