

Studio B Architects

When the first twinkle of an idea for a project appears to a potential client, an architect can help! The advice that we can provide at this early stage may be valuable in determining whether to proceed.

Before The Project



The new stair and lift at Crossway is carefully located to serve the church complex as the building expands around it in the future.

Buildings generally last very long time. A new building designed now may be only halfway through its life by 2060. But clients have needs now. How should they plan for both immediate needs and long-term value?

By thinking strategically and exploring ideas early. We have helped many clients to think ahead; helping clients answer specific questions like:

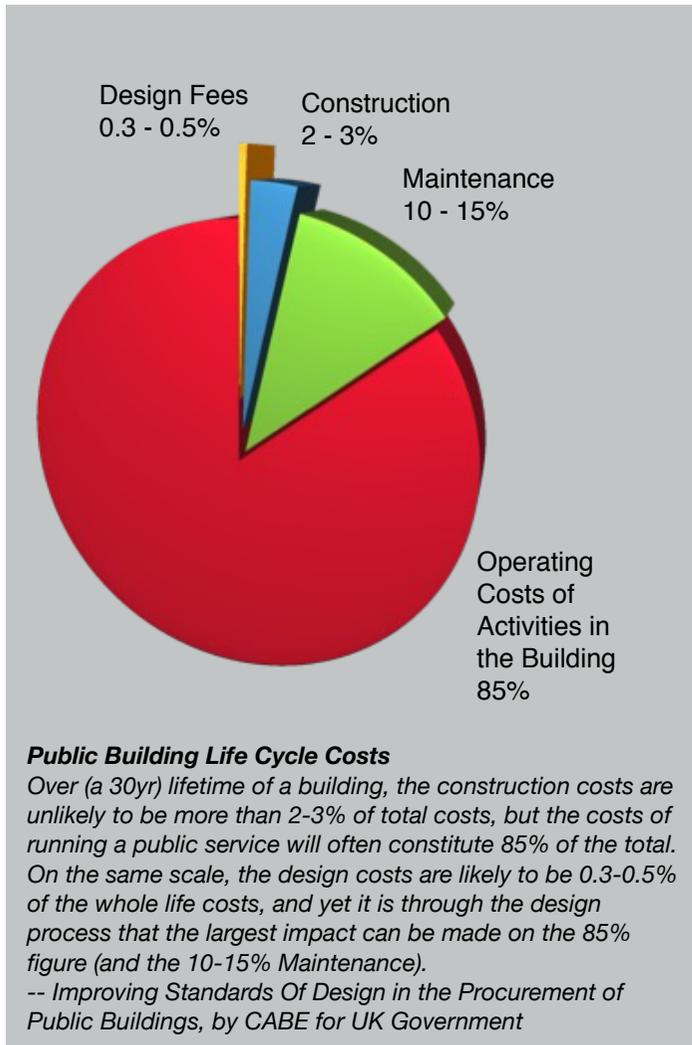
1. How can we articulate our purpose as an organisation? What is our DNA?
 2. How would this project serve our DNA?
 3. What specific needs do we want this project to satisfy?
 4. If there is a choice of site, which one should we choose?
 5. Can our needs to be accommodated here?
 6. Is there going to be spare land to sell/lease/develop?
 7. If we go ahead what will be the overall timing and what will it all cost?
 8. If we don't need it at some time in the future will it be valuable to someone else?
 9. How do we achieve all necessary permits and what is the best way to procure construction?
 10. How do we achieve sustainability targets and control cost?
 11. What special expertise will be needed and how do we appoint consultants?
- ... and many others that we can assist clients to answer.



In 2007, before proceeding with any further alterations to cope with increasing attendance at Crossway Baptist, a detailed masterplan was carried out by Studio B. This integrates the existing buildings into a long-term plan, ensuring that the next stage will be in the correct location going forward.

Before this we interviewed all ministry leaders and determined room requirements by people, type of activity, likely shared usage and by weekday, weekend and morning/afternoon/evening

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We like to make available our skills and experience to potential clients at a very early stage in the consideration of their project. We will bring experience from past projects, an understanding of basic spatial needs and lateral thinking to develop solutions that might not be obvious at first. By this process we provide value and ensure that funds are spent wisely.

We are keen that our costs should be a secondary consideration for clients. At least our first meeting is carried out free of charge and thereafter any time charges can be discounted off an agreed project fee that is negotiated later.

Examples of this early stage help that we have provided are:

Missional DNA -- using a two stage, forward-thinking questionnaire to identify the specific aims and calling of an individual church or parish and then critically inventory their property to see how it serves DNA. This enables an objective brief to be written for alterations or replacement property. It can also identify redundant property.

Property Potential Review-- before an organisation purchases a site we have been asked to consider the opportunities and constraints of the site to serve the organisation's needs. This involves a simple feasibility study exercise taking into account planning constraints, orientation, basic space requirements and cost prediction.

Property Value Enhancement -- applying a "developers eye" to a client's property to see what opportunities there may be to improve its value by potential development, either in part or as a whole site. This has been used on

church properties allowing value to be released for reinvestment in the church's buildings, or for other mission needs.

Masterplanning -- creating a long-term plan to ensure that what we build now will fit comfortably and purposefully with what we build next.

Feasibility Study -- before committing to full Concept Design, answering the basic questions about whether this project is feasible on your site.

Buildings are huge investment and time committed to briefing and design can have an enormous impact on the value that the building brings to the organisation that will use it.

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