

V E Γ T E B Γ Λ L

Architecture Project Roadmap Step by Step for a Successful Project

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AD100

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Introduction:

Welcome to “Architecture Project Roadmap: Step by Step.” Now that you’re planning your dream home, this guide is your essential companion to navigate the design process.

Our step-by-step roadmap breaks down the architectural journey into clear, manageable stages, demystifying the complexities of creating beautiful, functional spaces. We’ll provide you with a comprehensive overview of what to expect at each phase, empowering you to make informed decisions and collaborate effectively with your architectural team.

Inside this guide, you’ll find practical insights, tips, and expert advice to ensure your architectural project unfolds seamlessly, from the initial concept to the final, exquisite result. Our goal is to make the design process a transparent and enjoyable experience for you.





Erasto's House, Mexico City.

The #1 Problem

Projects going over time and over budget.

On a daily basis, we see people moving projects into the design phase before the research is started. This is like a doctor starting surgery without a thorough diagnosis or trying to build a house on a bad foundation. That is why we created the Architecture Project Roadmap. Now, you have a simple process to help you move through the Research Phase.

If you follow this tool, you will reduce project risk and improve project design..



Summary sheet

Project planning pack for the Research Phase

01 . Residential Project Roadmap

Review the roadmap and identify where you are on your journey.

02 . Building Cost Estimator

Simple do-it-yourself worksheet to estimate your building project.

03 . Experts Directory

Directory of professionals who can help you at each stage of your design and building process..

04 . Questions to Ask

Frequently-asked questions and should-ask questions you need to know about working with an architect.

05 . Myth & Reality

Some things architects do outside design to complete a project.

06 . How To Create A Design Brief Using Only 7 Questions

Contact your shortlisted architects to start your process.

07 . Readiness Slider

Gauge of how ready you are to move to the Design Phase.

08 . The Next Step

Pre-Design Diagnosis.





Ohana's House, Puerto Escondido, México.

