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Design Development: Designing the Project

STUART **COHEN**, AIA

Design development is the process of taking the work produced during the schematic design phase of a project, the conceptual design sketches and other forms of information or research, and continuing its development. This is usually done through the design decisions that go into greater detail with respect to the quantifiable aspects of a project such as size, materials, and methods of construction. Depending on the type of project and the role of the design professional, the work to be done may include a first attempt at generating dimensioned floor plans and wall elevations, the selection of materials and manufactured products, and the design of construction details showing how different materials and finishes come together. Because we are architects as well as interior designers, during this phase of our work, we are concerned with the development of both the exteriors and interiors of the buildings we do.

As architects we are often puzzled by the conceptual separation between the interior and the exterior of a building and the separation of professional services that characterizes the work of most architects. We believe that the same formal and compositional ideas that generate the exterior of a building should inform its interior. Our practice is primarily custom residential architecture. While most of our clients will work with an interior designer or a decorator on the selection of furnishings, we define the scope of the services we provide as extending to the design, selection, and specification of everything that is permanently attached to a building. Because we are designing both the building and its architectural interiors, we usually deal, during schematic design, with the building's basic planning rather than issues related to interior design. During this phase we are establishing basic plan organization and exterior massing in freehand sketches. Window locations are always considered from the inside as well as the outside, but the interiors are still thought of as spaces rather than being fully conceived. These spaces may have unique