

1. Feasibility Study - can it be done?

Client's Guide To Architecture Series

“Every good building results from a good architect, a good builder and a good client” How can you be a good client? This series follows the [Anatomy of Project diagram \(blog 54\)](#) and we'll start with Feasibility Study

Your architect first needs to know what you want to achieve - what is the brief? If you are not clear about what you will need we can help you to make a schedule of rooms or spaces to meet your needs.

Perhaps you have a more open brief and want to know how much development your site or existing buildings can accommodate. We can do that, but it would be good to know your priorities: to maximise return, to demonstrate sustainability, to provide affordable housing, to teach students or something else.

Leave it to us and other experts to obtain a land survey and research the planning controls for you. We can identify the specialist consultants needed to advise you properly and obtain fee proposals for your approval.

Budget

At this stage the anticipated cost of construction will be estimated by a quantity surveyor based on market experience. Do you have a budget to work towards or do you need to know what your needs will cost to achieve? Is it a matter of how much usable floor area can be provided? There can be different starting points.

Options

There may be an obvious solution or there may be alternatives to consider. Your architect should be considering site features including access, solar direction, existing buildings, neighbouring property, views out, overlooking, street presence, potential massing, existing trees and of course your needs.

Checklist - tell us

- What do you need?
- Your site address
- Your priorities including budget
- Meet with us to discuss and workshop our ideas
- Sign off for moving to Concept Design stage

Feasibility study stage isn't always needed, particularly if you have a clear brief. But it can be a cost effective way of testing-out a site to see what is achievable before committing to full design and fees. We like to know your core business purposes so we can be sure to support that with our solutions.

Next time: Masterplanning - preparing for the long term.