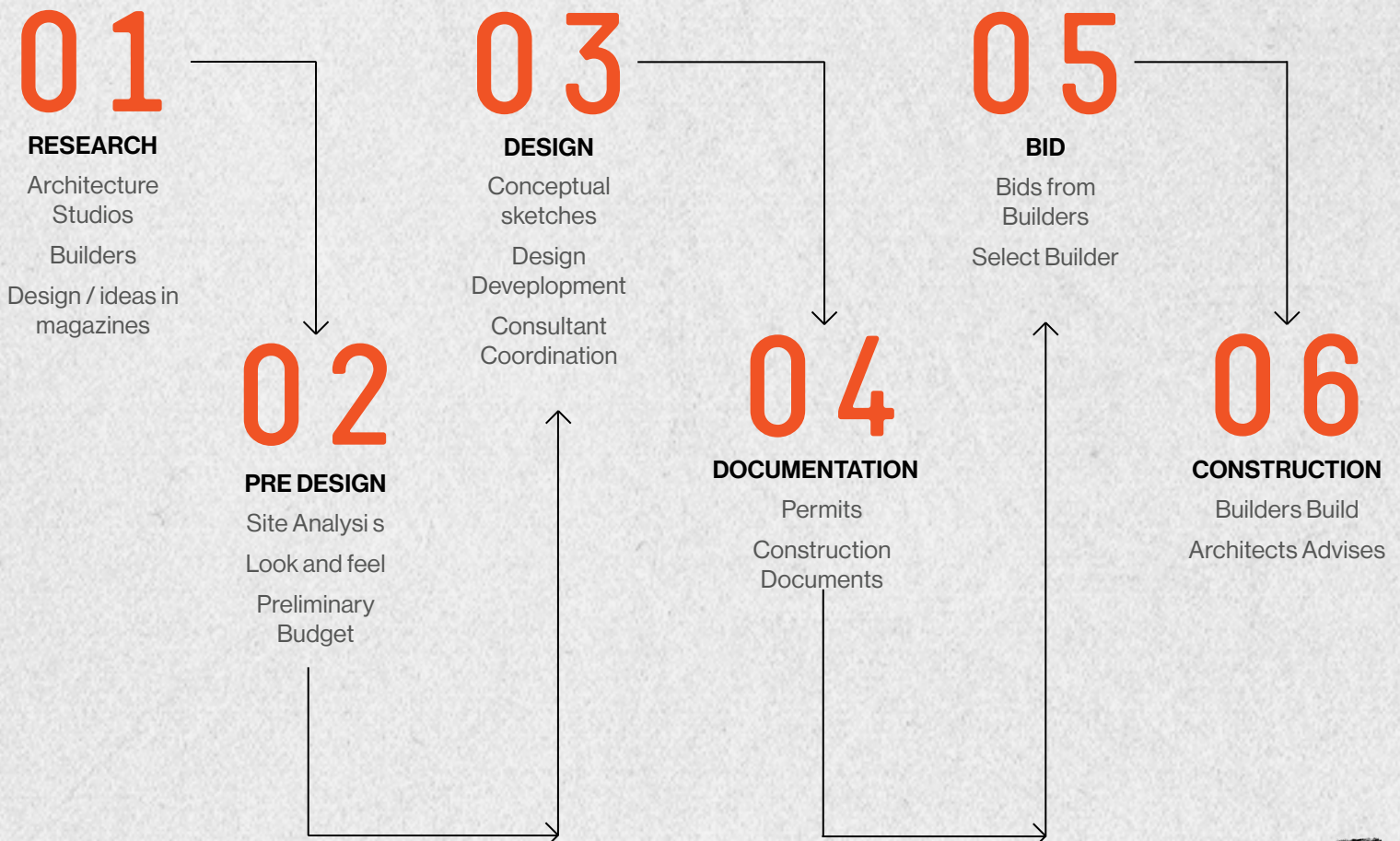
Residential Project Roadmap

Major Steps Required For Designing and Building Your

This is important ... please read carefully.

Right now, you should be in the **Research Phase**. This is where you are gathering information and playing around with ideas. At the point you want to get serious, you will want to check the feasibility of your ideas and understand what the project constraints are. If you work with us, we will move to the **Analysis Phase** by conducting a **Pre Design Diagnosis** to eliminate assumptions, identify constraints and find your best options. You will receive a document that can be used by me or any other architect that will ensure you **reduce project risk** and get the best options for your site and budget.

PROJECT PROCESSES



02

Building Cost Estimator

The Simply Do It Yourself Way to Estimate Your Number

The #1 Question ...

The most dreaded question architects, builders and every other professional hates has got to be, **'how much will my project cost?'**

There are so many variables that a definitive answer is literally impossible. The most important variables are: where the project will be built and what level of finishes it will have.

Even worse, the consequences of trying to answer and risk giving 'bad advice' will have most experts running away to avoid the question.

The problem is that **this question is VERY important**. No one can proceed if they don't have a ball park estimation of cost.

This guide will help you to determine an estimate of overall project costs. Your actual number may be more or less, but it can be helpful to see an estimated figure.



Ohana's House, Puerto Escondido, México.

Mexico (CDMX)

New Home Cost Estimator in CDMX

Style	Standard	Medium	Luxury
Cost m2 (USD)	\$1,250	\$1,500	\$1,800+
250 m2	\$312,500	\$375,000	\$450,000
500 m2	\$625,000	\$750,000	\$900,000

Mexico (Los Cabos)

New Home Cost Estimator in Los Cabos

Style	Standard	Medium	Luxury
Cost m2 (USD)	\$3,000	\$4,000	\$5,000+
250 m2	\$750,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,250,000
500 m2	\$1,500,000	USD2,000,000	USD2,500,000
1,000 m2	USD3,000,000	USD4,000,000	USD5,000,000

United States

New Home Cost Estimator in United States

Style	Standard	Medium	Luxury
Cost m2 (USD)	\$3,000	\$4,000	\$5,000+
250 m2	\$750,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,250,000
500 m2	\$1,500,000	USD2,000,000	USD2,500,000
1,000 m2	USD3,000,000	USD4,000,000	USD5,000,000



03

Experts Directory

Our Personal Directory of Trusted Professionals

Who Are These Experts?

