Things to consider when starting on a studio design concept:

1. Where is the building you intend to use or build located, in a commercial or residentially zoned area? Ask the local building code authority, as they will answer that question. Some home studio’s, and certainly commercial studio’s in residentially zoned areas are prohibited by building codes.

2. How many square feet are you intending to build, or do you need, as the build would be subject to square foot pricing in developing a budget?

3. If the building already exists, can you detail some things about the building:
   a) The age and general type of construction, brick, cement block, wood siding, etc?
   b) Window type, roof type, proximity to your nearest neighbor?
   c) How large is the main electrical service panel, and how many HVAC units furnish the building?
   d) Are you located near a street with heavy traffic, or a railroad?

4. Now, start listing the rooms you would need inside this building. Control room, tracking room, isolation rooms (how many), task areas like office space, foyer’s and bathrooms, etc?

5. Do you have a budget in mind, and will this budget apply to the real world costs of building a recording studio?

6. What type of time frames are you on?

7. Do you have a local building contractor who may be able to handle some of the local permit, sub contractor, and foundational aspects of a building project?

8. Is there another local architect involved in the design work?

These questions and many more can be addressed early on, in an attempt to form a communication loop, which is clear.

Thanks for you input, and we’ll discuss this as it unfolds,

Mark Wenner
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