

### 5 Ways to Save Time and Money on Your Next Construction Project

Construction can be overwhelming. Between costs, timelines, and drawings, how do you know that everything is covered? How can you be sure you are making the best choice for your budget and timeline? As you dive into the process, consider these five ways to save on your next construction project.

#### 1. Lock in and involve your GC early

In a traditional plan-and-spec construction process, general contractors aren't brought on until the architect and engineers have solidified the concept and design. However, this is the surest route to sticker shock. Without a GC weighing in before the plans are finalized, building costs can never be more than a rough estimate. Traditional GCs will need the architectural and engineering plans to give you a firm price, but if you choose to use a design-builder, loop them in as early as possible. This will lead to firm pricing much earlier in the process.

A **design-builder** can drive even more value by collaborating with your existing design team or involving their in-house design resources to uncover every engineering opportunity for savings. You will know your costs earlier and see lower overall project costs, too.

#### 2. Make use of in-house preconstruction teams

Depending on your reasons for construction, demand for your business may not be the only consideration for where you build. Partnering with firms that have **in-house preconstruction teams** can give you the upper hand when it comes to identifying new sites with the best returns, as well as navigating the red tape of local government so your project wastes no days getting off the ground.

#### 3. Avoid design changes mid-construction

Most people know that preparation is the key to success—before you break ground, make sure that your designs are as you want them. Design changes, regardless of how minor they may be, can throw off your schedule and budget in ways you wouldn't expect. However, if you can't help but make tweaks, partnering with a contractor that can **track change orders** will allow you to see the implications of changes to the schedule and budget before pulling any triggers.

#### 4. Find tech-savvy partners

Cutting-edge technology plays a key factor in saving time and money in construction. Not all contractors are outfitted with the same tools as the next. Companies like **ARCO/Murray** are using project management software like **Procore**, **PlanGrid** and **iSqft** to track schedules and manage subcontractors, as well as give clients a high-level view of projects at every stage. Other tools such as **VR Previsualization** and **Point Cloud Scanning** come in handy during the design phase, streamlining modeling and providing a more robust approach to reviewing design decisions.

#### 5. Don't get fooled by fees

It may be tempting to choose a GC based on how you see the fee breakdown—however, the lesson learned by many is you get what you pay for. If you receive two proposals totaling the same cost, but with one quoting a higher fee, don't jump the gun and run straight to the "cheaper" firm.

*ARCO/Murray is a single source national design and construction firm that specializes in commercial construction and real estate needs for Fortune 500 companies and individual business. From planning to execution, ARCO/Murray's expert team uses the most advanced design-build methodology to deliver the very best client experience. ARCO/Murray focus on understanding their client's business to bring their vision to life through the construction process. To learn more about ARCO/Murray, visit [www.arcomurray.com](http://www.arcomurray.com)*