



---

---

# Ωmega Church Consultants, Inc.

---

---

architectural • financial • consulting  
construction management

## Conceptual Design Phase

The architectural design process normally consists of four major phases: Master Planning, Conceptual Design, Design Development, and Construction Plans. We have previously addressed the Master Planning process, so we will concentrate on the Conceptual Design phase now.

The architect will develop one or more Conceptual Designs, usually consisting of a site plan, a floor plan and exterior elevations, that address the needs of the church as identified in the Feasibility Study and Master Planning phases. The Conceptual Plans are drawn to scale but will not include design details. The church may want to limit the Conceptual Plans to the first phase of construction, or it may want to include plans for future construction. In the case of a church with a balcony, for example, the architect could design only the main floor of the building and indicate the upper level only as "unfinished future balcony". However, for many important reasons, the church may want the balcony completely designed even if the construction will be completed later. Another option would be to prepare conceptual plans for the balcony, but not to develop the balcony detail in subsequent design phases. The point is that the architect needs to know what the church wants drawn, and for what purpose.

The purpose of the Conceptual Plans is to offer the church a few design options to consider that will meet their needs and construction budget. From these Conceptual Plans the church can select one design to proceed with in the Design Development stage that follows.

Jeff Thomas is Vice President of Omega Church Consultants, Inc., Church Designers and Builders, located in Indianapolis. You may contact him at [info@omegachurchdesign.com](mailto:info@omegachurchdesign.com) or (317) 359-6248 or visit the Omega website at <http://www.omegachurchdesign.com>.  
Copyright 2001 All Rights Reserved.