

dling a ravine and connected by an enclosed bridge housing a dining facility. The site and building design work together to deliver AmSouth's project design requirements. Thus, the combination of the client understanding, programming, workplace analysis, and test fits together led to the success of the project.

CONCLUSION

The modern office is a work in progress. The office, work format, and worker are still evolving in the new economy, and values are shifting. Production-based value assessments are on the decline as increasing emphasis is given to the knowledge worker. This fundamental shift, which has seen graphic acceleration due to technological advances such as the Internet, requires the interior designer to invest time at the beginning of each project to understand the true nature of the client.

Often, after completing the strategic planning, the direction of the project and preconceived notions of the design are changed from that of the initial direction. It is important to remember that this is a preliminary phase of the project and can be reevaluated throughout the duration of the project. For example, while working on AmSouth's corporate headquarters facility, the departmental requirements changed dramatically, decreasing their required space allocation from a full four-story building to only half of that building. From the programming and workplace analysis, the designers had already determined that the offices should be designed as movable partitions to provide flexibility in the design. Since the offices were an open office format as opposed to a closed office format, the designer was only required to redesign and relocate the movable partitions and furniture and did not need to redesign the walls, plumbing, HVAC, electrical, or telecommunications systems, which resulted in a cost savings for the rework of \$2.5–\$3 million.

Thus, we are brought back to the driving force of the design—the client. It is imperative that we, as interior designers, take into account in any design the unique nature of each organization and its precious resources and staff. If the design reflects the corporate culture and creates an energizing workplace environment, it will succeed for its client, even when unforeseen obstacles are encountered at a later stage of the project.

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