



BROST ARCHITECTS & PLANNERS LTD

March 2012 Newsletter : 1

Testimonial

"The attention to detail during the design and development phase was evident, enabling the project to maintain both the schedule and budget. During the construction process, Brost Architects lead the way, providing a true team atmosphere, bringing together the Hills Bank leadership and all the trades. The end product speaks for itself; it's a facility that is as attractive as it is functional, while being energy efficient. It's a project that all involved are quite proud to be a part of."

- Bob Stokes
Rinderknecht,
Project Manager for
Hills Bank & Trust Project

Contact Us

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Saving Money by Saving Energy

With more people looking for ways to save money for their business, energy efficiency is an option that can save you thousands of dollars. As is the case with most things, by putting in a little bit of extra money upfront, the payback can be substantial!

Alliant Energy has a Commercial New Construction program that offers a source of energy expertise to encourage efficiency in building design and construction practices. This program is available to retail electric or electric and natural gas combination customers. To start the program, the design team or owner must submit an application.

Once the project is accepted, Alliant's energy consultants host meetings with the design team to develop energy strategies and cost estimates for each strategy. The consultant provides a final energy report that describes the strategies, the payback period, and savings. The strategies that are implemented are selected by the owner and design team.



Continued on Page 2



BROST ARCHITECTS & PLANNERS LTD

March 2012 Newsletter : 2

Hills Bank & Trust Cedar Rapids, Iowa



Located on the Northeast side of Cedar Rapids off of Blairs Ferry Road, this branch bank for Hills Bank & Trust incorporates a masonry façade of limestone, rose-velour brick, as well as green tinted glass, and a prefinished metal roof. The project uses several green technologies in order to be more environmentally conscientious, including: a geothermal heating and cooling system, enhanced insulation, low-e window glazing, energy recovery units, extensive natural light, light sensors, and occupancy sensors. All told, the building is projected to use approximately 54% less energy than a similar building designed to the minimum energy code requirements.

There are two different categories of design within this program: Custom Track and Custom Plus Track. The Custom Track requires that the project have an energy savings that is 15% better than the Iowa Energy Code. The Custom Plus Track requires energy savings that are 40% better than the Iowa Energy Code. This track can also provide energy modeling for the 2030 Challenge, Energy Star, Federal tax credits, or Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED).

The Blairs Ferry Road branch bank for Hills Bank & Trust is one of the projects that we designed that incorporates the Alliant Energy Commercial New Construction program. The General Contractor for the project was Rinderknecht, and the facility uses several green technologies in order to be more environmentally sensitive. A geothermal heating and cooling system is used, which extracts heat from the soil for warmth in the winter and reverses the process in the summer. The building also has enhanced insulation and low emissivity window glazing, which improves the structure's energy efficiency. All told, the building is projected to use about 54% less energy than a similar building designed to the minimum energy code requirements.

If you have questions about this program, would like to implement this program into your building design, or would like to know how to save more money on your energy bills for your new facility, please let us know. Brost Architects and Planners can help your business save money on energy bills.

How Does Architectural Design Work?

The majority of people in the world have never hired an Architect. Many have never even had the opportunity to work with one! Based on that fact, we thought we would explain a little bit about how the design and construction process typically works with an Architect.

This process can vary dramatically, depending on the project and the client desires, as well as the construction process selected. While every Architect works in a slightly different manor, there are some basic methods that are instilled during architectural education. The design process typically occurs something like this:



BROST ARCHITECTS & PLANNERS LTD

March 2012 Newsletter : 3

About Us

Mission:

The mission of Brost Architects is to design spaces that enrich peoples' lives and enhance communities by providing personal service with active client participation and developing lasting relationships.

Value:

Brost Architects collaborates with business and community leaders, with an appreciation for architecture, that need unique, functional, and cost-effective spaces, by designing places that exceed expectations. Unlike large, out-of-town firms, Brost Architects is rooted in the community. We communicate clearly and promptly, develop lasting bonds with clients, and ensure that the same design professionals work on projects, from the start of design to the completion of construction. This is demonstrated by our many repeat clients, who enjoy their beautiful, cost-effective, energy efficient designs and often refer us to others.

1. *Programming:* The process of designing a building typically begins with a discussion of how the building needs to function. This is often referred to as programming, but is essentially defining your needs, goals, and aspirations for your project. It is vitally important that you are comfortable talking with your architect to ensure that open, easy, and honest communication is established at this phase.
2. *Schematic Design:* Once the requirements of the project are determined, the design of the building can begin. This is referred to as schematic design and typically includes various options for to the project. There needs to be an exchange of thoughts and ideas during this phase before a preferred strategy and design development can occur.
3. *Design Development:* Once a design strategy is established, that design is further developed and will often include collaboration with consultants. Plans are refined, construction cost estimates are established, and construction materials and methods are examined. The communication cycle needs to remain open, in order to ensure that the design still fits with the original requirements.
4. *Construction Documents:* Once the design team and client agree that the design fulfills the project objectives, construction documents and written specifications are prepared. These documents become a legal contract that requires that the finished building be constructed in accordance with the drawings. The detailed drawings allow the contractor to establish building costs and construction schedules.
5. *Bidding and Negotiation:* Once the owner approves of the construction documents, the architect can assist the owner in obtaining bids from general contractors, negotiating proposals, and awarding contracts. Depending on the construction method selected, a general contractor may already have been selected.
6. *Construction Administration:* As construction proceeds, the architect becomes an advisor that continues to evaluate the construction process through site visits. The architect will complete a final "punch list" to verify that each and every item that was in the contract to be completed is finished to satisfaction.
7. *Post Occupancy:* Some architecture firms also complete a post occupancy review for large projects. During this time, the designers assess how well the building matches the users' needs and identify ways to improve the building design and performance. This is typically done by talking with the people who actually use the building on a daily basis, including staff, managers, customers, owner, and maintenance teams.