In North America, traditional project delivery systems fall into two categories – design-bid-build and construction management. Each method has variants to address methods of payment, delivery and allocation of risk. During the past decade, however, resurgence of the Design-Build procurement method has offered Owners a third alternative.

In the traditional project delivery system the Owner engages an Architect/Engineer to prepare designs and construction documentation, and hires a contractor to build the project. In the Design-Build project delivery system, the Owner contracts with the Design-Builder to provide both design and construction services in one package.

Design-Build is not a panacea and, in some instances, traditional project delivery systems may offer distinct benefits on certain projects. By carefully weighing all the benefits and disadvantages, Owners can select the method most appropriate to any given project.

The guide also includes a comprehensive list of Design-Build terminology, industry acronyms, benefits of Design-Build and other considerations.