

Risepointe  
architecture • design • interiors

**10 THINGS**   
**TO GET RIGHT**  
**BEFORE YOU BUILD**

# 1 DEVELOP A CASH FLOW POSITIVE PLAN

A lot of churches **assume they can raise money and then borrow against assets** to help execute a strategic project, but banks don't always look at it that way and that can be a **dangerous method** for determining the scope or budget of what we want to get done.

**Risepointe has a proven method** for walking your organization through intentional decision making around budget. A capital project needs to be something that you can afford, and that won't strap you for cash as you grow and need to invest in people and other things, not just buildings.

# 2 TEAM CONSENSUS

There is **power in an abundance of perspectives and ideas**. Too often we get stuck looking at our own problems and fail to hear the voice of those around us. It's critical that if we are going to design something for the future, that we at least elicit that perspective and those ideas.

"We think the bathrooms are fine" is a trigger phrase we hear WAY too often. It almost never is. Gather a diverse team of people to **understand and define the problem you are trying to solve** and come to an agreement on what needs done. (That last part is easier said than done, but decision making in a vacuum is impossible)

# 3 RIGHT NEXT STEPS

"Let's build a mega-church" says no church since the early 2000's, yet somehow we hire a fancy architect and start talking about our wish list and we end up with a monster. Like any organization, we should take steps in growth.

At Risepointe, **we love to envision the end result**, but then we lead your church, staff members and elders to define a clear next step that helps move the mission forward. Too many churches tell us "we only get to do it once" or some other excuse around construction or fundraising. Don't believe it, craft a good plan, take a step, **grow WITH your facility**, rinse and repeat. This requires great design.



# 4

## IDENTIFY A KINGDOM MULTIPLYING DESIGN

**What is holding you back from accomplishing your mission?** Is it always sexy and fun? Nope. Should we do that project anyway because its strategic? Yup. Who wants to build a parking lot and then fire sprinkle a building!?

The ONLY litmus test we should have is whether or not a project will help us multiply Kingdom Impact. Risepointe is really good at figuring out not only what that is, but the impact it could have. **(We've hung out with a ton of great churches)**

# 5

## FIND A GOOD PARTNER

There are a lot of factors that go into a good partner; not the least of which includes someone who can help lead through the project, so you can focus on ministry. Find someone with the experience to bring **fresh ideas and perspectives to the table** and who will challenge you to think outside the box.

Risepointe isn't the best fit for every project, but find a **good partner with a ministry mind set** who is morally AND financially aligned to help your organization. If they get paid more the more you spend, or they "do it all" so there is no transparency of accountability we recommend running away.

# 6

## UNDERSTAND EXISTING FACILITY

**75% of remodel projects at Risepointe dramatically improve usable ministry area and increase capacity!** Yes, you read that right. Even when we are expanding with new footprint, the existing facility HAS to be leveraged.

**How do you use your existing space?** How many days/week and hours per day does each space get used? What is your Ministry Area Ratio (Usable ministry SF / Total building SF)? Sit back on a Sunday and watch people flow, especially new people enter and navigate your space.



# 7

## ENDURING-TIMELESS-LASTING

**Trendy design is just that; trendy.** You know what makes it worse? As christian organizations we are usually 5 years behind the trend anyway. Shoot. We should look to a more lasting design narrative and then accent that with pieces that are on or even ahead of trend.

Hint: If you are in your mid-fifties, and your target audience is 20 years younger, and you are looking at design images that you “really like” that could be a problem. Keep in mind we need to **design for the end-user**, which is hopefully someone who isn't at your church yet and probably wears tighter jeans than you do.

# 8

## VISION BEFORE BUILDINGS

You would think that we wouldn't have to say this, but ALL of us are guilty of losing perspective on the vision sometimes. Yes, I yelled at my kids while assembling the swing-set. Same thing right?

**The project can overwhelm and dominate our decision making**, so its critical to get above all that with vision and really lead and make decisions out of that.

**At Risepointe we always want to bring it back to the vision.** It will inform every decision that is made on a project.

# 9

## COPY ANOTHER CHURCH OR SCHOOL

Do you know why there are so many restaurant brands? Don't they all just serve food? No seriously, think about it for a minute and think about what makes the place you LOVE special.

The same is true for you. Your brand is the promise that you make to your community, guests, and end-users and the more consistently you deliver on that promise, the stronger your brand.

**Your design and project should be as unique as your logo** and story of why God placed you where you are. **Risepointe can help with that.**

# 10 LEVERAGE BEST PRACTICE

There are tens of thousands of amazing churches, using facilities in unique, God-honoring, community serving ways. **We need to learn from one another** to better deploy our buildings and facilities to serve the Kingdom.

At Risepointe, we have the privilege of interacting with hundreds of amazing organizations every year. We would love to share some of the ideas THEY have developed with you and potentially use them to help **make your project better!**

## WHAT'S NEXT?

Every journey has a beginning, and when you work with Risepointe, that beginning is a needs analysis. Through this process, we'll work with you to create a comprehensive roadmap that sets expectations for everyone. We'll create custom solutions based on the unique needs of your congregation, ensuring your ability to focus on the message and not your building.



**Schedule a call** with a Risepointe design expert to get things rolling



**Needs Analysis** - enjoy an on-site evaluation with interactive planning and vision session



**Execute a custom plan** to make your facility a GREAT tool for growth