

What is Construction Documentation?

Worksheet

Construction documentation is the phase where a design is translated into precise, coordinated drawings, schedules, and specifications - plans, sections, elevations, and details - used to obtain permits, bid the job, and build accurately.

Questions

1. What is the main purpose of construction documents?

- A) To brainstorm design ideas
- B) To instruct contractors exactly how to build the project
- C) To market the project to clients
- D) To calculate the project budget only

2. What is 'detailing' in architecture?

- A) Choosing paint colors
- B) Resolving how materials and systems physically connect
- C) Writing the project schedule
- D) Selecting the site

3. Which of these is typically found in a CD set?

- A) Only rough concept sketches
- B) Door and window schedules
- C) Marketing renderings only
- D) Client interview notes

4. Why draw a wall section at a larger scale than the floor plan?

- A) To make the drawing look nicer
- B) To show material layers and connections clearly
- C) Because it's required by law everywhere
- D) To reduce the number of drawings needed

5. A contractor receives a construction document set for a house. What must it include to get a building permit?

6. Why does an architect draw a large-scale wall section detail instead of just the small-scale floor plan?

7. A door schedule on a CD set lists Door 101 as 36 x 84 inches, solid-core wood, 90-minute fire rating. Why include this instead of just drawing the door on the plan?

8. Define: What is construction documentation?

9. Define: What is 'detailing' in architecture?

10. Define: What does a CD set typically include?

Answer Key

1. B) To instruct contractors exactly how to build the project - CDs translate the design into precise instructions for permitting, bidding, and building.
2. B) Resolving how materials and systems physically connect - Detailing shows exactly how components like walls, roofs, and windows meet and perform.
3. B) Door and window schedules - Schedules for doors, windows, and finishes are standard parts of a construction document set.
4. B) To show material layers and connections clearly - Larger scale is needed to show assembly details that a small floor plan scale can't capture.
5. Dimensioned floor plans showing every wall, door, and window. Building sections showing floor-to-floor heights and structure. Details showing how the roof meets the wall, including flashing and insulation. Specifications noting exact materials, like a specific brick type and R-value of insulation.
6. The floor plan shows layout but not how materials assemble. A large-scale wall section shows layers: sheathing, insulation, vapor barrier, cladding. This detail prevents the contractor from guessing and causing leaks or code violations.
7. The plan symbol alone can't convey size, material or fire rating. The schedule gives the contractor and supplier exact specifications to order and install the correct door. This coordination prevents costly on-site substitutions.
8. The set of detailed drawings, schedules, and specifications used to permit, bid, and build a project accurately.
9. Resolving exactly how materials and building systems physically meet and perform, drawn at a larger scale than plans.
10. Dimensioned plans, sections, elevations, wall and roof details, and door, window, and finish schedules.

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