



## Architect Requirements in Prince Edward Island

### *Frequently Asked Questions*

#### Architectural Services

#### 1. What is an architect; how do the services of an architect differ from the services of a contractor, draftsman or an engineer?

Many people can be involved in building and designing projects. An architect is a licensed, insured professional who is highly trained, qualified and experienced in the design of buildings. Architects are unique in their services in that they are responsible for the integrity of their design. Their designs offer the best value and meet your particular requirements. These benefits show up in improved user satisfaction, lower operating costs and improved resale value.

You can determine if a set of plans has been designed by an architect if they have the licensed architect's official stamp bearing the name of the licensed architect and Certificate of Practice holder. All architects licensed to practice on the Island are registered with the Architects' Association of PEI. To see this list of licensed architects, visit our website at [www.aapei.com](http://www.aapei.com).

#### 2. What services does an architect provide?

An architect is extensively trained, qualified and skilled to design new buildings, building adaptations or renovations to existing buildings, and heritage restoration to older properties. The services of an architect can include design, preparation of construction documents for bidding and construction administration.

Architects also provide other services such as needs assessments, feasibility studies, facility programming (defining what your project will be), project management, site selection, building condition audits, and interior design.

#### 3. Why would people choose to use an architect for their projects?

There many reasons to engage an architect for a project. Because architects are design and build specialists they bring unique benefits such as:

- A building that meets both short- and long-term goals.
- An experience and design that is customized to the needs of the client.
- Peace of mind that comes from the architect's strong knowledge of the regulatory, bylaw and building requirements.
- Quality work, completed on schedule and done right the first time, saving time and money.

- Responsible design and buildings that address cultural, environmental and sustainable development issues.

#### 4. How can people find an architect in PEI?

All architects working on the Island are registered with the Architects' Association of PEI. To see this list of licensed architects, visit our website at [www.aapei.com](http://www.aapei.com).

### Architectural Requirements

#### 5. Why do some projects require an architect and others do not?

There is provincial legislation that outlines what types of buildings require an architect to be involved. These standards are set to ensure public safety.

In general, the buildings that require an architect are those that will be used by the public, and therefore should be monitored closely for safety and quality.

#### 6. Do these requirements apply to all projects on the Island or just those within municipalities?

The Architects Act of PEI is provincial legislation, so it applies to all buildings on the Island, regardless of where they are being built.

#### 7. When does a building or renovation project require an architect?

Each project is unique and many factors determine whether an architect must be involved. To assist with determining what types of projects require an architect, we have developed the "Island Building Resource" for assistance and encourage anyone involved in a new project to contact a licensed architect or the Architects' Association of PEI to be certain.

#### 8. What should I do if I am not sure if a project requires an architect?

If you (or someone you know) is unsure whether an architect is required, we would encourage you to contact the Architects' Association of PEI or a licensed architect to confirm the requirements for your particular project. The list of these individuals can be found on the Association's website, [www.aapei.com](http://www.aapei.com)

#### 9. What should I do if I am aware of a project that has been approved or started that did not have an architect involved, but I believe it should have?

If you are aware of a project that you feel should have an architect involved, but may not have, we would encourage you to speak to the individuals involved to let them know your concerns and/or contact the Architects' Association of PEI to make them aware.