Conclusion

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We can attest to the fact that all these students were challenged with more reality and design requirements than they had ever experienced before. As educators, we met our goals to impart well established environmental behavior knowledge while preserving the creative environment found in the training of an architect through this format.

Why should this educational success be noted by the Facility Manager? We feel that these students were typical of the same range of skills and aspirations that you find in the design profession. Our claim is that the depth and awareness of important user issues was increased by the process shown in this short publication. Therefore, it is possible that you can affect the quality of service from your designers by communicating your heightened expectations outlined in this booklet.

Because this was the first offering of this format, we do not have the full documentation proving we changed the course of design history for these young professionals. A simple way to question the effectiveness of the Design Principle method (Fig. 1) follows:

1) Did Design Principles take a "brilliant" design and make it better? (Fig. 2)
2) Did Design Principles take an "adequate" design and make it "brilliant"? (Fig. 3)
3) Did Design Principles take the "mediocre" design and make it "adequate"?

Figure 1. Do Design Principles improve the resulting design? Or do the inherent skills of the designer continue to be the determining factor in successful Law Office Facility design?
Usefulness:

The thesis behind the method described in this report is that design guidance in the form of design principles is one way to facilitate a more informed, enlightened and stimulating design process. The assumption is that this will lead also to an improved design product.

This method also provides better and more opportunities for the facility management staff to become a better client. The design principles are written in the client’s language; a better informed client can then become a more active participant in the programming, design and construction process. A better client can, and should, monitor at each phase the design’s development. This includes not only easily quantifiable factors such as number of rooms, construction time, costs, and the like, but also insures that the more abstract goals are being operationalized and satisfied by the solution. This entire booklet strives to bring these less apparent design principles to the forefront, and to include them in the dialogue between client and the facility designer.

Summary

These examples exhibit a more informed design process which has higher probability of addressing critical issues in the context of Law Offices. The design principles give the reader and user-owner, facility manager, staff members and others on the client's side-- clear and ambitious goals for their environment. They also give the architect and designer challenging requirements without inhibiting their creative process.