

ingenious solutions to complicated problems.

The difference between architects and other related design trades is the time and careful attention an architect gives to the client's specific wishes and constraints. Any Architect worth his salt will balance both the owners "wish list" to the project description and the more intangible qualities observed about the owners Lifestyle/brand. Architects explore alternatives that often times a client had never considered.

3. Bills of Quantities and costing of the project

An architect creates detailed drawings and material lists to document the projects exact requirements and get what was paid for and to the standard that is acceptable to the client. These drawings ensure that the building details are put together correctly; thereby preventing leaks, loose construction and future problems with great cost implications.

The material lists and drawings are then used by the Quantity Surveyor to

and workmanship at a fair market price from the contractor.

4. A trained eye to oversee the project

It is very important to remember that an architect acts as the agent of the owner. Therefore he/she always keeps the owner's best interests in mind. The architect is the owner's trusted construction advisor to reduce the likelihood of construction mistakes and delays. In co-ordination with the contractor, the architect will develop an overall project schedule, and work into the schedule some of the key progress points and decision date requiring action by the owner.

The architect will then review construction as it progresses and provides status reports to the client and suggestions

for dealing with unforeseen situations.

The value in hiring an architect is having a trained eye regularly checking for adherence to contract documents and working with the contractor to counter possible

to make informed decisions regarding the impact of changes and will present the information with recommendations to the owner for a final decision.

Everybody can relate a story where construction as a result of bad design went wrong. From slabs having to be poured multiple times, rooms being the wrong size, buildings not adhering to zoning laws and budgets going far beyond the projections. All this can be prevented by using a professional architect.

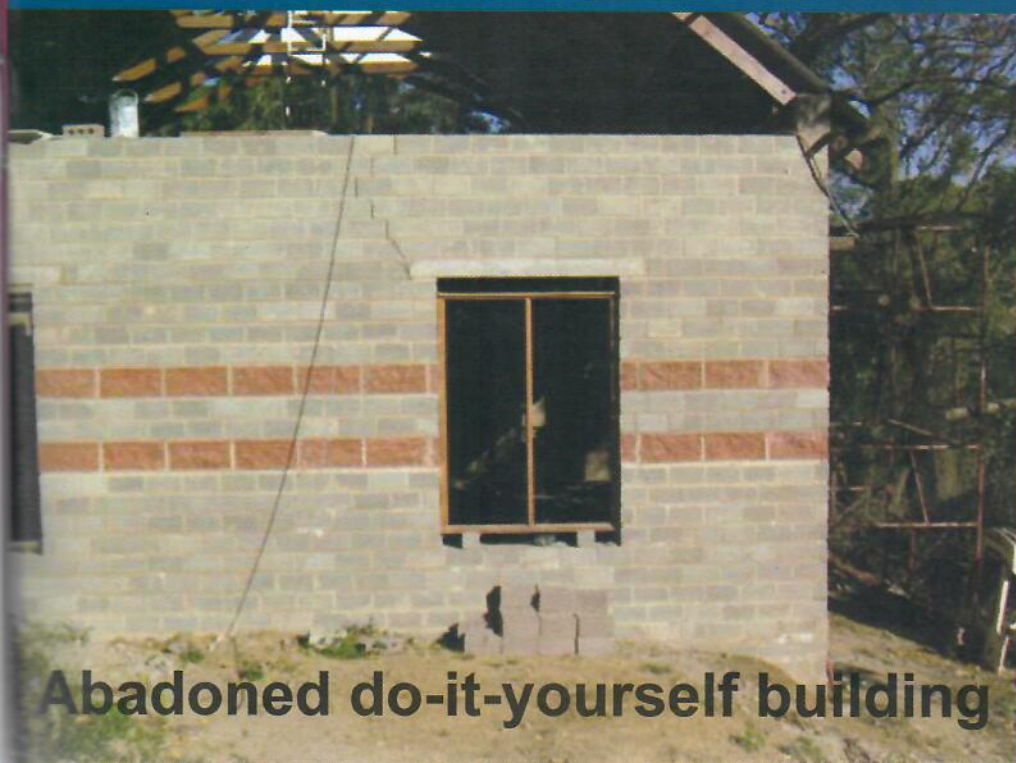
Putting together and designing a building is complicated and takes years of study and professional practice. Few people realise how complicated it is to build until they find themselves lost in a maze of design options, building codes, zoning laws soaring construction costs and hard-to-control contractors.

The architect is the one professional who has the education, training, experience and vision to guide the design and construction process. This broad knowledge helps the architect focus the client's needs to maximise their investment in usable space on time and within budget.

When investing a sum of money it is only right and logical to hire a professional to get the best out of your investment, and to give you the best product functionally, aesthetically and economically with the minimum stress involved. Designing a building is as complicated as designing a car. And would you buy a car that was not designed by an experienced professional?

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Abandoned do-it-yourself building