

Questions To Ask An Architect



By
Earl O. Myler
Chairman

Here are a few questions you might consider asking when you are interviewing architects:

1. What are some of the most important aspects, issues and challenges that need to be considered with our church building project?
2. How will you as the architect gather the information regarding the wants and needs of our church?
3. How will you go about determining and recommending what building delivery system will work the best for our church?
4. How many church building projects have you been involved with and what was your specific role?
5. How will you as the architect establish fees for our project?
6. What is covered and what is not covered in the basic fees?
7. What is the cost of renderings, 3-D Fly arounds, and other things that might be needed and provided by you that will cost us?
8. What are the reimbursable costs that you will be charging us?
9. If we change the scope of our project later in the project, will there be additional fees, and if so, how are these fees determined?
10. If changes occur due to errors or incongruities in the architectural drawings during construction, who pays for these changes and are there architectural fees involved?
11. What is your track record over the past 5 projects for change orders initiated during construction that were caused by errors or incongruities in the architectural drawings? Can you give us a list and the percentages of the original building contract price that these types of change orders cost?
12. What is your track record with cost estimating over the past 5 projects? Were your estimates higher or lower than the bid prices for each of these projects? Will you give us a list of these 5 projects, and include what the early design estimates were in comparison to the bid prices?
13. What do you see as our responsibilities? Do you provide any leadership assistance with our side of the building program equation?
14. What is your general design philosophy?
15. We want to bid out our project in (month). Can you work within our schedule?
16. What sets you apart from other architects we might consider, and why should we hire you?
17. What kind of contract would we be signing?
18. What is the next step as you see it?

These questions should provide most of the basic information that you would need in hiring an architect for your project. There may be others you would want to add to this list.