

A Building's Impact

Have you ever wondered how our physical building impacts our worship? No? Me neither. Not until recently anyway. Since becoming the Facilities Coordinator, I have found myself more and more wondering and marveling at the way our very building adds, detracts, supports, and hurts our ability to worship. George Vangelatos, the Director of Healthcare Design at HMC Architects states that, "At its roots, architecture exists to create the physical environment in which people live, but architecture is more than just the built environment, it's also a part of our culture. It stands as a representation of how we see ourselves, as well as how we see the world."

He goes on to say, "Architecture not only affects society on a high level but also on a more personal level, it can have a profound impact on its occupants. Everything from the layout of the space to the material finishes can contribute towards occupant health, mood, and productivity." So, what does this have to do with our worship? In the book of 1 Kings, God gives a vivid, highly descriptive depiction of the temple's design. He goes so far as to plan out the measurements, materials, and even the decorative art style to be employed in its production. In other words, God cares about form, function, and design.

When I look at our building at River Hills, I see the modern temple that God has blessed our community and Church family with. He has given us a place to worship, study, pray, reflect, teach, and even socialize. Though, to be fair, we probably are not utilizing all of our space to its fullest potential. While making physical changes to a structure is time-consuming and expensive, as everyone knows, it is important not to lose sight of what our physical space is actually for and keep moving forward. We want to make sure that we are making every effort to not just maintain the building we have for its current uses, but also trying to maintain the space for ALL of its intended purposes.

There is so much potential for our building to do even more of God's work! And I look forward to seeing how our walls change, grow, and continue to support our worship in the future!