

How and why to hire an architect for your home or business



Consultations
Site selection
Additions
Remodeling projects
New construction
Interior design/redesign

If you're like most people, you know what you want your home or office building to look like – but you may have trouble translating your ideas into a workable design that also meets local building codes and safety requirements. Everyone has their own specific and unique needs when it comes to building design. It's fun to pore over building plans and descriptions of model homes, but these generic designs often disregard site conditions and may not fully reflect your personal style, taste or needs.

That's why you need an architect. Architects are trained to work with you to fulfill your dreams and solve problems in creative ways that also meet necessary building and safety codes. When you work with an architect, the result will be a solution that fits your current needs, can be adapted to your future needs, is safe to live or work in, and fits into your building site.

Working with an architect is an investment in your building project.

The benefits of an architect

- An architect will work with you throughout the design process, to create a result that contains only the features you approve.
- The architect will work with the budget you establish, and help you choose appropriate materials and workmanship at fair prices that reflect your budget. That can include helping you get bids for construction and other contract work.
- Your architect will watch out for your interests and make sure the project is built as it was designed.
- An architect will design your home or office space to take advantage of the nature environment, minimize energy use and incorporate contemporary "green building" principles.
- The architect will help you choose quality materials and finishes that are both durable and appropriate, providing a wide range of choices rather than limiting you to two or three choices or a package deal.

- Architects are trained to see the big picture – to create total environments, with interiors and exteriors that work together in harmony, satisfy your functional needs, and are exciting, dynamic living or work spaces.
- Your architect will provide drawings of the proposed building that show you all the angles and view.
- Architects are flexible – you can hire an architect for limited or wide-ranging services.

What to look for in an architect

- When you look for an architect to bring your home- or work-space dreams to life, be sure to ask for credentials. You want someone who has graduated from an accredited academic program in architecture; belongs to the **American Institute of Architects (AIA)**; and is licensed/registered in the state where the work will be done. That ensures the highest level of professionalism and knowledge about current trends, issues, methods, relevant codes and safety guidelines.
- Feel free to ask about examples of previous and current projects that are similar to yours.
- Ask for references from recent other clients.

How to find an architect

Finding and hiring an architect is as easy as picking up the phone to call the **American Institute of Architects (AIA)–Delaware** at **302-654-9817**, or going to our website at **www.aiadelaware.org**. Our membership includes award-winning architects experienced in all types of building projects – residential, commercial, institutional, educational; interior and exterior; new buildings and renovations; modern, contemporary and historic preservation.

AIA-DE keeps our members informed of trends such as environmentally friendly "green building," and provides continuing-education programs and information to ensure they are up to date on all required professional information.

Residential architects in Delaware

The following architects are members of the **American Institute of Architects–Delaware** chapter. You can be assured that they meet the standards of the profession, as established by AIA with your safety in mind.

Joseph T. Chickadel, AIA

Design Collaborative
1211 Delaware Ave.
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302-652-4221
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Bruce J. Moneta, AIA

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Ralph A. Olivier, AIA

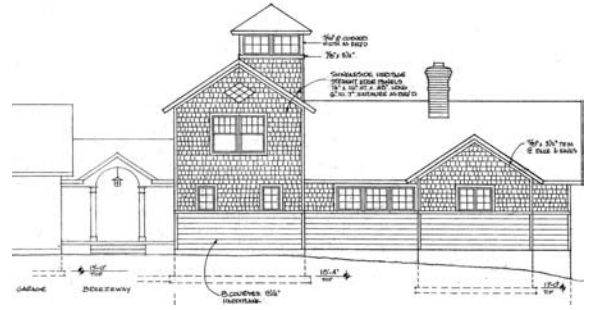
268 Chesterville Road
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Tetrattech

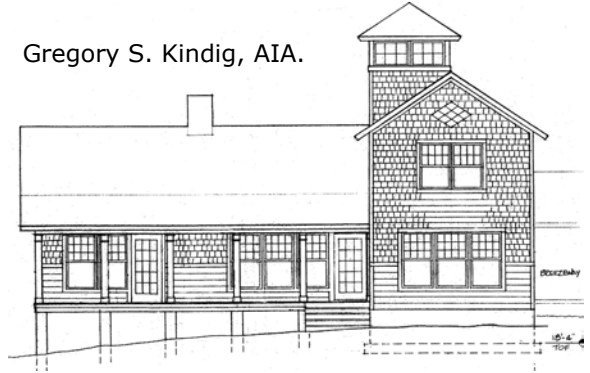
Duke Wilford
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302-645-2135



Gregory S. Kindig, AIA.



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Kenneth M. Freemark, AIA.



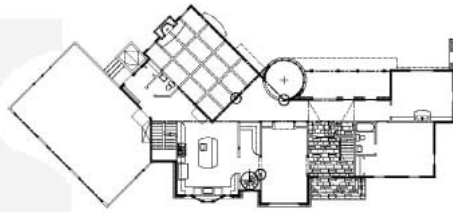
Kenneth M. Freemark, AIA.



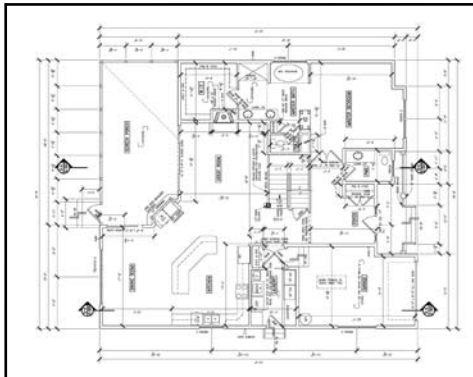
Kenneth M. Freemark, AIA.



Design Collaborative – Joseph T. Chickadel, AIA.

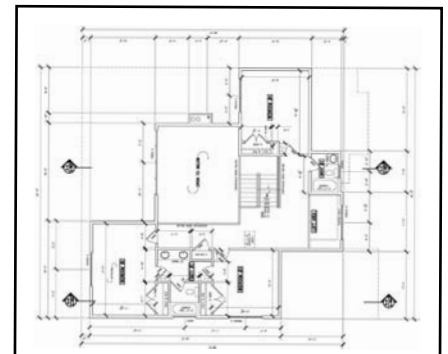


Fearn-Clendaniel Architects – Wayde Clendaniel.



First floor of a residential project.

Meridian Architects and Engineers
– Bruce J. Moneta, AIA.



Second floor of a residential project.



Elevation for a residential project.

AIA Delaware members are welcome to submit their recent residential projects for future editions of this special insert. Please send high-quality images to Ruth@writerruth.com.

AIA Delaware is a component of the American Institute of Architects and can be reached at: 302-654-9817, *phone*; 302-654-7687, *fax*; aiade@verizon.net, *e-mail*; www.aiadelaware.org, *website*; #5 Vandever, Wilmington, DE 19802, *mail*.