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## TEST BEFORE YOU INVEST'S FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS **THE IMPORTANCE OF ENGAGING DESIGN PRACTITIONERS EARLY**

Planning a renovation or new build is an exciting but complex journey, and the decisions made in the early stages have a lasting impact on cost, efficiency, and overall success. Many homeowners assume they can finalise key design choices later in the process, but this often leads to expensive changes, project delays, and compromises in quality.

One of the most effective ways to reduce costs and avoid costly design changes is by engaging design practitioners early in the process. Many homeowners assume they can finalise details as the project unfolds, but in reality, late-stage decisions often trigger a costly domino effect.

Every design choice influences multiple aspects of a project—from structural engineering and compliance to material procurement and construction sequencing. A seemingly small change made late in the process can result in extensive redesigns, re-approvals, and delays. This means additional consultant fees, rework for builders, increased approval costs, extended lead times for materials, and, ultimately, a project that costs more and takes longer than anticipated.

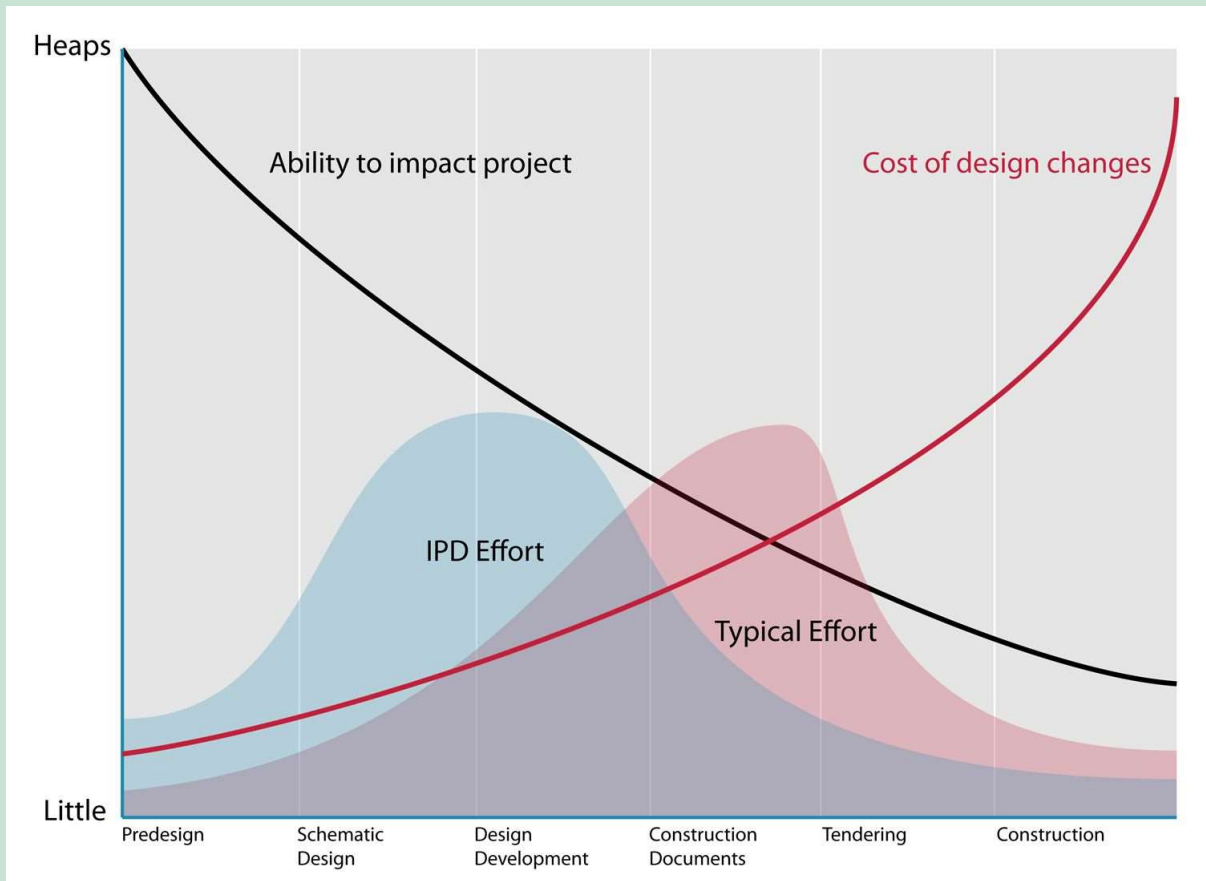
By engaging design practitioners early, you ensure that your project is set up for success from the beginning. Early planning allows for a holistic approach, where architectural design, engineering, compliance, and budgeting are considered together—before they become expensive problems to solve.

The MacLeamy Curve illustrates this concept, showing that the earlier design decisions are made, the more impact they have on cost savings and project outcomes.

### **Understanding the MacLeamy Curve**

The MacLeamy Curve, developed by Patrick MacLeamy, highlights how design changes become more expensive the further along a project is in its development. By shifting design efforts earlier in the timeline, project teams can make informed decisions when changes are easier and less costly to implement.

Refer to the MacLeamy Curve Diagram on the following page:



### Benefits of Frontloading Design Effort

- **Improved Cost Efficiency:** Early investment in design leads to reduced rework and budget overruns.
- **Better Decision-Making:** Engaging design professionals upfront ensures a well-thought-out project strategy.
- **Reduced Project Risks:** Identifying potential issues early allows for proactive problem-solving rather than reactive fixes.
- **Enhanced Project Outcomes:** A well-planned design leads to better functionality, aesthetics, and long-term performance.

### Why Work With Test Before You Invest?

*At Test Before You Invest, we believe in providing upfront, qualified advice before you get too deep into the process. Our approach aligns with the MacLeamy Curve principles, ensuring you make informed decisions at the right stage to avoid costly mistakes later. If you're planning a project and want to maximise value while reducing risks, feel free to book a consultation with one of our experienced professionals. Our team can provide you with expert insights and practical solutions to ensure you're making the most informed*

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