

Hi Steve,

I'm happy to share our experiences working with James and comment on his abilities as an architect. Please feel free to contact me if you have additional questions or want something clarified. I'll respond point by point in response to your questions.

1. James worked on designing our dream retirement home on 20 acres in the foothills northwest of Fort Collins. We began collaborating on the project while we were living in Louisville, KY prior to our retirement.
2. We did not ask James to design something within the parameters of a set budget. We began the project with a 2.5 page description of what we wanted the design to accomplish. This included such things as incorporating the 360 degree panoramic views, energy efficiency, using sustainable and maintenance free products, blending the structure into the surrounding land, providing an open floor concept that brings the wonderful views and outdoor environment to life within the house, and on and on. As we moved forward on the design, we made adjustments as necessary to manage any budget requirements.
3. James far exceeded our preferences and needs with his design. We had a comprehensive list of "wants & musts", and I believe he nailed them all. He is one of the most creative people I have ever encountered and working with him on the design was invigorating.
4. His construction documents were excellent. I had never been heavily involved in constructing a house, and I was able to follow the plans easily.
5. Question 5 is an interesting one to contemplate and brings back some stressful moments. We did not have him supervise the builder. However, prior to the actual construction beginning, we fired the general contractor because he was delaying our project and costing us precious time to begin before winter set in. James convinced me that I could supervise the construction and that he would help me keep things on track. It worked out perfectly. My first and last general contractor job.
6. James provided us with a detailed Architectural Letter of Agreement that outlined the scope of the project, what his duties were, and the cost for his services. There were no surprises.
7. My answers above should convince you that we were totally satisfied with the job James did for us. There's more though. His creativity and heart that he brought to the project produced something that is very special. People notice it when they visit our home. There is a feeling that the land and the house convey, a feeling of belonging. It's more than just a structure on a piece of land.

I hope I haven't gone on too much about the art of our project. I have a financial background so meeting the budget and keeping our costs in check were very much on my mind. We just ended up with so much more than we expected, and James was principally responsible for that. Based on our experience, we highly recommend James as an architect on your project.

