

CLIENT CARDS

The following cards feature twelve clients with specific needs and design challenges. They can be used and adapted for any design or building lesson to challenge participants with real-world design scenarios. For an additional challenge, the client cards can also be paired with site cards which provide environmental and landscape descriptions. To find lessons that pair with these clients explore build and design in the Lesson Plan section of the Teaching by Design website. And don't forget to check out how Frank Lloyd Wright solved some of the same design challenges!

CLIENT ONE

NEEDS

3 Bedrooms
Garage
Large public space
Play space

WANTS

Lots of windows
Connection to nature

DESCRIPTION

BUILDING TYPE: House

This family of four includes two adults, a boy (age 6), and a girl (age 2).

Client One is looking for a private and safe home where their children can play inside and outdoors. This family loves to spend their time outside and requests that the house be designed with a connection to nature and include many windows. In addition, they often have friends and family visit, and ask for large, public spaces to have parties and dinners. Finally, the father owns a business where he builds cars and asks for a space at home where he can work and store them.

CLIENT TWO

NEEDS

3 Bedrooms
2 Offices/workspaces
1 Private entrance
1 Public entrance

WANTS

Space for their son & 2 dogs

DESCRIPTION

BUILDING TYPE: House

This family of three includes two adults and a boy (age 5).

Client Two is looking for a unique home where they can work and raise their young son. Both fathers have home businesses and need separate offices or workspaces. One is a designer and the other is a veterinarian. They also would like 2 entrances, one for their family and the other for clients. In addition to their son, the family also has two medium sized dogs that like to run around. Client Two also has a large extended family that visits often, and requests an extra bedroom for them to use.

CLIENT THREE

NEEDS

2 Bedrooms
Study Space

WANTS

vegetable garden
Freenhouse or garden shed
Space for books

DESCRIPTION

BUILDING TYPE: House

This family of three includes two elderly adults and a girl (age 12).

Client Three would like a home that is large enough to include a study space for their granddaughter, but small enough that they can continue to live in as they age. While they do not want a large house or yard to care for, they do enjoy gardening and grow vegetables each summer. They also like to read together and have a large library of books. This family would also like the interior spaces to feel open and be full of light.

CLIENT FOUR

NEEDS

3 Bedrooms
Wheelchair accessible
Large dining area

WANTS

Open floor plan
Separation of public & private spaces

DESCRIPTION

BUILDING TYPE: House

This family of four includes two adults and a girl (age 11) and a girl (age 8).

Client Four has a parent who uses a wheelchair and requires space to be able to easily move around. Family dinners are especially important and so a large dining area where they can all sit together is required. The family would also like all the private spaces to be near one another and separate from the public areas of the home.

CLIENT FIVE

NEEDS

3 Bedrooms
Open den/living room
View of backyard from the kitchen

WANTS

A large, quiet master bedroom
Storage space

DESCRIPTION

BUILDING TYPE: House

This family of three includes one adult and a boy (age 4) and a girl (age 6).

Client Five would like a house design that helps to keep things organized and has plenty of storage space. With two young children, a large open living room for the family to play inside together is important. Likewise, a view of the backyard from the kitchen is important to help watch the children play outdoors. Client Five would also like a large master bedroom where they can relax each night.

CLIENT SIX

NEEDS

5 bedrooms
Large kitchen
Large Living room

WANTS

A laundry room
Storage

DESCRIPTION

BUILDING TYPE: House

This family of 6 includes three adults and boy (age 10), a boy (age 14), and a girl (age 16).

Client Six is a large family with lots of diverse needs. Included in the family is a grandparent who would like their own bedroom and bathroom separate from the rest of the family. The family also requires a large kitchen for them to all cook and eat together in and a large living room for the family to watch movies and play games in. The parents would also like a laundry room and additional storage to help with the demands of a larger family.

CLIENT SEVEN

NEEDS

Studio
Client waiting room
Large office

WANTS

Tall ceilings
High placed windows
Space for multiple work stations

DESCRIPTION

BUILDING TYPE: Studio & Office

Client Seven is building a new headquarters for their architectural firm. They require a building that has a large studio with space for up to 6 work stations, and a place for their clients to sit comfortably and wait. Client Seven also requires a separate office that has a space for an assistant as well as a private space to do work. To help the office feel open, the client would prefer high ceilings with plenty of long horizontal windows placed high on the walls. This will help provide plenty of natural light while preserving their privacy.

CLIENT EIGHT

NEEDS

A large multipurpose room
A large exhibition area
3 offices
Single level

WANTS

Windows only in front & offices
Open floor plan

DESCRIPTION

BUILDING TYPE: Museum

Client Eight is building a small, single level museum. The museum will share history and artwork about the local community. They require a large exhibition area for the artifacts and artwork as well as a large space that can be used for meetings, workshops, and other groups. Client Eight would prefer that the windows are only placed at the front of the museum and inside the offices. An open floor plan would also help with the movement of guests and provide additional flexibility for different exhibits.

CLIENT NINE

NEEDS

2 large rooms
A single office with 2 areas

WANTS

Tall ceilings
1 space with plenty of windows
1 space with no windows

DESCRIPTION

BUILDING TYPE: Community Center

Client Nine is building a new community center that needs to separate large rooms that can be used for multiple events. One room should have plenty of windows and provide lots of natural light. The second room should have no windows. To help the spaces feel open even when they are crowded, Client Nine would like the rooms to have tall ceilings. The community center also needs an office that has 2 different work areas.

CLIENT TEN

NEEDS

Reception Area
Breakroom/kitchen
Bathrooms
Conference space

WANTS

Tall ceilings
High placed windows
Open Concept
Opportunity to rent work spaces to

DESCRIPTION

BUILDING TYPE: Office Building

Client Ten needs an office building for their company of 30 employees. While the building will primarily serve their business, they would like the building to be designed so they could rent out work space to others for additional revenue if needed. The design of the space should be open with work stations for each person. A reception area is needed to welcome clients as well as a conference room for group collaborations. The client prefers natural light, but would like the windows to be placed high similar to Wright's Drafting Room in the Oak Park Home and Studio.

CLIENT ELEVEN

NEEDS

Showroom/gallery space
Reception/sitting area
3 work stations
Space to collaborate

WANTS

Welcoming, laid back design
Open concept with different zones
Keep historic details

DESCRIPTION

BUILDING TYPE: Re-design of historic building into office space

Client Eleven has recently purchased a two-story home that was originally built in 1889. Client Eleven needs the historic home to be re-designed into an office building for their small design firm. They would like the first floor to be an open space to meet clients and showcase their work with a welcoming, laid-back feel. Upstairs, they need space for 3 designers. While they spend a lot of time collaborating and working together on projects, each needs their own individual work-space. The client would also like to highlight some of the unique details of the historic home in the new design.

CLIENT TWELVE

NEEDS

Kitchen
Counter/register area
Separate to-go and seating areas
Bathrooms

WANTS

Feature original fireplace

DESCRIPTION

BUILDING TYPE: Re-design of historic building into coffee shop

Client Twelve needs a historic building to be re-designed into a coffee shop. The building is long and narrow and sits on a busy main street. There is an alley on the left side of the building and a local store that shares the right wall. Client Twelve would like the coffee shop to be a place where people can grab a quick cup on-the-go or sit leisurely with a friend or good book. As a result, they need a unique design solution to help people in a hurry get their cup of coffee separate from those who are staying for a while. Inside, the building also features a large central fireplace that the clients would like to feature in the new design.