



Australian
Institute of
Architects

CLIENT RESOURCE

Single Residential Projects

UNDERSTANDING
CONSTRUCTION COSTS





UNDERSTANDING CONSTRUCTION COSTS

In Australia we have a great, well regulated and extremely skilled building industry, however, this can also make the cost of building expensive. Sometimes the cost of building can come as a surprise, so it's important to have an accurate understanding of the construction cost throughout the project to ensure it comes to life.

It's also important to keep in mind, that whilst construction costs are the major component of your project costs, it usually does not include the costs of consultants, planning and approval fees.

As each architectural project is unique, there are many variables which will impact on the cost of construction including:

- The site (access, gradient, location, condition of the existing house)
- Timing (both material cost increases, builders availability as well as competitiveness in the industry changes frequently)
- The builder you engage (like everything, skill and pride in work varies across the industry)
- Construction quality, materials and methodology (timber, brick or concrete construction)
- The design (which is why you engaged an architect).

There are many ways you can get an understanding of construction costs on your project, but it's important to know what is reliable. The builder is obligated to rectify the issue. While this provides security to the owner it should be noted that the client is paying for this arrangement.

Preview Only

This is an extract from our client resource library.

The full document includes detailed guidance, examples, and notes tailored to new projects.

To receive the complete version, simply get in touch — we'll be happy to provide it.

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