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Process

Service:

As an independent design consultant, I offer my skills alone or in association with other experienced professionals. My design talent is grounded in an English Literature and Fine Arts background, influenced by extensive travels and education abroad. A strong commitment to process brings my clients' needs and dreams into reality. The resulting work is environmentally responsive and represents my dedication to rich, healthy place-making. My credentials include:

- Building Design
- Site Design
- Landscape Design
- Interior Design

My work includes commercial design, residential design and construction, timber frame design-build and landscape design.

Method:

Quality of design and construction is directly related to a shared clarity of intention — communication is the basis for good design. The client's close involvement with the process is essential, and through spirited, open interaction, the client-designer team establishes the guidelines, evaluates options and selects appropriate solutions. Other members of the team, including the general contractor, soil and structural engineers and tradesmen, are brought in once these guidelines are established to add additional layers of experience and creativity to the process. The clarity of intention and clear communication between the three core members of the team – Client, Designer, & General Contractor – is the critical component of a successful project.

Initial Meeting:

The first client-designer meeting familiarizes both parties with the intent of the project and the design services required. Brainstorming usually begins at this time, and a preliminary budget is addressed. (It is valuable to have this session within the client's surroundings or at the intended project site.)

Programming / Schematic Design:

From the newly-formed relationship a clear and comprehensive program is created, thereby focusing the client's wants and needs. This phase involves a careful assessment and evaluation of the site and program, resulting in the understanding of design opportunities. The process of interviewing potential contractors begins during this phase; the Schematic Design drawings are used to facilitate this dialog & obtain preliminary pricing. This stage concludes with approval of the schematic drawings by the client.

Design Development / Permit Documents:

The design development drawings evolve through an active exchange of ideas between the client and designer. New team members are integrated into the process as the client and designer select appropriate engineers, & contractors. The size of the design team depends on the scale & complexity of each project. Further clarification of the budget now comes from the contractor. Permit documents are submitted as required. This segment of work concludes with client approval of the design development drawings.

Construction Documents / Approvals:

The requisite members of the team, including the engineers and consultants, produce the construction documents under the management of the designer. These drawings describe in appropriate detail the requirements for project construction. Jurisdictional approvals are received & project costs are updated by the contractor.

Construction:

During this critical phase, the associated consultants work closely with the contractor to clarify issues and ensure that the design intent is followed. As the lead designer, I maintain continuity with the initial design objectives and resolve design changes. I act as a resource for answering questions concerning aesthetics, function, space needs, environmental impact, code requirements and construction methods. The contractor builds the project from the construction documents, provides cost control and is responsible for the efficient management and quality of construction.

Initial consultations are offered free of charge.