

Types of Design Professionals

	Strength	Building skills	Structural design	Can deviate from Bldg Code ⁸	3D design	# of parties involved	Associations/ Accreditation	Licensed	Pay scale for design	Can ballpark job cost
Design-Build Contractor	Design, building and remodeling	Yes	some	No	maybe	2	NAHB, NARI ³	Only a registration in RI	\$75-\$125	may quote exact cost (fixed price)
Architect^{1,2}	Unusual buildings	maybe	Yes	Yes	should	3	AIA ⁴	Yes	\$100 - \$160 or 10-15%	maybe
Interior Designer	Typical homes, ADA	maybe	some	No	should	3	NKBA, ASID, IIDA ⁵	Not in RI	\$75-\$125	maybe
Interior Decorator	Furniture, colors, placement	No	No	No	maybe	3	CIDA ⁶	No	\$40-\$100	must work with GC
Structural Engineer	Unusual buildings and other structures	maybe	Yes	Yes	should	3	SEA ⁷	Yes	\$120-\$175	maybe
other builders/remodelers	Building and installing	Yes	probably not	No	probably not	3	—	Only a registration in RI	—	Yes

Conclusion: a design-build contractor combines the creativity and execution into one company (or one person) and simplifies the process.

1. design professionals in the shaded area should work with a builder or remodeler, otherwise cost estimates will be inaccurate, that is, you may get beautiful designs that you cannot afford to build
2. architects can have specializations such as commercial buildings, interior, landscape, and lighting. In this table, we are only considering residential
3. American Institute of Architects
4. National Association of Home Builders, National Association of the Remodeling Industry
5. National Kitchen & Bath Association, American Society of Interior Designers, International Interior Design Association
6. Council for Interior Design Accreditation
7. Structural Engineers Association
8. essentially, the Building Code dictates how a structure is to be built. Architects and Engineers can design things beyond the common practices of the Code.

© Sam Brusco 2010