

effect each alternative will have on the total cost. After he has made up his mind about his design choices, he proceeds to develop those decisions, and the cost plan will only need to be modified if he decides to deviate from those options.

The objective of the comparative technique is not to impose strict cost constraints on the design of individual components; rather, it is to keep the freedom of choice about the combination of potential design solutions that will fit the aim to be accomplished. It is less concerned with trying to exert piecemeal control over the design regarding goals for certain areas of the work and more concerned with analyzing the relative merits of several alternatives within the context of the whole. Its purpose is not necessary to demonstrate how inexpensively a structure can be created; rather, it is to demonstrate the distribution of costs across the many components of the building and what kinds of cost savings are possible. This affords the architect the opportunity, within the parameters of his cost terms of reference, to interpret his design in a manner that makes the most efficient use of the available funds. This should lead to design economies and will help compare the proportion of elemental costs between the costs of one structure and another.