



GRUPPO ARKITEKTO CO., INC.

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special feature **Successful Property Developers**  
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...the architect should not only know the (estimated) costs, but more importantly, the value for your money."

Meanwhile, Gruppo Arkitetto Company, Inc. President Donato Magcale said in an e-mail that clients should learn to differentiate their words from their wants to avoid unexpected fees. "Each proposal should be economically realistic and double within [the project's] timeline."

According to Mr. Magcale, regular meetings and site visits with the architectural group are a must. "Cordial, receptive, and professional communication between the client and architect will allow thorough delivery on all the requirements," he said. He also recommended having a design team with the most up-to-date communication services.

Finally, Mr. Magcale said successful architects should understand design systems for the modern office space. "Green architecture seeks to minimize energy consumption, and there is always a triple concept here that it would be expensive [not] go green," he said. For added guidance, he said to contact the Philippine Green Building Council (PHGBGC) and the Green Architecture Movement of the United Architects of the Philippines (UAP).

...the architect firm is not doing its job properly, he can always consider moving to a different firm."

Carlo Madero, managing partner of MADA Architects and Interior Design, shared his insights as well. "I can't tell you for a fact, but a good design team, one that respects deadlines, has the time to ask questions about the practicality of the designs," he said in an e-mail.

Timing is another key factor in the architect-firm choice, Mr. Madero said. "I'd like to see... Enjoy the design process, because making changes to the design, the problems, come out often required." He also said to require other design systems from the most available to the client.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF MADA ARCHITECTS

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**ONE ROCKWELL WEST TOWER** **PETRON MEGAPLAZA**

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"Our work is a creation of something ordinary to become extra ordinary"  
- Ar. Donato Magcale