

“What are you doing?” asks the stranger.

The man looks up and smiles.

“I’m working for a living,” he says. “But it’s hard work. Maybe you have a better job for me?”

The stranger shakes his head and moves on. Pretty soon he comes on a third man breaking rocks.

The sun is at its zenith now, the man is straining, and sweat is pouring off him.

“What are you doing?” asks the stranger. The man pauses, takes a drink of water, smiles, and raises his arms to the sky.

“I’m building a cathedral,” he breathes.

The stranger looks at him for a moment and says, “We’re starting a new company. How would you like to be our chief architect?”

We have gone to considerable length to describe architectures, the role of architects, and considerations that go into creating architectures, and we have offered several brief examples of beautiful architectures. We invite you now to read more detailed examples from accomplished architects in the following chapters as they describe the beautiful architectures that they have created and used.

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