

Things to consider when starting on a studio design concept:

1. Where is the building you intend to use or build located, in a commercial or residentially zoned area? Ask the local building code authority, as they will answer that question. You should consider the fact that, home studios, and certainly commercial studios located in residentially zoned areas may be prohibited by building codes in certain localities.

2. How many square feet are you intending to build, or do you need, as the build would be subject to square foot pricing in developing a budget? Briefly describe what your use of the studio may be, music production, voice over, etc. Drawing a simple, scaled to ¼" per foot floor plan of what you envision would help anyone wanting to see you existing situation. Download our [letter](#), [legal](#), or [11x17](#) graph paper.

3. If the building already exists, can you detail some things about the building:
 - a) What is the age and general type of construction, brick, cement block, wood siding, etc?

 - b) What are the window types, roof type, proximity to your nearest neighbor?

 - c) What is the amperage size of main electrical service panel, and how many HVAC units furnish the existing building, as studios use dedicated power and HVAC?

 - d) Are you located near a street with heavy traffic, airport, or a railroad?

4. Now, start listing the rooms you would need inside this building. Control room, tracking room, isolation rooms (how many), and other intended uses, task areas like offices, foyers, and bathrooms, etc.

5. Do you have a budget in mind, and will this budget apply to the real-world costs of building a recording studio? Studio construction costs can vary greatly, and the design of the studio revolved around the design. Come to the table with some idea of the available funds you may need or ask us to provide windows of probable cost.

6. What type of time frames are you on, this is process takes time, and being realistic is crucial to those who are involved?

7. Do you have a local building contractor who may be able to handle some of the local permits, sub contractor interface, and foundational aspects of a building project?

8. Is there another local architect involved in the design work, as architecture is also regulated from state to state, location to location, etc.?

9. If you own studio equipment, and intend to use it in your new environment, then it plays an important role moving forward. Make an equipment list, as it will be included in determining many aspects of the studio design.

These questions and many more can be addressed early on, to form a communication loop, which is clear.

Thanks for your input and we can discuss this process as it unfolds.

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