

Understanding the Design Process

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1. Introduction

- **Design process:** the structured sequence of stages architects follow to develop a solution to a brief.
- It is iterative, moving back and forth between analysis, ideas and testing.

2. Key Stages

- **Briefing:** clarifying client needs, goals, budget and constraints.
- **Analysis:** studying site, context, users and regulations.
- **Concept design:** generating and exploring initial design ideas.

3. Development Stages

- **Schematic and detailed design:** refining form, materials and systems.
- **Technical design:** producing documentation for construction.
- **Construction and review:** building and evaluating the outcome.

4. Design Thinking

- Encourages empathy with users and problem reframing.
- Uses sketching, modelling and prototyping to test ideas.
- Feedback and iteration improve solutions progressively.

5. Importance

- Provides a logical framework for complex creative work.
- Balances creativity with constraints and practicality.
- Reduces errors and ensures the design meets its purpose.