



JOHN W. BAUMGARTEN ARCHITECT, P.C.

## Design Matters

In today's fast-tracked, tight-budget construction arena design professionals and their clients can sometimes feel that there is no time to think. That there is no time to take a step back, gain a renewed perspective and remember the primary goals that launched a given project in the first place.

Quite often, a project's success can be threatened when it's "soul" is value engineered away along with bricks and mortar cost savings. A successful building project can be defined as delivering a clients' program within a defined budget while conveying the project's purpose in a three dimensional environment that benefits its occupants. This three dimensional magic is achieved through the sometimes mysterious but always rewarding process known as Design.

Design matters. It is usually the answer to most questions that arise on a building project. A tight budget might be overcome by using simple, readily available materials in new and innovative ways. A tight time frame might be overcome by a design with a modular rhythm that allows for prefabrication of key building components. Getting "too many" program pieces to fit into a tight plan footprint might be solved through the design of modular furniture systems that when used interchangeably, allow a single space to serve multiple functions.

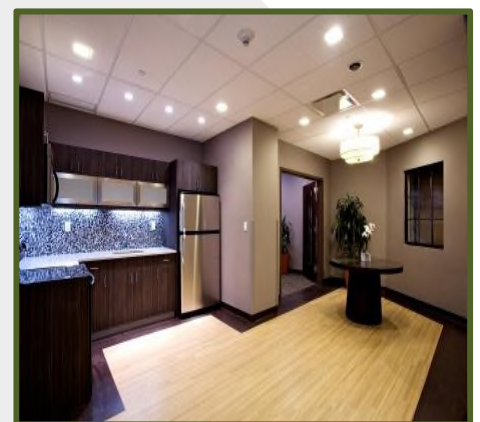
Yes, Design Matters. Accessible design allows physically challenged persons to navigate the world without barriers. Design can also enlighten and inspire. When a building or space makes you stop and take notice, it's the Design that is speaking to you.

There are numerous studies that point to higher employee morale and lower employee turn-over in well ventilated, office spaces with ample natural light that convey a sense of warmth and human scale.

There are an equal number of studies that show better patient outcomes in health facilities that have a non-threatening home-like environment and which promote patient privacy and dignity.

Of course, a building design or alteration project does not occur in a vacuum, it is collaboration between Architect and client. Mis-aligned expectations can threaten that collaboration. Maintaining constant and clear lines of communication is one sure way to keep everyone on the same page.

A building project has three major variables. Program, budget and time frame, which in the early project stages are untested assumptions.





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The Architect, client and key stake holders must test these assumptions at each stage of project's development and adjust parameters and expectations as needed. Together, the project team refines each variable so the pieces "fit together". That is the essence of Design and this mysterious and collaborative process has started even before the Architect has put a single line down on paper.

Design permeates and structures every aspect of a building project. Design informs the process, shapes the result and can inspire and motivate end users. Design Matters.



### Recent Design Work by John W. Baumgarten Architect, P.C.

