

- Your design team
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Now that you've hired your architect you need to select the rest of the design team.

We can help you understand what everyone does and at what stage your architect will hire them.

Download the toolkit

- [Chapter five: Developing your ideas](#)



Your design team

You and your architect will need to hire a:

[Building inspector](#)

They control building work that falls under the building regulations. The regulations make sure that specific policies written in law are carried out.

[Principal designer](#)

They make sure the design of the building complies with [health and safety rules](#). In most cases, your architect will take on this role.

Quantity surveyor

They help you manage your project's finances.

Services engineer

They design the right heating system, lighting scheme, above ground drainage and ventilation for your building.

Structural engineer

They design the structural elements, beams, columns, foundations and underground drainage system.

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Your specialists

You might also need an:

- Acoustic engineer
- Archaeologist
- Audio visual engineer
- Conservator
- Kitchen designer
- Lighting designer
- Party wall surveyor
- Planning or heritage consultant
- Project manager

Find them in the [building conservation directory](#)

Helpful hints

- [ChurchBuild: What does the design team do?](#)
- [ChurchBuild: Contracts](#)

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The RIBA stages

Most building projects go through the same basic stages.

Your group should understand the RIBA stages, how they fit together, and how long they can take.

Stage 0 – Strategic definition

This stage is when you're deciding what you want to do and exploring whether a building project is a good idea.

Stage 1 – Preparation and brief

You decide what you hope the project will do and commission any surveys.

The feasibility study usually happens at the end of this stage.

Stage 2 – Concept design

You start seeing sketches and drawings, and talking to your diocese about your ideas.

At the end of this stage, you will have decided what your project will be, what it looks like, and what you will be able to do with it.

Stage 3 – Developed design

The design is developed further and you apply for planning permission (if necessary).

Stage 4 – Technical design

All the details are put into the final design so that you can apply for faculty and building regulations, and tender for a builder.

Stage 5 – Construction

The builder starts working.

Stage 6 – Handover and close out

The builder finishes work and fixes any problems that come up because of it.

Stage 7 – In use

An evaluation is done to see if the project achieved what it was supposed to.

More about the RIBA stages

- [ChurchBuild: Understanding the RIBA stages](#)
- [ChurchBuild: RIBA stages](#)

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Next steps

To make your vision become a reality you need to start thinking about:

- Keeping everyone informed of what is going on
- Planning your project
- Writing your business plan
- Raising money to pay for your project
- Managing your cash flow during the building works
- The build

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Want more help?

Procurement process

[Find out more about the process of hiring professionals and builders](#)

Church building projects

[Get advice on making church builds missional](#)

Craft skills toolkit

[Put traditional building skills at the heart of your project](#)

Trades directory

[Over 100 companies who can help you with your project](#)

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