Understanding WHAT to do is one obstacle and working out WHO can help you is another.

On a daily basis, our team receives requests for us to recommend design professionals. To make this process easier, We have listed the design professionals that we trust for specific types of projects. Not only do they do a great job, but they provide excellent advice, as well. These are the experts we trust explicitly.

If you have other questions about your project, don't hesitate to reach out to us. If we can't answer your question, then we'll direct you to someone who can.

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"It's not WHAT you know. It's WHO you know."



Questions to Ask

It's Helpful To Have A Process. To Make Sure You Get The BEST Person For The Project.

Asking The Right Questions

Although extensive schooling and training are required for all architects, that doesn't mean all architects are created equal.

Finding the RIGHT architect for you depends on several factors, including: personality, design style, building for taste or to make money, budget and even whether your project requires a specialist skill set.

Choosing the right architect can mean the difference between an enjoyable experience and one plagued with problems and hassles the whole way through once a project moves into the Build Phase. How will your project go?

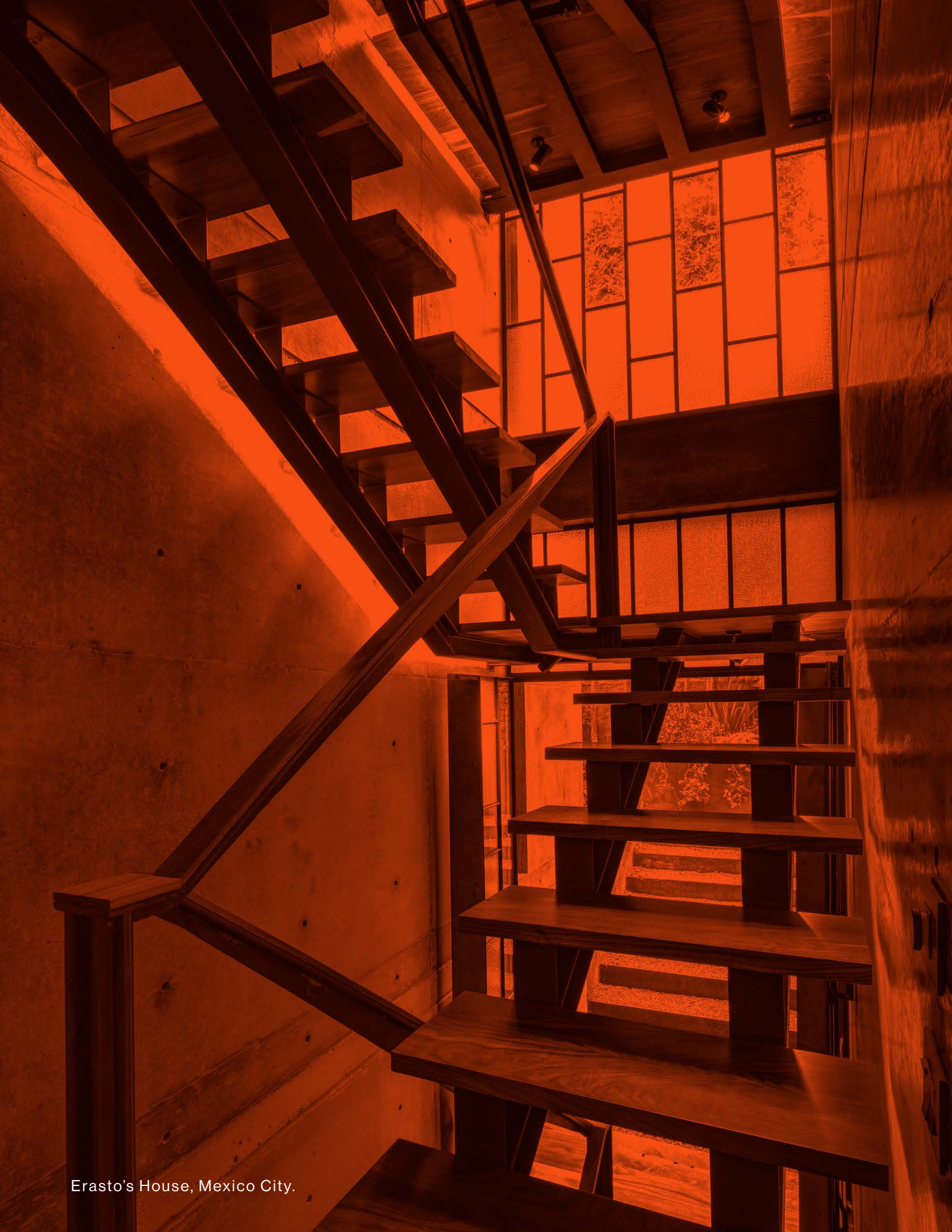
The questions are the answer ...

