

Questions to Ask your Minnesota Architect:

What does the architect see as important issues or considerations in our project? What are the challenges of the project?

How will the architect approach our project? What process will be used?

How will the architect gather information about our needs, goals, etc.?

How will the architect establish priorities and make decisions?

Who from the architecture firm will we be dealing with directly? Is that the same person who will be designing the project? Who will be designing our project?

Is the architect truly interested in this project?

How busy is the architect? Can this project comfortably fit within other office projects?

What sets this architect apart from the rest?

How does the architect establish fees?

What would the architect expect the fee to be for this project?

What are the steps in the design process?

How does the architect organize the process?

What does the architect expect us to provide?

What is the architect's design philosophy?

What is the architect's experience/track record with cost estimating?

What will the architect show us along the way to explain the project? Will we see models, drawings, or sketches?

If the scope of the project changes later in the project, will there be additional fees? How will these fees be justified?

What services does the architect provide during construction?

How disruptive will construction be? How long is it expected to take to complete our project?

Does the architect have a list of past clients that the firm has worked with?

Questions to Ask Yourself Before Getting Started:

Where do we live now? What do we like about it? What's missing? What don't we like? Do we want to change or add to the space we have?

Do we want to build a new house?

Why do we want to build a new house or add to or renovate our current home?

Do we need more room? Are children grown and moving? Is our lifestyle changing? Are parents or children returning to live with us?

What is our lifestyle? Are we at home a great deal? Do we work at home? Do we entertain often? How much time do we spend in living areas, bedrooms, kitchen, den or office, utility space, etc.?

How much time and energy are we willing to invest to maintain our home?

If we're thinking of adding on, what functions/activities will be housed in the new space?

What kind of spaces do we need, e.g., bedrooms, expanded kitchen, bathrooms, etc.?

How many of these spaces do we think we need?

What do we think the additional/renovation/new home should look like?

How much disruption can we tolerate to add on to or renovate our home?

How soon would we like to be settled into our new home or addition? Are there rigid time constraints?

If planning on a new home, what do we envision in this home that we don't have now?

If we're contemplating building a home, do we have a site selected?

Do we have strong ideas about design styles? What are our design preferences?

Who will be the primary contact with the architect, contractor and others involved in designing and building our project? (It is good to have one point of contact to prevent confusion and mixed messages.)

What qualities are we looking for in an architect?

How much time do we have to be involved in the design and construction process?

Do we plan to do any of the work ourselves?

Regardless whether it's an addition or new home, how much can we realistically afford to spend?