



BROST ARCHITECTS & PLANNERS LTD

December 2011 Newsletter : 1

Happy Holidays!

During this Holiday season, **Brost Architects & Planners LTD** extends a sincere "Thank You" for all the projects that we have been fortunate enough to be a part of. Without the valued relationships of clients, general contractors, consultants, subcontractors, product representatives, suppliers, and friends, we would not be able to provide architectural services to bring projects to a successful completion. We wish you, your family, and your business, **All the Best in 2012!** May this coming year be happy, successful, enjoyable, and profitable!

- Dave Brost, Jr.,
Brost Architects & Planners LTD

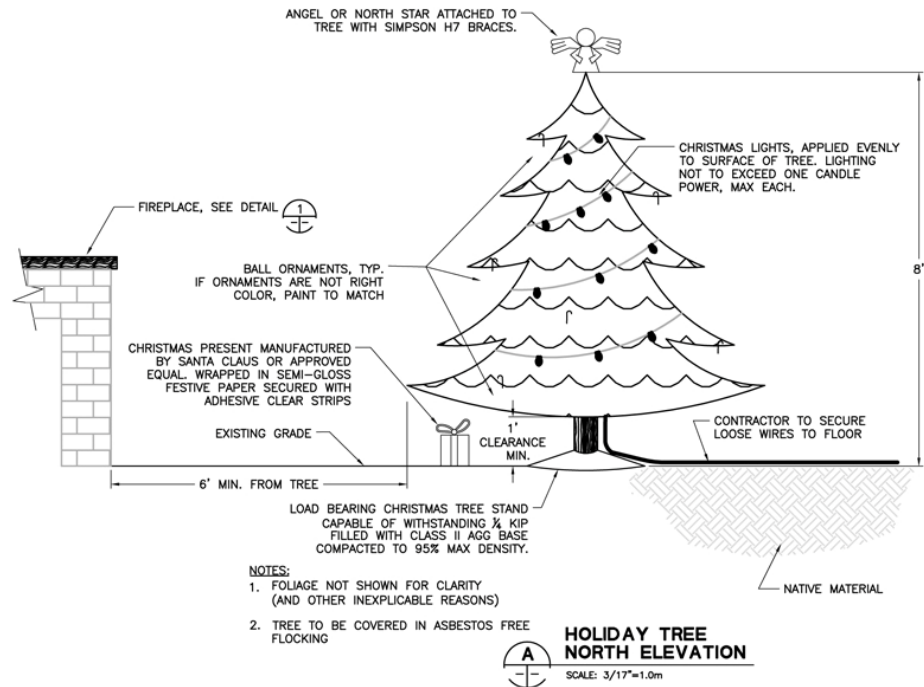
Contact Us

For more information: visit www.brostarchitects.com, call us at 319-366-8531, or send us an email at brostarch@brostarchitect.com. To receive our monthly newsletter, visit the "Contact Us" page on our website and sign up for our email newsletter.

Happy Holidays

from

Brost Architects and Planners!



New Use Through Adaptive Re-Use

Most companies in the United States have a "green" product, strategy, or philosophy. Green design is marketable and it sells. In architecture, green design is often referred to as sustainable or environmental design. There are numerous agencies that will certify the "greenness" of your building based on a point system.

One of the major concepts in sustainable design is reusing existing buildings whenever possible. By reusing existing buildings, we can cut down on material usage and waste, as well as conserve land. This approach can help your facility become more sustainable and possibly certified as such. This thought process has been in use for generations, but is especially poignant in today's economy, when finances and funding are on everyone's mind. If your company is in need of a different space, reusing an existing building is a great way to save on costs.

Continued on Page 2



BROST ARCHITECTS & PLANNERS LTD

December 2011 Newsletter : 2

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.

One project particularly relevant to this theme that Brost Architects & Planners worked on is the AEGON/Kirkwood Training Center, which is located on the edge of Marion and the Southeast side of Cedar Rapids. For this project, we were able to take an abandoned grocery store and turn it into a 27,000 square foot "Class A" office, meeting, and training facility. We were able to convert the old grocery pick-up lane into a vestibule that incorporates indoor plantings and natural lighting. The building was also re-surfaced with a lighter color brick to bring it up to date.

We have experience with multiple adaptive re-use projects, varying in size and complexity. A project that was smaller in size involved taking an existing convenience store, located on Bever Avenue, and renovating it for use as a branch facility for Guaranty Bank. The bank fits in with the design and size of the residential neighborhood it is located in, and took an eyesore and revitalized it. Not only does this approach to architecture help the environment, but it also reduces construction time and cost.



Before

After

Art and Science

One of the questions that I often get is why I wanted to become an architect. It took me several years to develop a somewhat concise answer. My answer is that I always loved art, problem solving, and mathematics and that architecture is the combination of those arenas. Puzzles, blocks and crayons were my toys of choice as a child and they gave me the problem solving and creative ability to thrive in the field of architecture.



BROST ARCHITECTS & PLANNERS LTD

December 2011 Newsletter : 3

Within the realm of architecture, there is debate over whether architecture is art or science. For me, it is the art and science of designing buildings. Art and science are combined to create beautiful and functional buildings that promote public safety. These designs combine functional, technical, social, environmental, and aesthetic considerations into one structure.

Without science, there would be no buildings. Every decision that architects make on a visual level needs to be backed up by science. Architects in the United States have a professional degree and have completed an extensive training program. They are required to pass the Architect Registration Examination, register as an architect, and complete continuing education throughout their career. These requirements are in place so that all architects have the knowledge necessary to protect public health, safety and welfare.

Without some artistic inclination, buildings would never become icons for cities or destination points. Without art having an effect on architecture, rhythm, space, light, and texture would be mute points. Buildings would be for purely utilitarian means and would bring little joy. Architecture often remains as a cultural, artistic, and political symbol for future generations.

For me, the key to architecture is to find a common balancing point between art and science. English art and architecture critic John Ruskin said that, "We require from buildings two kinds of goodness: first, the doing their practical duty well: then that they be graceful and pleasing in doing it." Art and science are inseparable in architecture that will stand the test of time.