A great architect is your Designer, Advocate, Teacher, Project Leader and Coordinator

What unique value do you have for our specific type of project?	How would you like me to share my ideas, images, needs, wants and research?
How can you add value to our home so that we maximize the return on investment when/if we sell?	What can I do to help you deliver the best work for us?
Do you offer a pre-design analysis service to help move us safely and efficiently towards the design phase?	Do you have a team game plan that outlines how we will all successfully work together, even under pressure?
What are the specific challenges for our type of project and how have you overcome these in the past?	Will you run the bidding process to find and select the best construction team?
If my budget, timeline and scope of project are unrealistic, will you let me know?	What educational material do you provide so we can understand the requirements of our specific type of project?

Hiring the RIGHT architect is the single most important decision to make on your project.





Erasto's House, Mexico City.

05

Myth and Reality

What Do Architects Actually Do?

An architect's role is a lot larger than most people realize. When an architect manages your project, they ensure that every part of the process below (and more) is handled to ensure that the biggest investment in your life or career is safe and secure.

Myth	Reality
Sketches design that a builder uses.	Checking the title and, in particular, any easements and land covenants that may restrict what or where you can build.
	Ensuring Compliance with building and safety regulations, local planning regulations and restrictions. Depending on the project, there may be laws surrounding the preservation of the local environment or any historic parts of a building.
	Leadership - heading up the team of professionals who will work on this stage of the project including builders, tradespeople, engineers, designers and financial professionals
	Construction documentation - translates the design into instructions and technical specifications for contractors and construction experts. Ensures those specifications are met.
	Project management - site visits and meetings, overseeing the construction and validating quality of work, negotiating with contractors and dealing with and resolving any problems that arise.

In summary, the architect is the conductor of the project orchestra.



How To Create A Design Brief Using Only

Contact the architects you selected to initiate your process

Alice: "Would you tell me, please, which way I ought to go from here?"

The Cheshire Cat: "That depends a good deal on where you want to go."

Alice: "I don't much care where."

The Cheshire Cat: "Then it doesn't much matter which way you go."

The method below is our famous 7 Question design brief creator.

	Question	Answer
1	Outline your current situation about your new project?	
2	What will you need to see to know your project has been a dramatic success?	
3	How do you want to FEEL as you move through your new space?	
4	For what particular needs does this project need to be designed?	
5	What are the budget, timeframes and boundaries we need to work within?	
6	"What spaces do you think are necessary to consider in your new project?"	
7	"Which of our projects do you identify with the most or find inspiring?"	





Public Project General Prim, Mexico City.

07

Readiness Slider

Are You Ready To Move To The Design Phase?

Do You Need An Architect?

This exercise allows you to assess how ready you are to move to the Design Phase. If you are not close to 10 on ALL scales, then it's best to seek help from an expert to do this research.

If you rush into the design phase without this information available, you'll run the risk of making too many assumptions, which is the # 1 reason projects go over budget and over time.

