

by Quentin Dart Parker [www.ArchWork.com](http://www.ArchWork.com)

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Clients evaluate their needs for architectural services based upon personal criteria and past experiences. Some considerations are: Professional experience, history, type of work, fee structure, local agency knowledge and specific design approach. What makes us different is this, *we listen to your needs.* Comprehensive architect services entail a multitude of critical tasks, with each being different for every client. What value do you receive for a project commission is a good question you need to answer early.

"Ability is what you're capable of. Motivation determines what you do. Attitude defines how well you do it." Lou Holtz

Great architecture is an art form that saves on project cost by design. To increase your project's equity, to offer effective choices in building methods and to reduce construction costs / project duration are major considerations. Great design relates to such efficiency considerations. The decision to afford the best architect services is the most effective cost and management tool for your project- and peace of mind.

Do your architect services include a Low Cost Consultation report, the Options and Needs programming, the familiarity with local preliminary design issues, entitlements, rendering and visualization, planning & zoning, permit and construction management ? Has your professional spent time reviewing these issues with you ? Each task has different solutions- and not all architects are alike. Choose wisely. With communication between client and architect as a critical decision, the more questions you ask the better we resolve these issues.

"Imagination is more powerful than knowledge." Albert Einstein

Exceptional design is not about site rendition, layout, floor plans, elevations and sculptural form of a building. It is how the new building serves its occupants, how it contributes to its site, and how this relates to other buildings, traffic, occupant load, zoning and planning issues. You must ask how well your architect negotiates? The aesthetic appeal makes a project more valuable than just square footage and construction costs. While built form increases public interest and artistic dialogue, the creative functional tasks make each design relate better to occupant use. Competent architectural expertise saves in construction costs, design expenses and in applied methodology.

"If you don't know where you're going any old way will take you there." Lewis Carroll

Comprehensive drawings, construction documents, and specifications are the foundation of every great project. While architecture remains an interactive service adapting to many client needs, including modification in scope of work and project management, competency is project success insurance. How many 'mistakes' are affordable with average construction costs which exceed \$400 per square foot?

"Design is the art of hierarchical compromise." Alfred Browning Parker, FAIA

Beauty is not a random process. It is certainly not created happenstance on a drafting table either. With 'sustainable environmentalism', value-based principles to ecological conservation, and many 'green', LEED-certified processes to available methods, materials and finishes, the choices can become challenging to those uninitiated. How well does your architect understand these technological principles? What good are solar PV arrays installations and wind generated turbine energy, if this investment exceeds operational lifetime costs and energy applications?

"We shape our dwellings, and afterwards our dwellings shape us." Winston Churchill

A home is where intimate emotions dwell, where the feeling of 'welcome' is instilled by design appreciation for personal space and responsive environment. Listening to our client needs, evaluating particular lifestyles, and addressing functional concepts creates this visual eloquence. Every building initiates a sense of place, some provide answers better than others. What looks good usually works better and creates that feeling of harmony we search for.

"If not now - then, when?"

Time is all we have to share with each other. As architects, we compliment your trust in our ability to maximize this effort. The better this service, the more we connect needs with solutions. Thirty years of professional experience as

## Why hire an Architect?

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a licensed architect provides for exceptional design creativity with extensive resources of product knowledge, all adapted to meet your needs as our client.