

Crete design

Architecture & Planning
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Getting Started: How To Work With An Architect

First read “what to consider...” information sheets to help formulate questions you may have.

Gather as much information as you can about the building or remodel site including: CC&R’s, accurate plot map with elevations, slopes, easements, and utilities, cost of lot, estimated cost of improvements, what you like / dislike about the site and what you want to achieve with the project.

Find out about any special requirements the city, county or other agencies may have regarding the site and surrounding area as it relates to the design or construction.

List any specialized uses of your house or special areas needed (boarding exchange students, care for an elderly parent, planning for additional children, entertain business associates, items that you need to accommodate (special furniture size / configuration, large art pieces, etc. that require a special display area) or storage for outdoor sporting equipment.

Explain if you are planning to do any of the work yourself. Will you hire a general contractor? Do you need a recommendation for a contractor?

Provide your general landscape ideas. How much will be done as part of this project? Have you considered including landscaping plans in your overall design? Have you considered space for a cabana, pool, fishpond, waterfall, or water storage?

Provide 3 lists: “must have”, “like to have”, and “in our dreams”. These lists set the theme and direction as to what your target goals are for your project.

Finally, here are the things we recommend you bring to your next meeting with the architect:

1. Information about the site (paragraph 2)
2. Pictures of houses that you like (even ones you dislike) from magazines, snapshots, web sites, etc.
3. Floor plan ideas (try not to spend hours drawing a plan, just a rough draft)
4. Your planned budget.
5. Number of years you plan to stay in the house.
6. Your time frame to start plans, building and anticipated move-in date.

Expect your first meeting with the architect to be “big picture” oriented with emphasis on overall goals and expectations. The architect will want to learn about your lifestyle and preferences. The more we learn, the better we can create a design that suits your needs.

We also recommend purchasing a large three ring binder for organizing your mass amounts of information (with a zipper pocket if possible) to put your various items into. (Also, consider carrying a disposable camera in your car.)

Items for your binder:

15-20 pocket folders, 20-30 sheets of lined paper.

Label some of your folders by room (living room, dining room, etc.) label one “legal documents”, another as “site” (or lot) information, a couple as “outside house” (material I like, landscaping, etc.) and the remaining folder “things I don’t like”.