Question (On a 1-10 scale)	Slider (0-10, zero = low, 10 = high)	
How clear are you on exactly what you need?	0	10
how aware are you of all the various options your site will accommodate?	0	10
how confident are you that you are aware of all the legal requirements?	0	10
how aware are you of the process you will need to have in place to get the project completed on time and on budget?	0	10
how confident are you that you that your budget will achieve your needs?	0	10
Give yourself a current overall rating for readiness.	0	10

Don't worry if you are not at 10 on all scales yet. The Pre Design Diagnosis process allows you to fill in the knowledge gaps and gets you ready to move to the Design Phase.



The Next Step

Pre Design Diagnosis

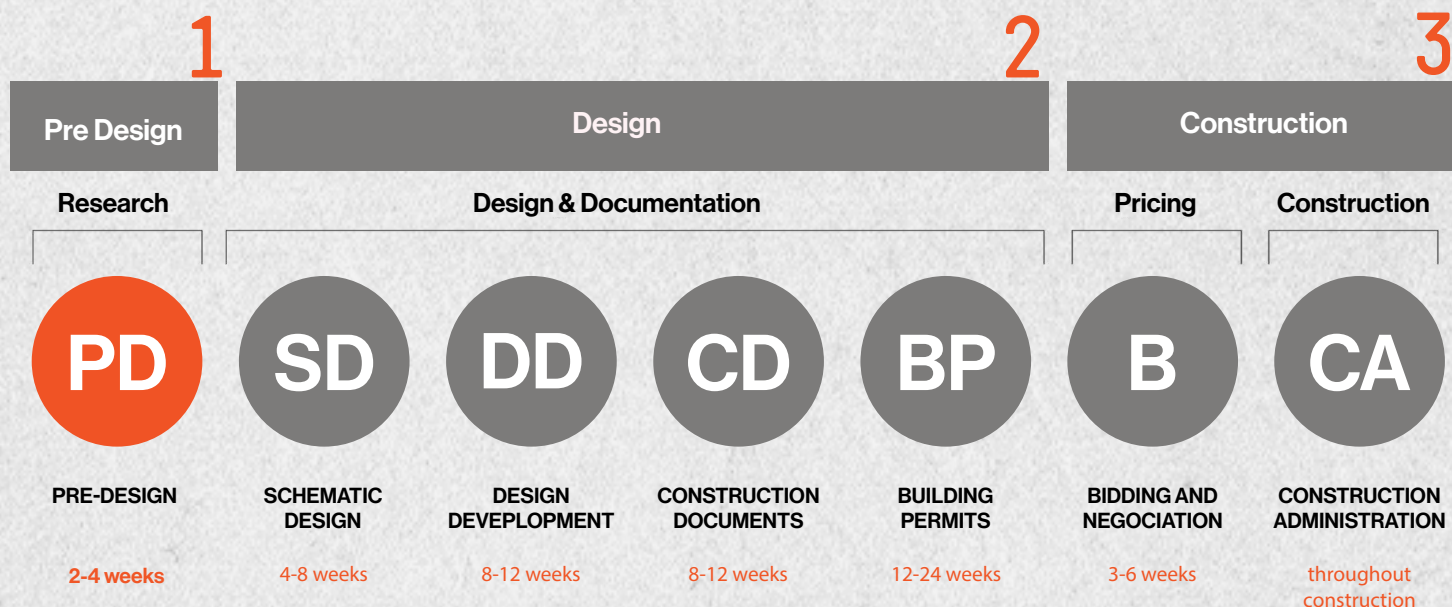
Taking the Next Step in Your Architectural Journey

At VERTEBRAL, we are your collaborative partner, guiding you from concept to construction, making every step of your architectural journey a success. Our client-centric approach ensures your vision is our top priority.

We are a global firm based in Mexico, recognized as a world hub for design. Our international experience allows us to take on projects anywhere in the world!

Architectural Digest included us in their top 100 creatives in Latin America list.

¡Start Here!





● Our Projects
● Our Team



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