

# Your guide to the New Zealand design and consenting processes

The design and consenting processes here in New Zealand are complex, and they can be daunting for those of us developing, designing, and building.

Created by integrated design service Context, this guide is meant as a handy reference tool to simplify the process and help you see your vision realised with minimal confusion and frustration.

The following pages give an overview of the design and consenting processes here in Aotearoa and include:

- An explanation of the role of the architect in New Zealand
- Information about Councils and consenting processes
- Common obstacles or challenges to be aware of
- An outline of Context's integrated design services and how we can help you
- A glossary of industry terminology
- A breakdown of commonly used consultants

[Read on to learn more.](#)

To get in touch, drop us an email at [hello@context.nz](mailto:hello@context.nz)  
or give us a call on **09 358 0140**.

**[www.context.nz](http://www.context.nz)**



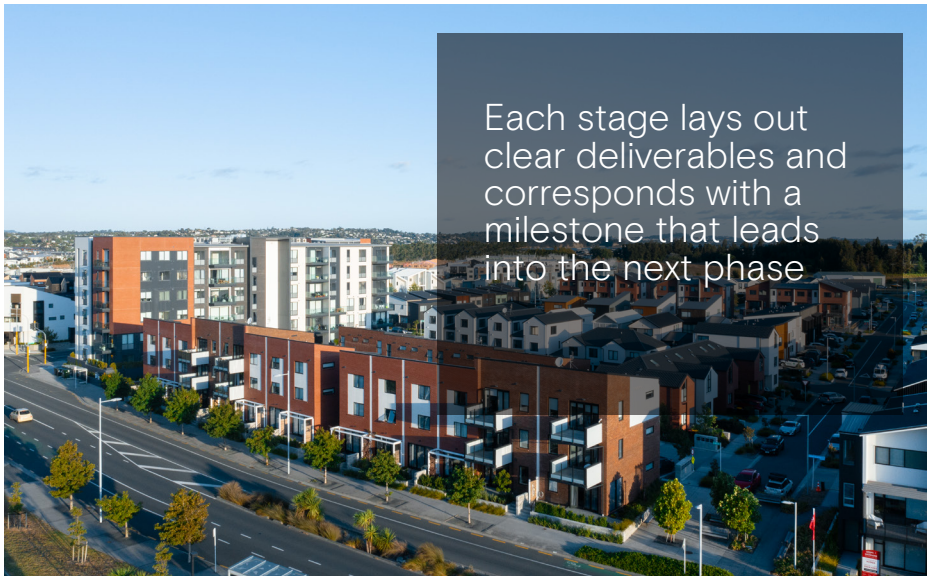
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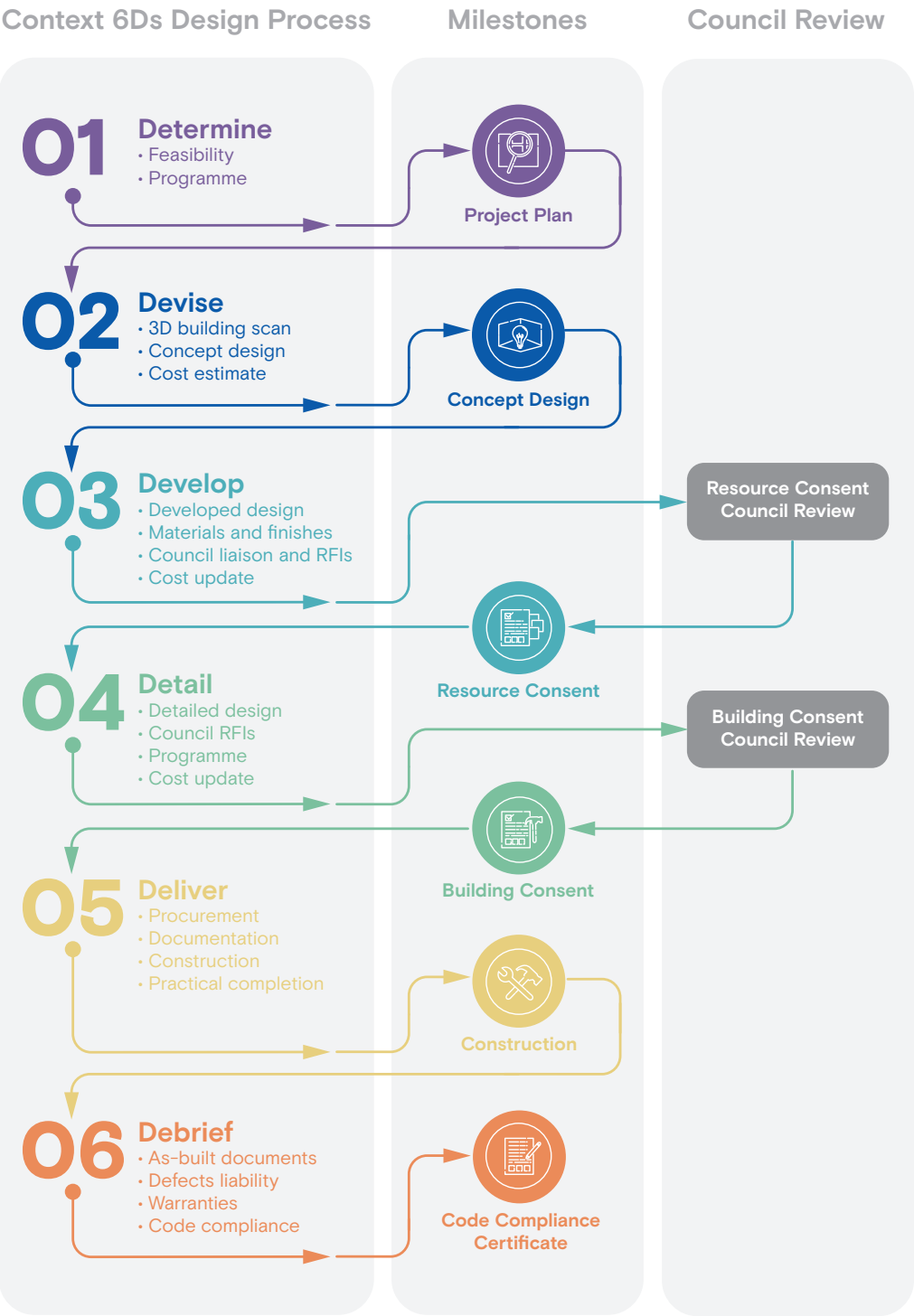
**Albany Rose Garden**  
Masterplanning and architecture

# Let us take you further

Council processes and legislation such as the Resource Management Act 1991 and the Building Act 2004 make New Zealand's design and consenting processes particularly complex.

To break everything down into simple, easy-to-understand stages, we use a design process called the 6Ds. This applies to any project here in New Zealand, be it a private residence, hotel, office, apartment complex, townhouse development, masterplan for a large project, or whatever else you have in mind (see diagram on the next page).





## In New Zealand, you can only hold the title of ‘architect’ if:

- You’re officially registered as an architect by the New Zealand Registered Architects Board (NZRAB)

Architects in New Zealand are bound by building legislation and local Council rules that cannot be circumvented. They and other consultants must comply with and meet the requirements of district plans as well as Council and Government legislation (such as town planning rules, fire laws, the Resource Management Act, and the Building Act).



While architects do have a leading role in the building and design activity of New Zealand (and are often referred to as lead consultants), they don't sit at the top of a hierarchy as they do in some other places around the world. Instead, they form part of a team of consultants, all working together to bring different skills and expertise to projects and to achieve the best possible outcomes for clients.

