



visions



DESIGNING FOR A CHANGE



The Value of Design, Leadership, Relationships, Planning

Good architectural design adds value, both aesthetically and functionally, and also leaves room for change—whether it is for the people it serves, the challenging facility demands of new technology, or how to create spaces that can evolve and still thrive decades into the future. Designing a facility for inevitable transitions means strong stewardship of resources, consideration of expectations of needs, and structural elements that can easily adapt to changing uses, technologies and growth.

No one knows what the future holds. Creating innovative solutions that endure, even thrive, over decades is one of the many value-added ideas architects bring to the table. Ensuring things blend into an effective whole requires creative teamwork between the architect, the client and other concerned groups during the early planning stages of a project.



Design is not just what it *looks* like and *feels* like. Design is how it *works*. *Steve Jobs*



We shape our *buildings*. Thereafter, they
shape us. *Winston Churchill*

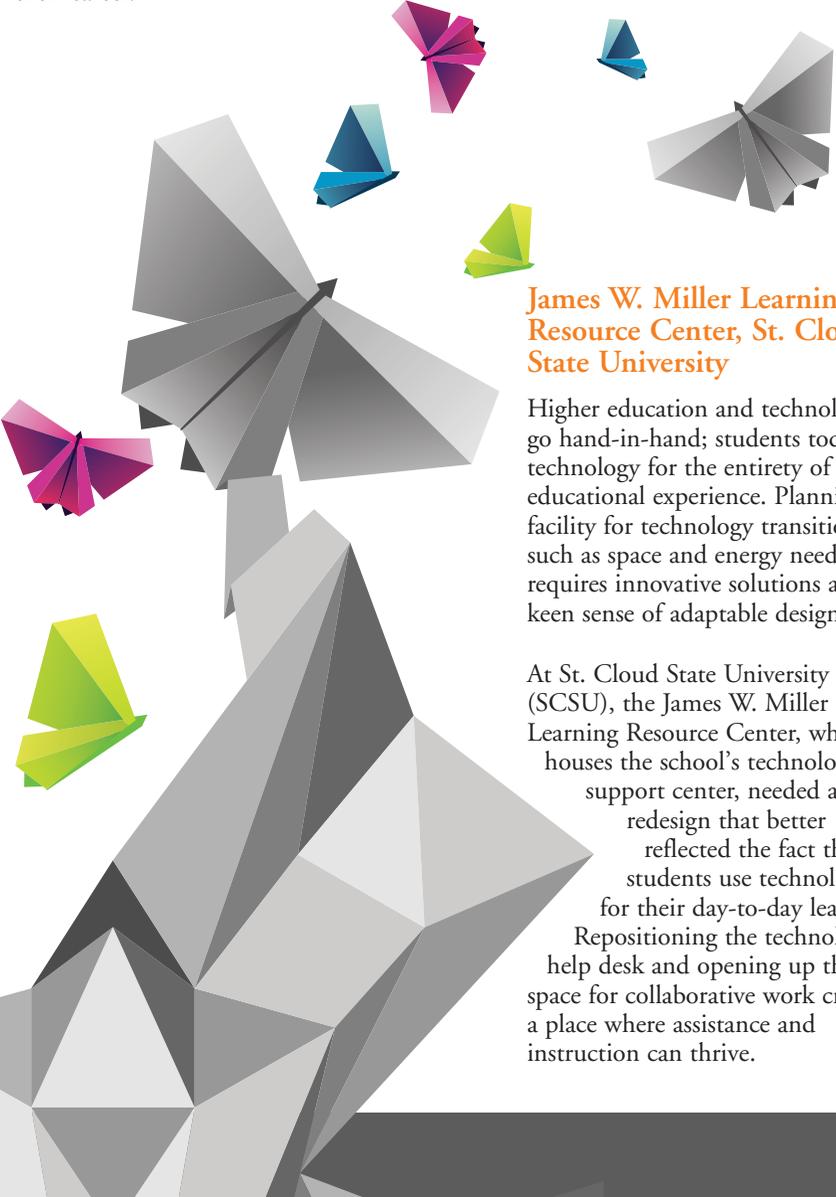
Shaping a building for future trends is a cornerstone of solid master planning. Great design works even as trends, needs and users change. Designing a building to anticipate future trends requires a utility for the present and an acute sensitivity toward the users of the future. And the future is at hand, especially when it comes to designing facilities for higher education.

