



Omega Church Consultants, Inc.

architectural • financial • consulting
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“Can We Buy Your Plans?”

Architects are occasionally asked if they will “sell” a set of plans that were once created for another church. These inquiries often come from someone who has seen a church that they believe would perfectly meet the needs of their congregation. They assume that the architect may be happy to simply copy the plans and sell them for a small fee.

Few if any architects will be interested in such a proposition. Architects do not sell a product... they provide a service based on the unique needs of their client. The architect must design each church in accordance with the prevailing local codes, and soil and climate conditions of the project. Available utility services will affect the mechanical design. Furthermore, material availability and local construction techniques also vary from place to place.

An architect provides services to the church that go beyond the printed plans. Hiring an architect creates a long-term relationship where the church will benefit from the design professional’s experience, creativity, and counsel. Furthermore, churches usually want to insure that the unique design that they worked hard to develop with the help of their architect will not be duplicated in every detail by another church that is trying to save money by copying their beautiful new creation. Courts have long held that architects retain all legal rights and ownership of their designs. The architect’s clients cannot give or sell plans to others without the architect’s permission.

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