

# Building in Costa Rica

## Building is a question of trust and price

Like all over the world, building in Costa Rica is a matter of trust. There is a lot of money involved and accordingly there are many „black sheep“ out there who are looking to make a quick buck. A question of money is also the issue of quality: If you get poor quality it can have very high follow-up costs. But if you go for unnecessary top quality you will find that the price for it here in Costa Rica is almost unachievable. So for me the basic principle is: build in a favorable manner through the right choice of materials, working method and design.

After more than 40 years of construction experience in Switzerland, I had not planned to build my own new home in Costa Rica myself. However, after local and foreign entrepreneurs submitted either open offers or much too expensive flat-rate offers, I decided to take over the construction of the house myself. I bought all the materials, hired a construction crew, rented and bought machines, sometimes hired subcontractors, and off I went. Previously, I had been able to gain initial experience in Costa Rica as a consultant for a hotel extension. I could confirm that the success of the construction project depends mainly on the supervision of labor and the quality of the material.

I have resolved to make the experience I gained here also available to other developers and to save them quite a lot of annoyance and add-on costs. I know the right people and suppliers to realize a building project in a cost-effective way. Because I supervise everything personally, I of course can attend only a limited number of building projects at the time.

Depending on the wishes of the client, I offer the following service levels:

## Consulting

I advise and accompany the client as frequently and as much as he wishes.

## Construction management

In addition to the before mentioned activities, the construction management includes contract negotiations, all accounting, including control of bills, payroll and insurance handling, project changes, negotiations with government authorities, etc. Contracts will be signed exclusively by the client himself or – with written consent - by me.

## Site management

In addition to the consulting, on request I also assume the concrete supervision of the construction work on site.

## Fees

I charge a moderate hourly rate of CHF 25.00 or the equivalent in USD, Euro or colones for my services. For car expenses I charge an additional 50 centimes / km. The travel time is considered working time.

The client is guaranteed that I will not seek any “hidden incomes” as for example the so-called “cashbacks” or other reimbursements of any kind. All discounts, reductions and rebates negotiated will be without exception to the benefit of the client.



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