

How and Why to Hire an Architect for Your Home or Business

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 focus on your interests to ensure the project is built as it was designed.
- An architect will design your home or office spaces to take advantage of the natural environment, minimize energy use, and incorporate sustainable design and building principles.
- Your 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 – create total environments, with interiors and exteriors that work together in harmony to satisfy your functional needs to produce exciting, dynamic living and work spaces.
- Your architect will provide drawings of the proposed building that show you all the angles and views.
- Architects are flexible – you can hire an architect for limited or a broad range of 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 clients.

How to find an Architect

To find an architect for your project contact the Delaware Chapter of AIA by phone at (302) 654-9817 or on the web at www.aia-delaware.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.

The Delaware Chapter of The American Institute of Architects works to ensure its members keep informed on trends and provides continuing education programs and information to ensure they are up to date on all required professional information.

Residential Architects in Delaware

These 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.

Cynthia A. Ford, AIA
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