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Architects

## Design Architect/Architect of Record Collaborate

An architect by definition is a person who designs buildings. More specifically, an architect is a credible, licensed professional who is responsible for providing the documents for the safe and successful completion of a building. Many would argue that not all good architects are good designers and a successful architectural project doesn't guarantee good design. However, I believe that the best architects and architectural firms represent a balance of passion for design and the science of technical skill. When that balance is not achieved or a single firm is not the right fit for a particular project, two firms can collaborate in clearly defined roles: the design architect and the architect of record.

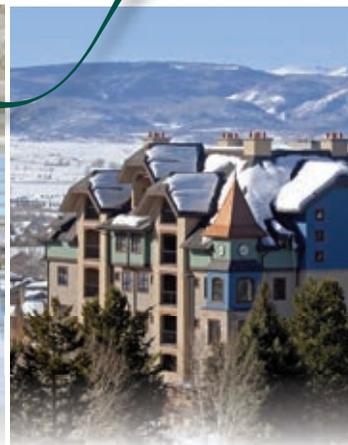
I have practiced architecture for nearly four decades, starting my career in the design department of Skidmore, Owings & Merrill. The New York office where I worked was organized into two main departments: design and production. The design department was responsible for working with the clients through the schematic design (SD) and design development (DD) phases, creating sketches, models, and thorough plans that served as the basis for the technical drawings. After DD, the design department managed the production department in the creation of the construction documents (CDs), the instructions for contractor or builder.

Our firm has modeled a number of our larger commercial projects similarly, teaming with production partners to achieve the best results for the client.

I am often asked if it is overly complicated to complete a project with a design architect/architect of record team. My answer will always be "no." Not only have I had measurable success in working this way, but also it gives each party the opportunity to excel in their role. Another concern is how this model benefits the developer or client and the built environment as a whole. The first benefit is to create innovative, forward-thinking and meaningful design. The second benefit relates directly to the quality and sustainability of the design; great design work leaves a timeless and lasting legacy, culminating in long-term financial success of the building for its owners. Working this way allows the design architect to focus on the goals of the client or development team to create a space that serves their needs, the needs of their tenants or the needs of the surrounding community.

My practice in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, was built on high-end residential projects and small commercial buildings for which our firm was responsible for every detail of the design process, producing detailed and precise construction documents. The firm's first project acting as design architect was the Jackson Hole Performing Arts Pavilion with Carney Logan Burke Architects

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as the architect of record. This large-scale project in a remote mountain community required the resources of a large firm, while at the same time needed a design team committed to the community of Jackson Hole. The simple solution of teaming two local architects together resulted in the creation of a beautiful and functional arts facility that has been honored with multiple design awards from the American Institute of Architects.

Our projects in Denver, specifically our work with Zeppelin Development, are great examples of the design architect/architect of record model. Barker Rinker Seacat Architecture produced the construction documents for the Drive complex, Freight Residences and The Source, each project resulting in multiple design awards. For each project, our firm worked closely with Zeppelin Development to generate compelling design ideas and produce thorough drawings and renderings that are the basis for the technical drawings. Once an architect of record is brought on to the project team, we work in concert with the architect of record to ensure design integrity while meeting the rigorous logistical objectives of the developer.

The design architect/architect of record strategy has allowed our firm to create provocative and meaningful architecture while working with exceptional production teams to create buildings that are changing the fabric of the communities in which we work. The result of these teaming relationships is a body of work that is timeless, born from artistic passion and technical expertise. \\\

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Hursley

*Drive*

*Design Architect: Dynia Architects, Architect of Record: Barker Rinker Seacat Architecture*



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