

Process Department:
**EVALUATING
YOUR SPACE**
How a POE can Improve Overall
Design Quality

“A post-occupancy evaluation (POE) assesses how well a built environment fulfills the needs of the people who use it and helps them accomplish organizational and individual goals” (Post Occupancy Evaluation Program Plan For the Capital Development Board of the State of Illinois).

A POE can produce vital information for the owner and the designer with regard to building performance, organizational policies and procedures, programming, implementation of new ideas, justification of expenditures, adaptability, and the interaction of the occupants with the environment. A POE is beneficial both to current and future projects.

How can one benefit from this information?

Building owners benefit in several ways. First, the POE may identify organizational policies and procedures that can be refined to improve efficiency. Second, the building may be evaluated against relevant criteria to identify ways to tweak its performance and improve the performance of future buildings. Third, project expenditures, planned or unexpected, may be understood. Owners of as yet unbuilt buildings benefit when the information gathered is used to improve future projects. Performance criteria and programs of future similar projects can be made more accurate and efficient. New ideas that were unsuccessful in the previous project can be tweaked



with respect to the problems identified in the POE and understanding of unexpected project expenditures can improve the accuracy of estimating for future projects.

What is Koch Hazard doing?

Koch Hazard has integrated a POE program into its processes.

For example, Koch Hazard Architects designed Fire Station #4 for the City of Sioux Falls in 2002 which was occupied in 2003. A POE interview process conducted in 2005 for FS #4 generated important findings that were incorporated by Koch Hazard into the design of FS #10, construction of which was recently completed. Features of the building were

re-prioritized based on the interview comments and FS #10 budget limitations. Some features of FS #4 were being used differently than anticipated and the design of FS #10 was modified to address these differences. FS #5 followed Station #10 and also benefitted from the process.

Koch Hazard wants to ensure that every client receives the full benefit of a clear understanding of how buildings really work for their users.

A POE will get you thinking about your current space and where it might be improved 📄