

I want one just like this ...

In much the same way as a hairdresser is brought a photograph of the current celebrity and asked for an identical haircut; sometimes I am shown a photograph of a house and asked to reproduce an exact replica.

There are many reasons why this idea is a non-starter:

a. It's breaking copyright laws:

The architect holds the copyright on his/her designs for their lifetime and a period of seventy years after his/her death.

Obviously the architect can be influenced by another architects work and this is entirely acceptable; it's the blatant outright copying that is forbidden.

b. It goes against what an architect is about:

The architect is a creative individual, he/she wants to make their mark on the world and wants to create original work - copying someone else's work goes against this desire.

If you are adamant about going forward with this approach then it's a draughtsman you should be looking for.

My advice therefore is to analyse the characteristics that you like about a specific 'look'; is it the form or the materials ?

c. You are unique !

The idea doesn't take account of your exact requirements; every individual is unique and your requirements will also be unique. An architect will analyse your desires in terms of how you will use the spaces, what your likes and dislikes are and what type of materials and textures you will feel comfortable living with.

d. Your site is unique !

As well as you, your site is also unique; the way the sun travels across the site, the way the prevailing winds hit certain parts of the house are all factors the architect takes into account when designing.

By opting for the 'I want one just like this approach' you are missing out on all the design intricacies that the architect brings to the table.

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