

services

Paul Testa Architecture can provide a large number and variety of services for clients, commercial and domestic, large and small at all stages in the construction process and beyond. My experience encompasses working with new and existing buildings in both contemporary and historic contexts.

I am very keen to ensure that the buildings I design are very comfortable, low energy and sustainably built. I am happy and willing to offer advice on this at whatever stage I am involved as I believe it should be fundamental to everything I do. This can be from minimising the environmental impact and carbon footprint of the materials we use, to using materials that improve indoor air quality and to minimising the energy my clients use in their buildings.

The RIBA splits the design and construction into what is called the RIBA Outline Plan of Work which organises the process of managing, and designing building projects and administering building contracts into a number of key Work Stages. The following indicates the potential range of services I can offer throughout a typical construction project. Not all are required in every project and many clients may wish to use my services up to a certain stage in a project, or for individual elements. I am happy to discuss these requirements to best match my skills to the client's requirements.

For most works I would be appointed under a standard RIBA agreement, which I can discuss with the client prior to proceeding with any work.

The requirements of a Passivhaus project:

There has been increasing interest in my experience and skills in the design of buildings that are designed to comply and be certified to the Passivhaus standard.

The process of designing a building so that it meets the stringent requirements of Passivhaus needs to start at RIBA stage A; when the design brief is being drawn up. If it's left any later than this, then design decisions that have already been made and agreed can make it difficult or impossible to achieve.

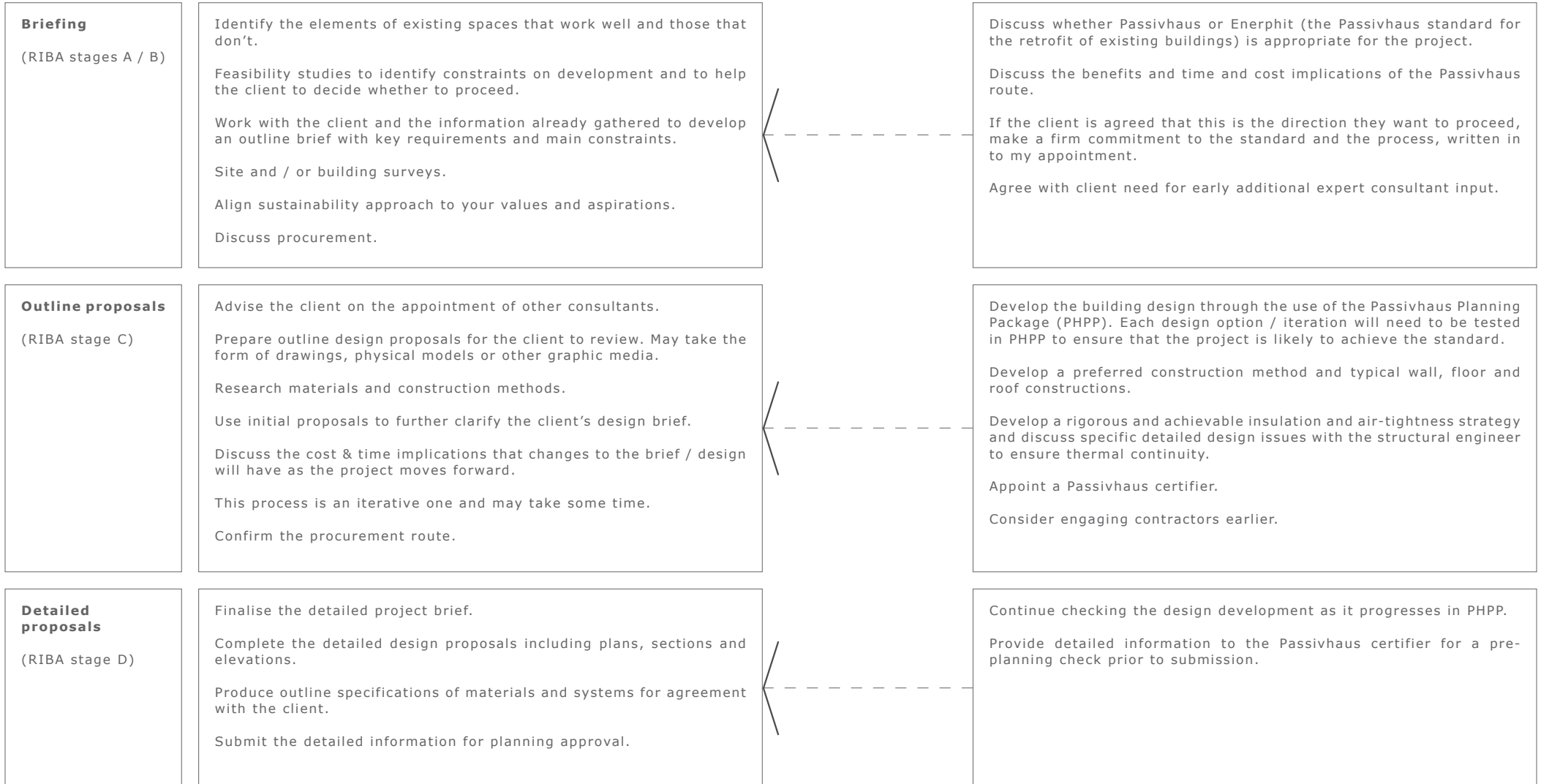
Throughout the whole design process, the demands of the Passivhaus design and certification process mean that there are a number of additional tasks and services that I need to provide. Some of these are new elements that I would not undertake in a normal project; others are essentially bringing tasks forward to ensure at an earlier stage that they don't compromise the building fabric performance.

To clarify this, a separate Passivhaus column is included for each RIBA work stage identifying the additional requirements.

"Near" Passivhaus projects:

There may be clients who buy in to the principals of Passivhaus, but will struggle to achieve the standard, either because of cost or other constraints. In these situations I would propose to use AECB Silver as a baseline position. This allows us to still use the Passivhaus methodology, but the standard is less stringent and the certification process is easier and cheaper.

typical construction project



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