

MBH Architects Discerns Clients' Needs, Provides Elegant Solutions

Architecture is the precise art of turning a multitude of various building materials into living, breathing spaces where people live, work and play.

In the Bay Area, MBH Architects has established itself as an artist, and perhaps more important, as a collaborator with clients and partners in defining and realizing their vision. This is sound business and at MBH it is the driving force behind good architecture and design.

"We hold design as an important and integral part of the practice," says John McNulty, a founding principal, "but it's not the shining star."

Other elements coalesce into shaping that shining star. These include project management and client service, which boils down to careful listening to all stakeholders in the building endeavor. At MBH, the work process involves assembling the right team of people who will all pull in the right direction.



*P.F. Chang's China Bistro
Palo Alto, California*

McNulty credits the firm's other principals, Dennis Heath, F. Clay Fry and Joseph Smart, along with some 140 others who work in the Alameda and Newport offices, with MBH's success.

The firm, he says, doesn't have any single signature design style. It's rather a matter of what the client needs, how the project accomplishes its intended purposes and how it adds to its neighborhood. This applies to



*Marriott's Newport Coast Villas
Newport Beach, California*

both new buildings and to graceful renovations of old ones.

In many ways MBH is more than an architecture firm — it is the guardian of retail brand image. The firm has built Target, Gap, Williams-Sonoma, Pottery Barn, Old Navy and Best Buy stores, with their instantly recognizable features, throughout the United States. Other retail stores in the firm's portfolio include J. Crew in Los Angeles and the flagship Broadway Soho Express in New York.

Much of MBH Architects' work is in the business arena. Additional commercial projects include Broadway Plaza in Walnut Creek, San Francisco Wax Museum, Kaiser Permanente's new home at Serramonte

Corporate Center in Daly City, interiors at Motorola Corporation, Hilton Grand Vacations Club in Las Vegas, Nevada, and Marriott's Newport Coast Villas Timeshare Resort in Southern California.

Restaurants are an impressive specialty of this design practice. Bay Area people who have dined at Momo's San Francisco Bar & Grill or lifted a glass at one of the many

P.F. Chang's China Bistros have seen the firm's work up close.

The most intimate association most people have with architecture is in the places they live. MBH is accomplished at creating remarkable residential spaces in building renovation and new-construction projects, with some sites that combine both facets. The firm proudly points to many showcase properties in

San Francisco, such as the North Beach Malt House, Embarcadero Lofts, the Village at Petrin Place and Brannan Square.

Across the cities of the Bay Area, the state of California, and the entire country, MBH Architects produces its artworks to serve people.

*Please visit the website at
www.mbharch.com for more information.*

It's our people who make great places.



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Outlook: The Bay Area Business Profiles

The Bay Area has long been recognized as America's great center of free-thinking idealism and frontier adaptability. And the area's rich history is evident in a diverse array of neighborhoods and charming architecture.



While the Bay Area's people are dedicated to preserving their architectural, historical and cultural treasures, they are certainly not stuck in the past. In fact, one recent study indicates that the Bay Area is the region most able to take advantage of opportunities in the new economy, based on its educated workforce, innovative spirit and the availability of venture funding.

Tourism, foreign trade and finance are the mainstays of the economy, with food-processing and clothing manufacture playing important roles as well. The Bay Area also remains strong in core industries such as agriculture, mining and transportation.

In the following section, you will learn about some of the current and future business leaders who are helping The Bay Area lead America into the 21st century.

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