

Discussion Resources For Church

This series of resources poses questions to prompt discussion amongst church members. It is intended to lead to a fresh understanding of the way in which the Church's buildings can serve the work of the Church.

This follows the book "[Making Property Serve Mission – Rethinking the Church's Buildings 21st-Century](#)" by Fred Batterton. This is a series of on-screen slides to accompany the following questions. Download the slides in PowerPoint (Windows) or Keynote (Mac).

Part 7.1: What are the basic design considerations for entry & hospitality?

Questions and comments relate to the following slides:

3. Building for welcome "Remember to welcome strangers into your homes. There are some who did that and welcomed angels without knowing it" Hebrews 13:2 GNB "...an elder must...be hospitable and love what is good". Titus 1:6-8 GNB -Welcome and hospitality are key characteristics of the church.
4. Entry & welcome: What makes a building appear inviting? How does a person in the street see your church? Is it inviting and welcoming or foreboding and private? Would it be OK to go in, sit down, check my social media and then leave? Apart from church, what other buildings do you enter and feel welcome in? Think of a building that you entered for the first time recently. What did you look for?
5. Entry & welcome: Transparency is inviting. Nothing to hide and open to all.
6. Entry & welcome: At this new church a shortcut path was created from the pedestrian crossing to the bus stop bringing people as close as possible to the glass entry doors, encouraging them to look inside.
7. Hospitality: Can I see food and signs of good coffee? Do they want me in here? Can I see what they are about and if it suits me? What makes them tick? Do they have fun? Is it meaningful? Your building could give answers to some of these questions
8. Hospitality: This church is on the edge of a business Park and opens its foyer café each weekday.
9. Foyer: Place for welcome and hospitality. Place for gathering after worship. Consolidates your worship into weekly reality as you catch-up with others. Furniture & space must encourage socialising. It either says "stay" or "go home".
10. Kitchens: Full catering and hybrid domestic depends on your planned usage.
11. Kitchens: Full catering standard or hybrid domestic? Complying with environmental health. Will others beyond our members use it? Who is responsible for hygiene? How do we avoid health risks? How many are we catering for? Regulations will determine if a full catering kitchen is



needed but they are costly. They should be used often. They have no concealed spaces - everything is cleanable. Need to comply with statutory food authority standards and hybrid domestic may be OK.

12. Different uses: Find out how many concurrent activities will be able to take place.
13. Actions: Discuss all these issues with your architect. Ask what activities have been planned for? Ask how can it be used Sundays, weekdays and evenings. Ask what message will this building convey?
14. Next time: What are the basic design considerations for auditoria and gathering - Part 7.2