Health Sciences Building, St. Cloud Technical & Community College

The buildings at St. Cloud Technical and Community College (SCTCC) weren't keeping up with the shape of the college's future. Enrollment had increased, particularly in their health sciences curriculum, and the school needed to invest in a facility to keep up with the demands of their students.

The college seized an opportunity to purchase a former health clinic adjacent to campus. The team created the Health Sciences Building, a state-of-the-art facility that features a sophisticated hands-on learning environment, with operating suites, classrooms and laboratories.

"The new Health Sciences Building gave us so many opportunities for growth, for program improvements and the education we were able to offer," said Lori Kloos, vice president of administration for SCTCC. "The new facility creates an environment of real-life experiences and instruction that allows our students to leave here prepared for their career."



James W. Miller Learning Resource Center, St. Cloud State University

Higher education and technology go hand-in-hand; students today use technology for the entirety of their educational experience. Planning a facility for technology transitions, such as space and energy needs, requires innovative solutions and a keen sense of adaptable design.

At St. Cloud State University (SCSU), the James W. Miller Learning Resource Center, which houses the school's technology support center, needed a redesign that better reflected the fact that students use technology for their day-to-day learning. Repositioning the technology help desk and opening up the space for collaborative work created a place where assistance and instruction can thrive.



Planners for senior housing facilities are always taking new measurements and assessing current and future needs of residents. Since no one really knows how well they will age, the future of senior housing facilities will hinge on meeting customer expectations. Gone are the days of a one-size-fits-all senior living facility. Active,

The only man I know who behaves *sensibly* is my tailor. He takes my measurements *anew* each *time* he sees me. The rest go on with their old measurements and expect me to fit them. *George Bernard Shaw*

involved and healthy seniors are choosing communities where they want to thrive, be members of a community, and have amenities to which they are accustomed.

The Waterford at Country Manor

After listening to current and potential residents, Country Manor in Sartell found that the current facilities weren't diverse enough to accommodate older residents at all stages of life.

Country Manor CEO Brian Kelm and his staff worked with GLTArchitects to create The Waterford, a new, upscale housing development on campus that offers amenities not typically seen in assisted living facilities. "Quality of life is independent to each person," said Kelm. "This new development serves those wanting to live here before their health crisis hits or before they need assisted living. They want to maintain their active, independent way of life, with the added benefits of the assistance they may need in the future."

Sisters of the Saint Scholastica Convent

All seniors want to live in grace and independence in a supportive community, even as they need more assistance. Community is especially a centerpiece of monastic life for the Sisters of the Saint Scholastica Convent in St. Cloud. The Sisters live, work and serve together, a lifestyle that requires more assistance as they age.

After a careful assessment of their old, multi-story building, GLTArchitects determined it would be less expensive and more desirable to the Sisters' needs to build a new, one-story building. The new space includes several casual gathering spaces and a large wellness and therapy suite, enabling all the Sisters to age together and care for one another.



In a chronically leaking boat, *energy* devoted to *changing* vessels is more *productive* than energy devoted to patching leaks. *Warren Buffet*

School districts are historically challenged with making the most of their facilities as programming needs change. Ongoing costs, such as maintenance and energy needs, can take their toll on budgets, the student's ability to learn, and the staff's patience. So sometimes, changing the boat—or, in this case, the building—is the best long-term facility choice.

Annandale Elementary School

The former Bendix Elementary School in Annandale, Minn., had many facility issues, including an open floor plan with few windows, limited core facilities and expensive maintenance, all of which did not support the district's educational program. It became clear during the long-term planning process that it would be more cost-effective to build a new school.



The new Annandale Elementary School features innovative design solutions that not only work with their education program, but use materials that are durable and functional and will last for decades to come. Geothermal energy, daylight strategies and durable, low-maintenance materials will result in reduced energy consumption and operating costs for the school district over the life of the building.

Classrooms with natural light, smart boards, sound reinforcing systems, a large media center that is the heart of the school, and appropriate core facilities will create a great learning environment for the students and staff.

