



FACT SHEET

ENGAGING AN ARCHITECT

It's hard to find an Architect!

Actually, it's not hard to google 'architect', that's easy.

What's hard is figuring out which one to hire. It shouldn't be scary - all licensed Architects are capable of designing a building for you. But choosing the right designer can make or break your project. Here's some tips on how to be confident that you have the right team.

What is an Architect?

A trained and licensed professional who provide advice about the design and construction of buildings, site planning, landscaping and interiors. Legally an architect can only use that title if they are registered with the Board of Architects and is thereby held to a code of ethics and liabilities. An Architect can provide:

- creative vision;
- insight into what can be done on your site, best practice in your industry, innovative ideas about what could work better;
- practical and technical knowledge about space and construction through the entire process from conception to completion of the built work;
- coordination skills that allow balance and coordination of the varying the needs and opportunities of each project;
- assistance with smoother council approvals and building consent;
- assistance with budget management;
- knowledge of building contracts;
- project management.

What do I need to know about choosing an Architect?

- Understand their signature style - there is no use commissioning an Architect if you don't believe in the same design principles.
- Every practice manages their projects and client base differently. Understand who will be designing your project and who will be your everyday contact.
- How will the design be presented? Do they provide 3D drawings, walk-thru digital models or cardboard scale models? You need to be very confident that what is being designed is achieving your needs, and it can be hard to assess that via 2D drawings.
- Designing is collaborative. Some Architects will involve you more than others in the design process. How involved do you want to be, and how involved does the Architect need you to be to achieve their process?
- How approachable is the Architect? Do you feel that they are listening? Do you like them enough to want to work with them? It's a long-term relationship - you need to be comfortable with their communication style and personality.
- How does the Architect collect the information they need to determine what your project needs? Is it flexible enough to capture the small details as well as large stakeholder group input if needed?
- Does the Architect have specialist knowledge in your industry? Most Architects are particularly experienced in one or two industries and may be able to offer specialised insight.

What does an Architect cost?

The Architect's fees are only a proportion of the consultant and application fees associated with a building project. Depending on the size of your project, you are likely spend between 15% and 30% of your budget on consulting fees for Architecture, Interiors, Landscape, Engineering, Surveying, Cost Consulting, Council Applications, etc. An Architect will give you a quote on your project once they have a good understanding of what you need.

Thinking of undertaking a project, but not sure where to start?

Enquire about pre-design services that allow you to talk to an Architect about your project and determine if you project is feasible, whether Council will allow you to do what you want to do, and understand the costs and time frames involved before making any high cost commitments or ill-considered decisions.

Get started?

Contact **Studio S2 Architects** and let's just start with a coffee.