

The Five Fundamentals to a Successful Technology Project

1 Strong Leadership

The architect for a senior community center project is the quarterback for the whole team. It is the architect who needs to fully understand the design and articulate the vision to the rest of the team. The architect is responsible for innovative design while also guiding the team to a result that will be accessible for residents, family members, and staff.

2 Intelligent Budgeting

You will notice the phrase is not “perfect budgeting” or “exact budgeting.” This may seem fundamentally counter intuitive. Nonetheless, experience indicates that a flexible budget results in fewer project overruns. The reality is that any major project, especially in these uncertain times, is going to have to overcome plan changes, specification changes, and other obstacles. Accepting that fact and creating a budget that will absorb inevitable changes is a significant key to success.

3 Smart Spaces

A design project will not be deemed successful if, upon completion, the space cannot accommodate the technology. One of the most common “gotchas” that plagues design projects is a telecom closet that is too small for its intended contents. Additionally, trouble can arise from improper planning for the carrier service, e-call, AV, or security and access. The team must keep in the forefront not just the design plan, but also the future occupants of the space. The environment will only be successful if it works for the residents and caregivers who will occupy the space.



4 High Tech is Not Always Best Tech

When designing a new project, it can be tempting to throw all your newest and most innovative ideas into the mix. With trends evolving to include circadian lighting, enhanced RTLs, and more proactive fall detection technology, it is easy to assume everything should be built on the most elaborate technology platforms available. Unfortunately, this kind of thinking often leads to poor outcomes. Often, high tech is more suited for academic users or government workers, not caregivers and residents. There has to be a member of the team who can advocate for the end-users and caution the team when the technology is becoming too advanced and less utilitarian.

5 Productive Teamwork

Stakeholders' priorities on a design project will always vary, and some priorities may take precedent over others. In an orchestra, the conductor cannot expect the strings section to worry about percussion. And a construction team will not approach a project in the same way as the architect or the interiors team. Similarly, while all the facets of the design team need to come together, they need to rely on a strong conductor to synthesize the various melodies.



There are many more “musts” to include in a design project. This is just the beginning. If you would like help in determining what other fundamentals you should consider, **call us today for a free consultation.**



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