

Design on a Dime!

Here's our version of the popular HGTV show, "Design on a Dime", where creative design doesn't have to cost a lot. Our top ten design tips will make the most of your budget.

Design Tip #1: Begin with a Plan.

Creating a roadmap that establishes a direction for the future is critical to building a solid foundation. If you don't know where you are going, all roads will lead you there.

Design Tip #2: Prioritize Your Improvements.

Identify the top priorities to align your improvements with your budget. Understanding what your agency needs and supports should be first on the list.



Design Tip #3: Create Curb Appeal.

No one enjoys entering an unsightly facility. More landscaping and less hard surfaces are inexpensive ways to give your facility a better look from the street.

Design Tip #4: Emphasize the Front Door.

Make sure people know where to enter your facility, especially if it has multiple entrances. A canopy, signage and lighting will enhance the door location.



Design Tip #5: Make a Statement at the Entry.

Place the high use active spaces at the front and use glass to highlight them. Seeing activity within a facility invites people in for a look around.

Design Tip #6: Create a Good Impression.

Ask yourself, what impression does your facility give people when they enter? If it says 1970s it may be time for a change.

Design Tip #7: Go With the Flow.

We all know that if the service desk doesn't work that spells problems. Fixing it may involve redesigning the lobby.

Design Tip #8: Incorporate Color, Texture and Pattern.

Don't be afraid to be bold with color. Adding texture and pattern will also make a positive statement to your patrons.

Design Tip #9: Be an Energy Star.

Investing in the best mechanical system will result in life cycle savings. It will also result in the healthiest indoor space you can provide.

Design Tip #10: Keep it Open.

If you have too many small spaces, open it up and you'll reduce construction costs. Keeping your facility open minimizes material use and eases space reconfiguration.



Well, there you have it. Good luck on being creative and successful.

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