

SRJ Architects Inc.

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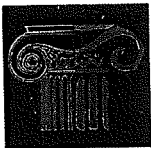
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To Whom it May Concern:

REFERENCE: RECOMMENDATION FOR INNOVATIVE DESIGN

It is with great pleasure that I have the opportunity to recommend to you Innovative Design. I have had the privilege of working with their firm since the Fall of 2007.

I was first introduced to the concept of how daylighting influences test scores in K-12 design at an AIA Convention in which Mike Nicklas was a presenter. I was immediately convicted of the negligence of a school design that did not try to incorporate daylighting. As I began to research this, I found myself continually referencing Innovative Design's website for the multitude of resources and experience that they have in this area along with a few other organization websites. I found that quite a few of the "other" sites were getting their expertise from Innovative Design. Through all of the research, I realized how much of a science the daylighting design really is. In an effort to assure that we were doing this correctly, we decided to contract with Innovative Design to help us through the process on North Mitchell Elementary School, which would be our first attempt.

Innovative Design was very helpful to us in every step of the process. First, they allowed us to bring our client to tour their completed facilities in North Carolina. They took us, our client, and our consulting engineers on a tour and explained to us how the systems work along with all of the available options. The tour alone was enough to convince our client that this was the way to proceed. Then, they worked with our team to adjust our design to accomplish the desired levels of daylighting. They provided a preliminary daylighting analysis report which provided lighting levels at each point in our spaces along with sizing of daylighting windows and roof monitors. Then, they helped us to refine the daylighting design. They met with our consultants and walked us through every step. They provided refined schematic sections through the various daylight strategies to indicate key elements including baffle locations, overhangs, and relationships to other key structural elements. They also provided product information on specifications of key products and materials (baffles, lighting controls) as well as recommendations on colors of interior walls, ceilings, and floors.

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Typically, a classroom in one of our K-12 schools required about a 3.5 ton air conditioning unit. We reduced the required amount of electrical lighting significantly due to the daylighting. This eliminated heat gain from the light fixtures. The energy modeling proved to our consultants that we would be able to reduce the units to 1.5 tons on the North facing classrooms and 2.5 tons on the South facing classrooms. This reduction, along with the reducing lighting, should result in significant energy savings for the Owner, on top of the added benefits of daylighting to their well-being. This project is now almost complete with construction and Innovative Design has been very supportive through the entire process.

They were so helpful on the daylighting design of North Mitchell County Elementary that we retained their services again for the next school design with daylighting, Marion County Middle/High School. They have again provided excellent service within an extremely tight time frame on this project.

I recommend Innovative Design without reservation as a firm that will serve you with commitment and service for daylighting and energy analysis.

Please feel free to call me directly at 229-436-9877 if I can provide additional information about this exceptional consulting architectural firm.

Sincerely,

SRJ Architects Inc.



Sonya Spalinger, AIA
Vice President