



# Working With an Architect

## On your residential project

The American Institute of Architects, founded in 1857, is a professional organization of more than 83,000 licensed architects and associated professionals. Headquartered in Washington DC, with nearly 300 state and local chapters nationwide, the AIA helps to build public awareness of architecture and supports the practice of architecture.

**AIA Minnesota** members are architects licensed by the state and required to adhere to the AIA Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct, assuring clients, the public, and colleagues of their dedication to high standards of professional practice.

### Who Is An Architect?

Architects are required to meet rigorous education requirements, pass a licensing exam, complete continuing education, and to maintain their license. Architects are the only people, who by training and education are licensed by the State to prepare plans for the construction of most buildings. They are trained to solve complicated problems addressing the needs of the owner, the resources available, the restrictions of legal regulations, the selection of appropriate materials and design of energy efficient structures. As licensed professionals they must protect the health, safety and welfare of the public, coordinating the multiple parts and systems in buildings making them safe for their inhabitants. Trained in design, the professional practice of architecture encompasses historic, cultural, construction, material and aesthetic considerations.

### Architects Are Your Advocate

An AIA Architect's education, training, experience and vision serves to not only maximize your investment, but also provides a more creative, functional, pleasing and lasting environment. AN AIA Architect acts as the owner's agent to represent your best interest, protecting the integrity of the project throughout the entire design and build process. An AIA architect will work with you, tailoring the design to suit your personality, lifestyle, needs and budget. They are trained to see the big picture, find a balance between function, aesthetics, economics and the numerous cities, state and environmental codes and regulations.

### The Value of Services Offered By An Architect

Architects work with clients to understand their needs, desires and resources, to use them wisely, and develop a plan that adds value to their investment. An Architect can work with you to evaluate a new home site or an existing house, measure and prepare plans, define the project, coordinate site design and building systems, and more.

Throughout the design process, your architect works with you in a step-by-step process starting with the larger design issues and moving toward detailed construction drawings and specifications. An architect will guide you through the planning, design and construction to arrive at a solution that reflects your needs and desires, maintains the design integrity, acknowledges your budget, and ensures that you receive the best value for your investment.