

„design by mediation“

- **support in the design process**
- **preventive mediation**

especially in the building process, mediation offers the possibility of a preventive application. in „design by mediator“, the architect / mediator uses mediation or mediative concepts and methods of communication in

- the design process, and
- during the construction period.

mediation in the design process

one application of mediative concepts and methods within the services provided by an architect is the preliminary design- and design phase. the definition of the design criteria, i.e. the possibilities (budget, plot, etc.), interests and requirements of the client can be achieved within the structure and using the methods of a classical mediation.

in the design process of a project, the architect often works with several persons with differing interests und requirements. not only, but especially in this project phase, it is important for the architect to remain impartial, in order to find the best solution for all involved.

mediative intervention techniques provide the architect with the tools to optimize communication with the client, creating a solid base for a future-oriented, creative solution with the potential for long-term consensus.

in the frequently quite intimate discourse with the client in the design process, an architect trained as mediator will be able to meet both the material and the emotional needs of a client.

mediation during the construction period

under the condition of general acceptance of his impartialness, a mediator can accompany the building process, in order to prevent or settle conflicts before or as soon as they arise.

in this case, it is important to create awareness of the potential for conflict in a building process and, therefore, to integrate a mechanism for conflict resolution in a design or building contract. additionally to a simple „mediation clause“, which usually only foresees a – hopefully successful - mediation attempt before going to court, a mediator accompanying the construction phase focusses on the preventive aspect. by taking part in regular project meetings, the mediator can identify potential conflicts, optimize communication and understanding, in order to work together on an optimal solution for everyone involved.

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