"The decisions made in the design and construction of the new Annandale Elementary School will ensure that any building needs we may have will not include ongoing maintenance and wear on the elementary school," said Steve Niklaus, superintendent of Annandale Public Schools. "The new school is a much calmer, more purposeful and functional facility. The natural light, the spacious areas and efficient layout of the building have created a school for the community to enjoy for decades to come."



Rapid change means flexibility—a concept that applies to new construction as well as adaptive reuse of existing buildings. Flexibility can be incorporated into any design, regardless of the budget. The key is to combine an efficient infrastructure with a layout that can transition with few alterations when needs dictate an expansion.

Times and conditions change so rapidly that we must *keep* our aim constantly *focused* on the *future*.

Walt Disney

Boys & Girls Club Roosevelt

For organizations like the Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Minnesota, the community needs they serve are constantly changing, leaving them no choice but to plan for the future. It was apparent in their Roosevelt Club in north St. Cloud that the building had become too small and could no longer support the people, both big and small, who used their spaces every day.

The solution came in both a remodel of their old building and an addition. Flexible spaces, such as bright, inviting youth activity rooms and expanded staff and storage space, were paired with solid, efficient infrastructure changes, such as a commercial kitchen and a safer, welcoming entryway.

“The Boys & Girls Club’s Roosevelt renovation project has positioned the Boys & Girls Club to meet both program and administrative needs very well in the next 15 to 20 years,” said Mark Sakry, executive director of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Minnesota.



In simplest terms, designing for change is unique to each client, whether it is a large university, historic monastery, or a busy elementary school. From expanding current facilities to building from the ground up, the future is always upon us, hastening us to look beyond the present. But good design planning begins today.

GLTArchitects is pleased to announce that we've redesigned our website. Recently launched, the new site offers a contemporary look and streamlined user experience. The enhanced features and functionality allow us to keep our website up-to-date and allow us to better highlight our projects. Also included is *Visions*, a blog and newsreel of GLTArchitects' projects and information. Readers can view construction updates on current projects or read news briefs on the firm's presence at community events.

Newly Completed



Removing household hazardous waste materials in Central Minnesota is now easier with the new Stearns County Hazardous Waste Facility, located in Waite Park, Minn.

This cost-effective, low maintenance 17,700 square foot structure is the first of its kind in Central Minnesota. It offers a safe and easy-to-use, drive-thru, drop-off garage for Stearns County residents wishing to dispose of unused and unwanted hazardous household chemicals and products. The staff is able to safely collect, sort, and manage the waste products to be disposed of or recycled.

The building contains staff offices, storage space for the materials, an exchange store for the public to recycle unwanted paint and stain products, and a large enclosed, three-bay loading dock used to ship out bulk waste products. Many sustainable features were incorporated into the building design, including geothermal heating and cooling, daylighting and LED lighting, and permeable paving to reduce storm water runoff.

Annandale Public Schools

Annandale Elementary (PK-5) School
Annandale, Minnesota

Boys & Girls Club of Central Minnesota

Roosevelt Club Expansion/Remodel
St. Cloud, Minnesota



St. Cloud Technical & Community College

Health Sciences Building Renovation
CTEC Remodel
St. Cloud, Minnesota

St. Cloud State University

TV Studio Remodel
Miller Center Remodel
St. Cloud, Minnesota

Metro Transit Center

Transit Center Site Expansion
St. Cloud, Minnesota

The Change Salon New Salon Sartell, Minnesota



Newly Commissioned



The Waterford at Country Manor
Senior Apartment Homes
Sartell, Minnesota



Mount Saint Benedict Monastery
Addition/Remodel
Crookston, Minnesota

Villa Saint Vincent
Post-Acute Care Addition
Crookston, Minnesota

St. Cloud State University
Space Utilization Study
Administrative Services
Remodel

Confucius Institute Remodel
Energy Efficiency/
Sustainability Plan

St. Cloud, Minnesota

St. Cloud Technical &
Community College
Health Sciences Building
Exterior Renovation
St. Cloud, Minnesota

CentraCare Plaza
Endocrinology/Diabetes
Remodel
Sartell, Minnesota

Newly Completed Inside



DESIGN WITH PURPOSE

808 Courthouse Square
St. Cloud, MN 56303

(320) 252-3740
www.gltarchitects.com



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