

M-Z

Architects

■ **Marshall Sabatini**

Working with a team of architects, designers, landscapers and engineers, this design-build firm turns out condos, homes and schools.
113 Cumberland Pl., Bryn Mawr
610-525-2993
www.marshallsabatini.com

■ **Michael Ryan Architects**

Open, light spaces mark the style of Michael Ryan Architects, the recipient of awards from AIA and the NJ Society of Architects. Known for airy, modern beach houses, Ryan also designs commercial spaces.
221 Chestnut St., Philadelphia
215-928-3800
60 Loveladies Harbor, Loveladies
609-494-5000
www.michaelryanarchitects.com

■ **Montgomery Recht Architects**

Specializing in renovations and additions, Montgomery Recht handles an assortment of residential projects with an emphasis on kitchens and bathrooms.
126 West Cottage Ave., Haddonfield
856-216-9089

■ **Peter Zimmerman Architects**

With a keen eye for historic redesign, this residential design firm focuses on historic restoration and period-oriented architecture.
828 Old Lancaster Road, Berwyn
610-647-6970
www.pzarchitects.com

■ **Qb³**

For cutting-edge modern design, Qb³'s architects build and design everything from dream homes to stylish galleries and coffee shops.
340 North 12th St., Ste. 304, Philadelphia
215-829-1820
www.qb3design.com

■ **Reed Axelrod Architects**

For 14 years, Reed Axelrod has catered to high-end residential customers and corporate clients.
2016 Walnut St., Philadelphia
215-563-1990

■ **Schade and Bolender Architects**

Using sustainable design to create buildings with comfort and function, this architecture and interior design firm is a preservation expert.
2118 Locust St., Philadelphia
215-731-0390
www.schadeandbolender.com

■ **Shep Houston**

For the past 22 years, Shep Houston has designed new homes, renovations and additions on both new and historic properties.
141 Jefferson St., Belmont Hills
610-668-4160

■ **Stephen Varenhorst Architects**

This firm's sleek, contemporary designs elegantly blend modern details with a clean, traditional aesthetic.
1100 East Hector St., Conshohocken
610-940-0855
www.varenhorst.com

■ **Towers & Miller Architects**

Sophisticated residential design meets traditional style at Towers & Miller. The firm's city kitchen won the 2005 Dream Kitchen Contest.
2013 Sansom St., Philadelphia
215-563-7501
www.towersmiller.com

■ **Warren Clayton**

New custom homes, vacation homes and historic remodels are Warren Clayton's specialties.
108 East Lancaster Ave., Wayne
610-688-1744

■ **Weixler, Peterson & Luzi**

In Weixler, Peterson & Luzi's portfolio are historic houses and contemporary oceanfront residences.
232 South 4th St., Philadelphia
215-592-9570
www.wplinc.com

A-G

Builders Remodelers

■ **Benoit & Czarnecki Design/Construction**

Adding a deck or renovating a bathroom? Benoit & Czarnecki handle a variety of residential projects.
14 Clover Lane, Newtown Square
610-353-4644
www.benczar.com

Finding an Architect

FINDING AN ARCHITECT YOU CAN WORK WITH IS A LOT LIKE FINDING

A PSYCHOLOGIST. Whoever you hire has to listen to your hopes, dreams and goals, and help you realize them—without blowing your budget. And this isn't a relationship that is going to pass by quickly—new buildings can take 9 to 16 months, and additions or renovations generally require at least 3 months.

Richard Buchanan, partner at the 11-year-old architecture firm Archer & Buchanan in West Chester, knows how painstaking the search can be, and he offers great advice on what to look for and why. "We make a bridge between ideas or ambitions to have a certain kind of a place, and bring that to a stage where it can be executed by a builder who can tie your ideas to the site budget, and code and permit requirements," he says.

When you start the hunt for an architect, look for someone who has a passion for the kind of work you want done. Look at past projects and talk to references. A good architect will help you figure out if he or she will be a good fit for you and your project, says Buchanan. Budget and time play an important role—you may like a certain firm, but can they work with your timeline?

The most important thing is to be true to yourself and your project. What do you want, and how much attention do you expect? How much can you spend? Do you crave custom cabinets in the kitchen, or would you rather have a heated tile floor? The trick, says Buchanan, "is finding the person whose goals are aligned with yours."

— Jennifer Iacovelli

ARCHER & BUCHANAN ARCHITECTURE,
125 West Miner St., West Chester
610-692-9112, www.archerbuchanan.com



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