

Choosing a Commercial Architect

Choosing a commercial architect to design your building is like choosing a partner for your business. You want an architectural firm with experience, but also creativity. Designing commercial architecture is not simply drawing up plans for a big box. The bricks-and-mortar presentation of a business contributes as much to its success as its marketing, operations and online reputation. Each industry has its own set of requirements and needs, as well as best practices. For instance, we discuss the ever-changing and challenging world of healthcare design in this blog post.

Furthermore, each community in **location** has its own set of rules and regulations regarding commercial buildings. You will need a commercial architect well-versed in city and county codes.

Steps in Choosing a Commercial Architect

Choosing a commercial architectural firm in **service locations**, or any community in **location** should start with the firm's website and online reputation. Are there examples of the firm's work product? Lists of past projects that you can actually visit in person? Testimonials from satisfied clients? Descriptions of its services? Biographies of its principals? Does the firm share its vision for the community and does that vision align with yours?

From there you can call the firm and get the names and numbers of a few clients. Don't be shy about calling for a reference. Ten minutes spent talking to a past client can pave the way for a great experience working with the firm. Or it can indicate that you and the firm would not be a good fit.

Finally, make an appointment for a consultation. Again, this does not have to be a time-consuming endeavor. Take note of how the firm presents itself, the questions they answer and, more importantly, the questions they ask you. Be prepared to discuss your budget and timeline, if only in generalities. Recognize that every project will be different but acknowledge there are some similarities in commercial architecture.

Different Types of Commercial Architecture Have Different Requirements

Franchise buildings offer a multiple set of challenges. While siting the building to municipal specifications, we also need to meet the corporation's standards that guide the brand management of the facility. Colors, signage, and fixtures all need to comply with the marketing guidelines for the company.

Many industrial facilities must be designed to serve more than one purpose, calling a great deal of creativity into play. Our examples of gymnasiums and field houses underscore this. Home to multiple sports teams with various requirements, they also provide shower and locker facilities that can accommodate members of both the men's and women's teams.

Public service buildings, like fire stations, police stations, and emergency management operations centers, must be designed to accommodate several populations at once: staff, in-processing personnel, and the general public, all while meeting strict safety standards.

Examples of Creative **location** Commercial Architecture

These examples of creative **location** commercial architecture illustrate the need to choose a commercial architect with vision as well as experience.

For **client business name**, a full-service professional dog washing and grooming salon, we had to configure wash stations, a dog-friendly waiting area, furnishings, fixtures, and surfaces that would withstand animal paws, claws, and hair, and traffic flow that would accommodate several canine customers at once. The storefront location meant we had to work within a prescribed footprint, considering noise and environmental barriers as well. The open floor plan and well-lit interior, and large uncovered picture windows in the grooming area, serve to keep canine customers calm and canine parents happy.

The **client business name** in **location** was designed for the purpose of indoor recreational shooting and sales of all types of handguns. While the facility's freestanding site gave us some creativity with the footprint, we still needed to blend a sleek retail operation with a specific, focused sporting center.

When you are ready to discuss your needs with an experienced **location** commercial architect, give us a call at *****-***-****** or use our online contact form to start a dialogue today!