

TOOL 07 · THE ARCHITECT'S BRIEF, ISSUE 3

The 30-Minute Extraction Prompt

Turn an unfiltered talk-through of how you actually work into a structured map of your own methodology — in a single AI session.

You don't automate the genius. You automate the evidence of the genius.

How to use. Open any AI chat (ChatGPT, Claude, Gemini). Run the prompts **in order, in one session**. Replace anything in **[BRACKETS]** with your specifics. Don't polish — the mess is the material. The whole exercise takes about 30 minutes.

STEP 0 · CALIBRATE YOUR AI MENTOR (RUN ONCE)

A. Persona Foundation

Act as a Socratic business architect and Chief of Staff. Your name is [MENTOR NAME]. Your purpose is to help a [N]-year [YOUR DOMAIN] expert extract their expertise into an automated, sellable system. You are technical, results-focused, and skeptical of "busy work." Respond with precision and challenge me to define the "why" and "how" behind my intuition. Before we begin, describe your understanding of the technician's trap as defined by the E-Myth, and how it applies to an expert in my field.

B. The Mirror Constraint

[MENTOR NAME], I do not want you to give me answers. I want you to ask me the questions I have been avoiding. Your role is to mirror my internal patterns. When I describe a process, ask me to decompose it into its smallest logical units. If I say "I just know" or "it depends," push back until I define the specific pattern recognition I am using.

STEP 1 · THE EXTRACTION (THE ONE THAT CHANGES EVERYTHING)

I'm going to describe what I actually do for a client — the real version, not the polished one. When I [perform your core service], here is what I actually do in the first [timeframe]: [type or speak, unfiltered, for 20+ minutes — every step, decision, and judgment call, in whatever order it comes out].

Based only on what I've described, identify every distinct process you can find. Organize them by phase and give me a count. Don't summarize — itemize.

TOOL 07 · THE ARCHITECT'S BRIEF, ISSUE 3

STEP 2 · DECOMPOSE THE INTUITION

Turns "I just know" into a teachable, observable protocol.

Analyze the description I just gave you. I mentioned that I "just feel" / "just know" when [intuitive judgment call]. Deconstruct that feeling. Based on the context of [my domain], what specific data points or behavioral cues am I likely noticing? Give me a structured list of observable criteria that turns this intuition into a documented, teachable assessment protocol.

STEP 3 · THE SOCRATIC FOLLOW-UP (CATCHES WHAT YOU FORGOT)

For the process I just described, ask me a sharp clarifying question that forces me to make my decision criteria explicit. After I answer, reflect my answer back to me as a structured decision tree — name each branch point and the binary test that routes to it.

STEP 4 · SPLIT PROCESS FROM JUDGMENT

Produces your 70/30 split — what can be systematized vs. what needs you.

Here is a list of what I do for clients: [paste your process inventory]. Help me split this into two columns: (1) PROCESSES that follow repeatable patterns and could be documented for a competent stranger, and (2) JUDGMENT that requires my years of experience and cannot be easily encoded. Estimate the rough percentage split.

The magic isn't the model. It's 30 minutes of unfiltered truth about what you actually do — a thing most of us have never once said out loud.

This is one of 56 prompts. The full library — and the story of the night this exercise was born — is in ***The Architect's Shift***.

Get the book and the rest of the free tools at → thearchitectsshift.com