

What to Look for in a Designer & Builder

You're about to embark on what could be one of the most enriching and fulfilling experiences of your life – designing and building a custom home, timber frame barn or specialty building. But how do you select the right company for your needs?

Finding the right match is essential to the success of your project. Spend time talking face to face with each candidate and visit several completed jobs before making a decision. Also ask for references, and arrange a time to speak with them when a candid conversation is possible.

As you move through the interview process, look for the following qualities:

1. Synergy

The relationship between client, builder and designer is one of the most important elements of the process. It's very important that you feel a good connection with the team you ultimately select.

2. Honesty

Talk to the company's references. Does it consistently deliver on all of its promises?

3. Experience

How long has the company been in business? If you desire timber framing, does the company have extensive experience in that type of construction?

4. Solid Reputation

What's the word on the street? Do past clients and those involved in the local business community have positive things to say about the company?

5. Flexibility

Look for a company that will take your ideas seriously and allow you to control the process. For example, a good design team will continue to modify the design until they have your complete satisfaction.

6. Quality

When touring past projects, carefully examine the workmanship. Does it exemplify superior quality and attention to detail?

7. Timeliness

Inquire about the company's track record when it comes to completing a project on time.

8. Budget Savvy

How does the company avoid budget overruns? Can they suggest solutions that will enable you to achieve your goals at a price you can afford?

9. Strong Management Skills

Does the primary point person have the knowledge and experience needed to direct a team of craftspeople, designers, and subcontractors?

10. Commitment

Does the company stand behind its work? If questions or concerns arise after a project is completed, how are they addressed?

Article from website for Houses & Barns by John Libby

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