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## **Introduction:**

With over 40 years of experience in three-dimensional design, including both Architecture (licensed in Louisiana since 1983) and Sculpture, I also have deep experience in historic restoration and construction, including general contracting and hands-on skills in many of the building trades. Over these four decades I have built several successful businesses and have traveled, worked and lived around the world. I believe that I'm able to offer a synthesis of experience as an Architect, Builder and Sculptor, something which historically has been the role and definition of the word Architect. I believe that our built environment deeply affects our collective psyche and to the extent we pay attention to this subtle reality, the more positive effect we can have on our individual lives and society in general.

I work in close collaboration with 6 consultants here in New Orleans: 5H Engineering, LLC (Structural and Civil Engineering); Southern Earth Sciences, Inc. (Geotechnical Engineering); Pivotal Engineering, LLC (Mechanical/Plumbing/Electrical Engineering); Photo Scan Models, LLC (AutoCAD drafting, photogrammetry and 3-dimensional modeling); Gilbert, Kelly & Couturie, Inc. and R.W. Krebbs, LLC (Surveyors). In addition to those professionals, I work closely with several local General Contractors as well as building panelization fabricators for both construction, value-engineering and cost estimating services.

Together we design and build a variety of building types from large and small residential renovations and additions to new, custom homes to commercial, business, retail and religious projects. I have similar collaborations in Washington, DC; Virginia; Maryland; New Mexico; Colorado; Oregon and Florida and can provide similar professional services in other States depending on the project.

We look forward to working with you.

Edward Fleming, Architect

## **Comparing apples to apples:**

If you are comparing proposals from different Architects, it's important to consider what you're getting for your money since no two firms have exactly the same methods. In order to make an informed and meaningful comparison between Architects' proposals, be sure to ask for and take into account the following:

1. Is the proposal from an Architect and are they licensed in the State where your project is located?
2. The degree and length of their design experience and how they propose to design your project. What is their design process?
3. The Architect's construction knowledge and personal experience in building construction; working relationships with local General Contractors, builders, subcontractors and suppliers.
4. Their level of knowledge with building Codes and ordinances, quality of working relationship with related government agencies (such as zoning, historic commissions and building permit plan review) as well as due-diligence experience.
5. How much experience they have with projects like yours (residential; commercial; religious; etc.)?
6. How well you've been listened to so far; how important is your project to the firm?
7. The quality, level of detail and quantity of drawings proposed for your project: find out exactly what drawings will be provided and ask for examples of drawings for similar projects.
8. Will detailed construction drawings be provided and do they relate directly to your project vs. cut-and-paste details from other projects?
9. The Architect's experience with and attention to Structural design, HVAC / Plumbing / Electrical / Lighting design, Interior and Landscape design and if these aspects are included in their proposal.
10. Who are the Architect's consulting Engineers and what are their qualifications?
11. Are construction specifications included in the proposal?
12. Professional fees usually reflect the amount and quality of services:

If you're in a position to manage the risk of incomplete or inaccurate drawings or working with less experienced or even un-licensed design professionals, then you may be able to consider accepting a proposal that lacks some of what's listed above. However, it's very important to be aware of the level of risk and liability you would be taking on and ask yourself if you have the resources to accept that.

Finally, there may be some results from inadequate professional skills and drawings that are not manageable. There are many examples around the country of poor design and, by extension poor construction that resulted in irreparable damages. Probably the best example I know of here in New Orleans is the Hard Rock Hotel project disaster which collapsed on October 13, 2019:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1031\\_Canal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1031_Canal)

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