

## The Art of Creating a Balanced Place



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Have you ever entered a room or a space and felt uneasy, self-conscious, awkward or simply uncomfortable and you just could not wait to get out of there?

Has the opposite happened where you have ever entered a room or a space, and for no particular reason, felt totally at ease? You may have even said to yourself, "there is something really comfortable about this place, it feels good, it feels right."

Consciously or subconsciously, the space in which we work, live and play has a much greater impact and effect on us than we realize. The space we occupy is like a living organism with very sensitive and highly interconnected functions, forms and energy flows. All these factors play in concert with each other to either create a balance or chaos, which, in turn, strongly affects our well-being.



For a design project to be successful and fulfill all of our needs, we must identify and clarify all the specific requirements that will be a part of the project before moving forward.

### Needs and Requirements

At a surprise to most, counselling our clients during the first stage of a project is a major part of getting to a place of co-understanding and agreement for the true requirements of the project. After many meetings, sometimes accompanied by a few glasses of wine, we can start solidifying real needs upon which everyone agrees.

This is a very important and comprehensive first stage of a project. All decisions decided upon during this stage will make or break the project down the road. It is highly recommended that this stage be executed by a professional who will know to ask the right questions—and there are hundreds of them. If this does not happen, the client will be very disappointed with the end result.

### Function Versus Form

The debate as to what should take priority in creating a place goes far back into history.

The most important priority in a successful project is that it is fully functional. Ignoring it or putting it behind

other issues is the biggest mistake many people—even designers—make. If the place is completely functional, the energy will flow freely, giving ample room for other aspects of the project to fall into place. There is no reason why function and form cannot be addressed at the same time and incorporated in the overall design. That, of course, takes talent, resourcefulness, the know-how and experience which a professional can provide you.

### Hiring a Professional

With the popularity in television building and interior design programs growing everyday, many people watch these and feel they have become a type of expert in the field. Consulting in building, designing and decorating has become very popular. However, be aware of fly-by-night consultants. Make sure you ask to see the projects they have completed and talk to the clients they have worked for. Work only with accomplished professionals.

At Amadesco (Amalgamated Design & Contracting Ltd.), after more than 30 years of experience, we understand the art of creating spaces that combine function and form. Without imposing a style, we design and create buildings from inside out so that the end result is enjoyment and harmony. FLH