

# How to Choose an Architect in Derby, Nottingham, or Lichfield?

written by Stuart Collumbell | 17 July 2024

I often get asked this question, and it's a great one! With so many options online in the Derby area, how do you decide which architectural service is right for you? It can feel overwhelming, but I'm here to help.

Choosing the right architectural service in Derby isn't just about getting your project built; it's about understanding the experience you want from the service. By figuring this out, you can filter out many options before even speaking to anyone. This makes the process so much easier!

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It's similar to other general life decisions. Imagine taking someone out to eat in Derby. You could choose fine dining with elegant attire, a cosy French bistro where the passion for food shines through, or a lively pub serving steak, chips and an entertaining quiz. Each option fulfils the basic need of dining out, but they offer completely different experiences. It's best to decide what experience you want beforehand and act accordingly.

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When it comes to choosing an architect, it's not as clear-cut as picking a place to eat. That's why I've written this blog - to make you aware of the different categories of architectural services available. I'll illustrate this by sharing three fictional stories based on my decade of experience as a registered architect. These stories showcase different architectural services and how clients experience them. By exploring these scenarios, you'll get a better sense of the variety of typical client needs and gain a clearer idea of what to look for in an architectural service that suits you! Just a heads up, I've chosen extreme examples to show the complete range of services available, helping you determine where you fit in.

## **Architectural Service 1:**

### **A Large Architect Firm In Derby**

I heard about them, regularly driving past their lavish offices. I knew they had a strong track record with larger commercial projects, so I was confident they could handle my smaller project as well. The firm's team was always available, with plenty of staff ready to help whenever needed. Plus, every time I visited their office, they offered me amazing coffee and biscuits! I truly felt I received professional service.

## **Architectural Service 2:**

### **An Independent, Registered Architect In Derby**

Before we even spoke to the architect, we did our homework: checking previous client reviews and confirming his registration with the architect board. This was very reassuring, knowing that all the necessary insurance and standards were in place.

Throughout the project, the architect communicated clearly, explaining everything in plain English and listening attentively to our ideas before enhancing them. He provided 3D plans, making it easy for us to visualize the proposed changes. Additionally, he guided us toward more efficient and cost-effective solutions, helping us save money.

Every point of contact was handled directly by him from start to finish, ensuring a seamless and consistent experience throughout the project.

This service was absolutely brilliant, and I wouldn't hesitate to recommend it.

## **Architectural Service 3:**

### **An Architectural Technician In Derby**

We knew what we wanted before we got him on board and wanted the drawing work done as cheaply as possible to allow us to spend more money on the build, and he delivered perfectly with no fuss. The straightforward, no-frills approach was exactly what we needed, and the affordability was a huge plus. Sure, he didn't have insurance, and we weren't entirely sure of his expertise, but the build is complete now, and it does the job!

## **Where Do You Fit in This Spectrum?**

Do your needs align with an architect firm, an independent architect, or an architectural technician? Or perhaps you fall somewhere in between? There's no right or wrong answer; we are all different.

I really hope this blog helps you get a clearer picture of the architectural categories available, become more aware of your specific experience needs, and choose with precision. As I conclude, hopefully, this guide will make selecting an architectural service in Derby, Nottingham, and Lichfield easy for you!

If you're looking for an independent architect in the Derby area, similar to Architectural Service 2, who loves helping people bring their ideas to life and getting the best out of them, feel free to call for a friendly chat. I'm here to help with your home transformation ideas and would love to see if

we're a good fit for your project!

I look forward to hearing from you

Stuart

[Get in touch](#)