

FOURTH DIMENSION ARCHITECTURE

100 DESIGN QUESTIONS AN ARCHITECT MAY ASK YOU

PRE-DESIGN	
PRE-DESIGN	<input type="checkbox"/> What are your 3 most important project goals?
	<input type="checkbox"/> Please number the following in order of importance to you: __ Quality __ Speed __ Cost
	<input type="checkbox"/> What is your project budget?
	<input type="checkbox"/> Does your budget include soft costs?
	<input type="checkbox"/> What is your desired timeframe for the project?
	<input type="checkbox"/> Do you have a survey of the property?
	<input type="checkbox"/> Are you aware of any property constraints?
	<input type="checkbox"/> Have you ever worked with an architect before?
	<input type="checkbox"/> Do you have a builder you are working with?
	<input type="checkbox"/> Do you want to divide the project into phases?
	<input type="checkbox"/> Will you be living in the house during construction?

CONCEPTUAL DESIGN	
CONCEPTUAL DESIGN	<input type="checkbox"/> What are your inspiration photos?
	<input type="checkbox"/> What's on your wish list of wants and needs?
	<input type="checkbox"/> Are you interested in a "smart house?"
	<input type="checkbox"/> Are you interested in a hyper-energy efficient house?
	<input type="checkbox"/> Renovations - how important is the "seamless" renovation?
	<input type="checkbox"/> Is there anything existing that you would like to match?
	<input type="checkbox"/> Do you have a preferred foundation type? (slab, crawl space, basement?)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Bedrooms - how many?
	<input type="checkbox"/> Bathrooms - how many?
	<input type="checkbox"/> Do you want a home office?
	<input type="checkbox"/> How many people will occupy each room? (ie. 4-person dining vs. 10-person dining)

SCHEMATIC DESIGN

- Do you want the building (or parts of the building) to feel big or small?
- Do you have any large / specific furniture that you want incorporated into the design?

BEDROOMS

- What size beds do you want in each room?
- Is there an opportunity for east-facing bedrooms, so the sunrise shines in the windows?
- Prefer hanging space, drawers, shelves, combination?
- How many linear feet of clothing do you own (if you were to hang it all)?
- How many linear feet of closet do you have now? Is it enough?

BATHROOMS

- Do you have any mobility concerns (now or future) - for locating grab bars?
- Single sink or double?
- Private or shared bathroom(s)?

HOME OFFICE

- How many computers?
- Need any spaces other than computer stations? (ie. art station)
- How many people are using the space at one time?
- Private office, or will there be employees? clients? kids?
- Need access to (separate?) bathroom?

GARAGES

- Attached or detached?
- How many cars?
- Parking only, or also used for hobbies?
- What type of storage?
- Electric requirements? (door openers, vehicle lift, electric car charging station?)

WINDOWS

- Go through windows + doors room by room - which ones open, which are fixed?
- Window types - casement, awning, double hung, slider, fixed, picture, bay, bow?
- Wood, clad or combo?
- Screens?
- Hardware finish + style?
- Do you want to tune the windows to the sun / views?

KITCHEN

- Range exhaust - recirculating or exhaust to outdoors?
- Prep sink? What size?
- Do you want a garbage disposal(s)? Which sink? Wall switch?
- Do you want a pot filler?
- Bar / eating island height? Two heights or one?
- Stove - electric, propane, induction?

HOME OFFICE

- Do you want sound separation from adjacent rooms?
- Ergonomics - do you have specific needs?
- What is your cable management strategy?
- What electronics do you have? (printer/scanner/fax? battery backups?)
- Do you want a projector wall?
- Is video conferencing needed? What's the background?
- What are your audio requirements? (surround sound? microphone? sound dampening?)

INTERIOR FINISHES

- Review finishes room by room - wood, plaster + lathe, or drywall on walls? Tile walls in bathrooms? Wood floor, tile floor, carpet? Wood or drywall ceilings?
- How important is it to use products made in America?
- How important is it to use products that are better for the environment?

EXTERIOR FINISHES

- Gutters - half-round (\$\$) or K-style (\$) ? Copper (\$\$) or aluminum (\$) ?
- Roofing - standing seam metal, asphalt shingles or EPDM rubber?
- Foundation - do you want raw exposed concrete, or prefer to spend a little extra finishing it with something? Stucco, brick veneer, stone veneer to simulate fieldstone?

CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTS	<h2>MECHANICAL SYSTEMS</h2>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	What is your fuel source?
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Keep existing (expand / alter?) or switch to different type?
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Interested in mini-splits?
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Interested in radiant floors?
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Interest in heated bathroom floors without heating the house?
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you have a radon mitigation system?
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bathroom exhaust fan? (light combo or separate?) (loud or quiet?) Location? Duct path?
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Thermostats - where? what type? how many zones?
	<h2>ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS</h2>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Is there anywhere in your house that doesn't have enough outlets?
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you want flood lights outside?
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you want ceiling outlets in the soffits for holiday lights?
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you want motion sensors on any of the lights? (usually exterior)
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you want electric radiant heat under tile floors?
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Stairs - what kind of lights? 2 pendants? 1 pendant + 2 sconces? Do you want art on these walls? (need to light them)
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Garage / workshop - lights? outlets?
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you want a waterbug in laundry room floor? (sensor for flooding) Do you want them in the bathrooms + kitchen? (can be under the toe kick)
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you want to wire for smart TVs?
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you want a cable connection to a central cable box? Where?
<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you want a central vacuum?	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you want closet lights with jamb switches?	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you want floor outlets in the living room?	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you want switched outlets?	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you want USB outlets?	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you want dimmer switches? Where do you want to set the dimness?	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you want ceiling fans?	
<h2>STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS</h2>		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Are there any places where you want to avoid having columns?	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you want faux beams anywhere to give the impression of structure?	

THROUGHOUT THE PROJECT	<h2>QUESTIONS TO ASK CONSTANTLY</h2>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	How does this decision affect how the finished product looks / functions?
	<input type="checkbox"/>	How does this decision affect how much it will cost?
	<input type="checkbox"/>	How does this decision affect how long it will take?
	<input type="checkbox"/>	What are the assumptions?
	<input type="checkbox"/>	What do you like and dislike about this decision?
<h2>WHAT QUESTIONS DO YOU HAVE FOR THE ARCHITECT?</h2>		
<input type="checkbox"/>		
<input type="checkbox"/>		
<input type="checkbox"/>		