



WHAT CAN AN ARCHITECT DO FOR ME?

This is a question that many new property owners might ask if they are considering alterations, an extension or even a complete rebuild of a house they have just purchased. Not surprisingly, the answer is not straightforward, but in broad simple terms a Chartered Architect can not only plan your dream house, but get it through Planning and Building Control, get it costed, and built by a contractor on site.



Looking a little more closely, what is the advantage of a Chartered Architect over other professionals? If your house is solely in need of repair or refurbishment, a Chartered Surveyor may well fit the bill; if the design element is straightforward and the planning unlikely to be controversial, a Chartered Architectural Technologist could guide you through the process to completion. However, if the design process is more complex or the planning issues may be difficult, a Chartered Architect can provide you with the particular skills that you will need.

Architects are trained to solve building problems in imaginative and cost-effective ways - they can add extra interest and excitement to even the dullest of opportunities. And that of course can mean that your property is more valuable if you eventually decide to sell it and move on to the next project!

Working with an Architect should be an enjoyable process, as he or she develops an understanding of your precise requirements, and begins to create a three-dimensional embodiment of your dreams. However, an Architect's skills do not just end with the imaginative side; the seven year training equips them to produce full technical drawings that comply with current regulations and allow the builder to construct the project. Once on site, the Architect will monitor the quality and progress of the work, and ensure that you get the best possible project for your budget. At the end of the day, you both want a building you can be proud of!

A word of caution in Guernsey; unlike the UK and the rest of Europe, the title 'Architect' is not legally protected, and there are a number of practitioners who style themselves 'architects', 'architectural designers', or similar, even though they are not fully qualified. Therefore be very careful to ensure that you use a 'Chartered Architect' who is a member of the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA). That will guarantee that you employ the genuine article! 

