

HOW TO READ FLOOR PLANS – PART 1

Floor plans are important tools that help us to communicate and organise spatial and structural designs. They are a bird’s eye view of space or a cross section showing the layout.

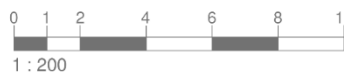
Floor plans can hold quite a lot of information and can be become very detailed. Below are some tips and suggestion to help with reading and understanding floor plans.

Start by reviewing the title block and take note of the project’s name/type and what type of floor plan it is eg Basement, Ground, First floor plan etc.... Also, always take note of the North point & Scale bar.

Scale can be tricky to understand. If the drawing is shown at 1:100, this means that your building is 100 times what is shown on paper. Eg if something on your drawing is measured as 100mm on paper then in real life it will be 10,000mm (10m).



Example of North point

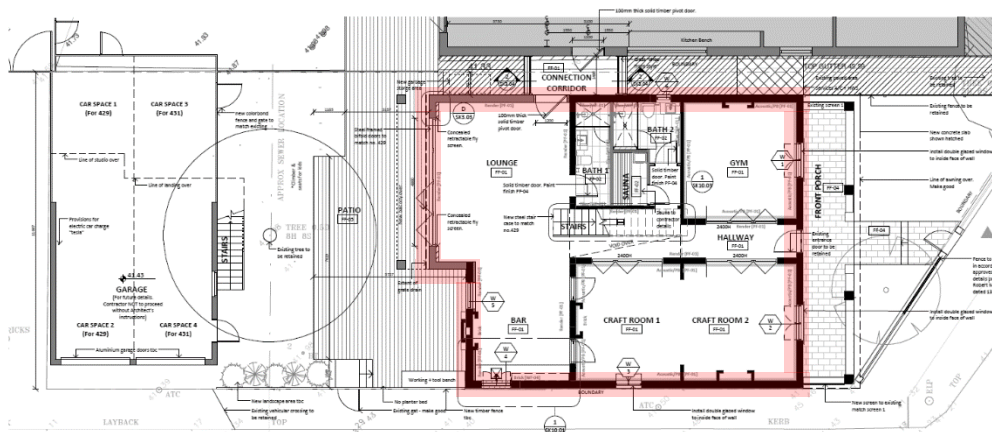


Example of Scale bar

This bit of information below can help with visualising what to expect before even looking at the floor plan.

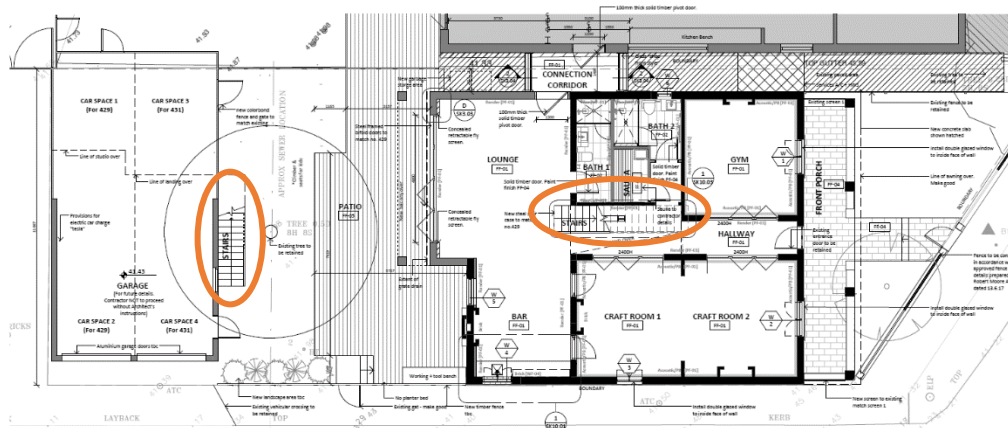
PROJECT: ADDITIONS & ALTERATIONS		PROJECT ADDRESS: 123 ARTMADE ST, SURRY HILLS NSW, 2010	SHEET NAME: PROPOSED GROUND FLOOR PLAN	NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION			
CLIENT:				FOR SITE COORDINATION			
				Project number: 479	Sheet No.: SK3.01	Phase: SK	Issue: 2
				Scale: 1 : 100	Drawn By: MS/SH	Checked By: SS	Date: 02/04/2019
						L.G.A.: LEICHHARDT	

Identify the external walls. This will give you an understanding of the building envelope.



Floor Plan – Highlighting External Walls

Identify the internal wall and room tag labels. Internal walls create spaces/zones which will assist to understand the layout of the floor plan. You can see what spaces are next to each other, their sizes and shape.



Floor Plan – Highlighting Vertical Circulation

Now that you understand the general layout you can dive into the details such as windows, furniture, joinery, bathroom layouts and other features of the like.

This blog is one chapter of a series on “How to read floor plans”

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