


political, social, economic, and psychological impacts of the building and be able to effectively communicate the vision of his client to all stakeholders in the community. Here the architect is a full partner in every aspect of the project with the client.

The key for success is to understand the needs of the client and put aside personal design fulfillment that one invariably encounters when designing a building. The architect has to understand the community, culture, and political environment of the project location. Once that understanding is in place, the design and its outcome will be satisfactory for all.

We as a team (Judge Nuzum and I) experienced this partnership at its fullest from the beginning to end. We shared a belief in our project and responsibility for shepherding the project through each phase. We always complemented each other throughout the process, particularly during the many times we faced the public and communicated the vision we shared. We planned many community meetings regarding the project from the

beginning to the end. Every meeting, despite the presence of a few harsh opponents, was successful. There was no question left without answer or concern left without explanation. Public input was taken seriously, and many suggestions became part of the design. That approach gave us credibility with the people this building is designed to serve. This project is a great example of how a community can become educated about an important public project and eventually become the best support system you may have.

It is critical that the design professionals in any project of this nature understand the political ramifications of what they do and say. Community acceptance and support of the elected officials are very important to the outcome. I am pleased that we were able to meet the challenges of each phase of the project. We encountered them and dealt with them as a team. We view our shared experience as quite successful. *MG* (mghoreishi@thekohan.com). 

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