

What is Architectural Documentation?

Worksheet

Architectural documentation is the collection of drawings, schedules, and specifications - plans, sections, elevations, and details - that communicate a building's design intent clearly enough to obtain permits and guide construction.

Questions

1. Which documentation stage produces loose diagrams and massing studies?
 - A) Construction Documents
 - B) Schematic Design
 - C) Permit Set
 - D) As-Built Record
2. What is the main purpose of a Permit Set?
 - A) To record final field changes
 - B) To sketch early design ideas
 - C) To get approval from the building authority
 - D) To select furniture
3. Which document set is used by a contractor to actually build the project?
 - A) Schematic Design
 - B) Construction Documents
 - C) Massing study
 - D) Marketing renderings
4. Why are As-Built drawings created?
 - A) To replace the permit set before construction
 - B) To show the earliest design concept
 - C) To record what was actually built, including changes
 - D) To calculate material costs only
5. A residential architect submits drawings to city hall to get building approval. Which documentation stage is this?
6. During early design meetings, an architect shows the client bubble diagrams and a simple floor layout. Which stage is this?
7. After a building is finished, the architect updates the drawings to match the actual constructed conditions, including contractor changes. Which document set is this?
8. Define: What is architectural documentation?
9. Define: What happens in Schematic Design?
10. Define: What are Construction Documents?

Answer Key

1. B) Schematic Design - Schematic Design is the early conceptual stage before detailed drawings exist.
2. C) To get approval from the building authority - The Permit Set is submitted specifically for code review and official approval to build.
3. B) Construction Documents - Construction Documents contain the dimensioned drawings and specifications needed to build.
4. C) To record what was actually built, including changes - As-Built drawings document the final constructed condition for future maintenance and renovation.
5. The drawings are fully dimensioned with code-required details They are being reviewed by the building authority for compliance This is the Permit Set stage
6. The drawings are conceptual, not dimensioned They establish overall massing and room relationships This is the Schematic Design stage
7. Construction often deviates slightly from the original drawings The final drawings are revised to match reality This is the As-Built Record
8. The complete set of drawings, schedules, and specifications used to design, permit, price, and build a project.
9. Rough diagrams and massing studies define the overall concept before details are worked out.
10. The fully detailed, dimensioned drawings and specifications used by contractors to build and by owners to obtain pricing.

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