

JUST HOW GOOD ARE WE?

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We are measured by strange measuring sticks and standards! It is the "lack of things" that prove best to us--but we may be looking at the wrong side of things. It is though that the "bad" are rather imposing and quite bothersome.

Have you been to court lately? Been questioned? Been cross-examined? Been made to explain something you take as a matter of course, or for granted? Been made to prove a mental process you used, or a decision you based on "gut feeling" without a mound of documentation?

Have you weathered arbitration lately? Or mere mediation? Same deal as litigation except the room is smaller and perhaps there is less contention and more of a drive to resolve in lieu of punish. Any way all of these are bothersome, time-consuming, costly, and a pain in the.....well, we won't go there!

Well, if you lack litigation, arbitration and mediation, how about the number of Change Orders that you "had" to issue? The number of RFIs you had to answer? The number of times you had to explain that "if you read the specs you'll find that? Oh, and you brusk types, how often did you offer "RTFD" as your answer?

See what I mean--the lack of these thing is a measure of our success!

Now wwaaiitttt a darn minute!!!!

Chances are you have not been to many ribbon-cuttings lately, nor inaugural ceremonies opening a new facility--but that is because you are "staff" (including consultants), errr, "part of the design team!!!!" and not the public face of your firm. But any way, how many projects have you serviced that were successfully completed within reasonable limits of time and budget (things you don't really control) and in general satisfying to all? Often times, in the daily work-a-day it is hard to realize those factors. You grind it out, tolerate, understand and respect the design concept, bring a wonderfully adaptive pragmatism to the project and often really see little if anything more from the time you issue your product. You are on to other things--like getting paid!

But it is a matter of pride, professionalism, understanding and experience to take it all and know in your heart that your contribution did make good things happen, and provide new configurations and sound construction for the direct benefit of others. Simply, you did your job, expertly and properly. You dealt in no deviousness, chicanery or outlandish things--you worked directly to the need and requirements with the best you had, given the circumstances.

Well, good for you!

And now, really, you're only lacking one thing--any indication of success from a good word, a pat on the back, or a hearty "well done"--or really any slight indication, beyond being taken for granted, of thoughts and assumptions other than you're carrying on as you should!

Booooo!