



BROST ARCHITECTS & PLANNERS LTD

October 2011 Newsletter : 1

Testimonial

"Brost Architects has designed a beautiful functional annex for the Belle Plaine Area Museum that will fulfill the needs of the community for generations to come. We, the Belle Plaine Historical Board, have been and are being informed and involved in each step of this project. Working with Brost Architects is an exciting positive experience. "

- Bev Winkie,
Belle Plaine Area Museum

"Good Design Is Good Business"

Why An Architect?

Architecture, while often lofty in ideals, is not only for museums, libraries, and government buildings. Architecture affects your daily activities: from how you prepare your breakfast to how you operate in your office. The design of your home environment and work environment invariably affects your performance, as well as your identity and image.

According to the American Institute of Architects, "The work of an organization is affected by environmental characteristics. Thoughtful design of the workplace can increase employee satisfaction and performance, and support organizational image and identity. Therefore, it is imperative that business leaders and architects increase their understanding of the relationship between the design of the workplace and the successful operation of organizations. Good design is good business."

What Does An Architect Do?

Architects are problem solvers. Each client has a problem to be solved. Architects communicate with clients to establish needs, present options, plan for the future, and design around budget and time constraints. Architects have possession of a professional degree, completed the Intern Development Program, passed the Architect Registration Examination, are licensed by the State, and have to complete continuing education. If any part of this process is neglected, that person can no longer be called an Architect. Services offered by architects often include the development of floor plans, elevations, building sections, computer models and renderings, construction documents, and specifications. The actual scope of an architect's work will vary from project to project and is determined by the client.

How to Select an Architect?

An architect should have a broad knowledge of design and construction, as well as the ability to work with you on a variety of projects. It is important that you select an architect that you feel compatible and comfortable with, and that you are able to communicate easily with. Ask for recommendations from friends, relatives, and colleagues who have worked with an architect that they enjoyed. Compile a list of registered architects, complete research, and narrow the field down. After you have compiled a short list, meet with the architects and visit some of their past projects that are similar to your project.



BROST ARCHITECTS & PLANNERS LTD

October 2011 Newsletter : 2

Henry B. Tippie Annex - Belle Plaine Area Museum Addition



The Henry B. Tippie Annex to the Belle Plaine Area Museum is currently under construction in Belle Plaine, Iowa. The addition to the existing museum will add over 5,000 square feet of space to expand their display space and to house a new exhibit of artifacts chronicling the life of notable Iowa native, philanthropist, and businessman, Henry B. Tippie. The addition was designed in partnership with Brost Architects and Planners, museum consultant Bob Bodnar, West Plains Engineering, DCL Consulting Engineers, and Hall & Hall Engineers.

Nine Steps to Winterize Your Home

With the recent freeze warnings, I have started finding myself mentally preparing for winter. I've brought my sweaters and coats out of storage and stocked up on hot chocolate. The next stage of the "winterizing" process is getting the house ready. Here is the Brost Architects list of nine easy things that you can do to help save money and make your home more comfortable and safe this winter.

1. **Drafts:** According to the U.S. Department of Energy, drafts can waste 5% to 30% of your energy use in winter months. The solution to impeding drafts could be as simple as rolling up a towel and placing it along a drafty door. You can buy many different types of more attractive solutions to this problem, as well. Fireplace owners should keep their chimney's damper closed when the fireplace isn't in use and woodstove owners should have glass doors on their stoves. If you have storm doors and windows, put them on to seal out drafts.
2. **Fans:** Have you ever had your fan on in the summer and feel like it is doing nothing? It may not be... Most ceiling fans come with a switch on the body of the fan which reverses the direction of the blades. Counterclockwise (when looking up at the fan) rotation produces cooling breezes. Clockwise rotation makes the air warmer by circulating air that has accumulated near the ceiling.
3. **Filters:** It is recommended to clean your furnace filters once a month during the heating season. Dirty filters restrict airflow and increase the energy demand. If you are the forgetful sort, consider switching to a permanent filter, which reduces waste and hassle. Electrostatic filters trap around 88% of debris and are much better at reducing airborne illness and irritation. A genuine HEPA filter can remove up to 99.97% of airborne particles.
4. **Air conditioners:** Drain your air conditioner pipes and hoses. If your a/c has a shutoff valve, you can turn it off, also. If you have window air conditioner units, it may be helpful to remove them from the windows to reduce the drafts that can occur around them.
5. **Water lines:** Make sure that all exterior hoses are removed and that the interior water shutoff valve leading to each exterior spigot is turned off. Open the outside water spigots to drain excess water. Leave the spigot open all winter. This will allow for enough space that any remaining water in the pipes will freeze without damaging the pipes.



BROST ARCHITECTS & PLANNERS LTD

October 2011 Newsletter : 3

About Us

Since its formation in 1968, Brost Architects & Planners LTD has demonstrated its commitment to architectural problem solving on a full range of projects throughout Iowa and surrounding states. We take great pride in our record of developing distinctive solutions to complex problems within the budget established and in our reputation for improving the environment of the communities where we are privileged to work.

We promote environmentally friendly design and have LEED accredited professionals. We are a family owned and operated firm that has strong ties to the Iowa community. We're talented enough to handle almost any project, but personal enough to value your business. We have strong relationships with our consultants as well as our clients.

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.

6. *Water heater:* Many water heaters are set to 140 degrees Fahrenheit by installers, which is unnecessary for most households. Lowering the temperature of your water heater to 120 degrees could reduce your water heating costs by up to 10%. If you are in the need of a new water heater, federal tax credits can help with that.
7. *Gutters:* Once the leaves fall, remove them from your gutters. After they are removed, clean the gutters with a hose. Clogged drains can cause water to seep into the house during cold months. You may also consider installing leaf guards on the gutters, if your house does not already have them. Realign your downspouts, if needed, to ensure that water is carried away from your home's foundation.
8. *Indoor temperature:* This one is an easy to do, hard to remember solution: turn your thermostat down when you leave your house. If remembering this is difficult for you, a programmable thermostat is available for as little as \$50. For every degree you lower the thermostat during the heating season, you'll save between 1% and 3% of your heating bill. Here's another tidbit, a light sweater can add about 2 degrees of warmth, while a heavy sweater can add about 4 degrees of warmth. Time to break out those ugly sweaters!
9. *Insulation:* Insulation makes a big difference in your energy spending. Make sure that your attic floor is well covered. If you are layering new insulation on top of existing insulation, don't use insulation that has a paper backing, because it will act as a vapor barrier and can cause moisture problems. If you are going to insulate, do it now! As soon as the temperature drops, prices will probably go up. There is also currently a 10% tax break on the price of insulation.