

Buildings - Where To Start?

If you are a Christian organisation with property and you have a suspicion that it could be more effective in your work, where do you start and who can help?

Do you simply list a set of improvements and appoint an architect to get on with it, hoping that will fix it? Perhaps, but there are earlier stages that can define the problem and target the work effectively.

Clarify Your Purpose

Why are we here? In broad terms we can define our role by the Great Commandment (Matt 22:37-40) and the Great Commission (Matt 28: 18-20). Following this the church community can ask, then why are we in this location/amongst this community/have we been given these skills/these facilities? and more.

Your Missional Identity

Establish a consensus of view about your Missional calling before God. Engage your people in the process.



Potential fellowship foyer between heritage buildings

Critically Review Your Property

Review each part of your buildings and land in terms of how well they are serving your Missional Identity: serving well, poorly, not serving at all or perhaps you have a mission calling with no facilities.

What Opportunities Do You Have?

Perhaps you have a beautiful Heritage interior, dimly lit and rarely visited; a key location in a busy street where everyone rushes by and no one stops; a corner site that is fenced off; a church hall rarely used; tennis courts growing weeds, a sprawling site in a shopping strip. Maybe you have the opportunity for clever residential infill on the edge of your site that could net a million dollars without impacting your work. Professional advice can identify and unlock these opportunities even in heritage contexts.

Feasibility Study / Master Plan

At this point an architect can start to design for your specific mission, adjusting your buildings to meet your purpose and using the opportunities presented by the property that you have inherited. This can be done in simple terms, prior to committing to a full design service, to meet your mission purpose and using the opportunities presented by the property that you have inherited.

Then you will have a clear brief for effective action and targeted expenditure. Unless you have great clarity about what you need at the outset, this process will help to define your needs whilst at the same time engaging your people in the process. At this point you can really start.

For more information on this process click [here](#)

[‘Making Property Serve Mission](#) - Rethinking the Church’s buildings for the 21st Century” is available in ebook and paperback and was reviewed in the current edition of EFAC Essentials magazine by Archdeacon Len Firth.

Next time – Where Next in the Process – with helpful advice from Hugh Watson of Moores Legal.

