

Memorandum for Record

Subject: Design Charrette

Design charrette is a term used by the Joint Culinary Center of Excellence (JCCoE), Army Center of Excellence, Subsistence Operations Directorate (ACES OD) and the Corps of Engineers for Major Construction, Army (MCA) projects for dining facilities.

What Is A Design Charrette?

Charrette is a French word derived from “a collection of Ideas”. You will be hearing the words design charrette more and more for dining facility projects. Nowadays, the design process, which may oftentimes take months to complete, is compressed into a two to five day efficient planning and brainstorming session involving the entire team (i.e. client, design team, consultants, etc.). During this process, known as a “charrette,” the team works side by side for an intense exchange of ideas to develop planning concepts and architecture that fits the project criteria. This approach ends with workable solutions supported by all major players.

How Can A Charrette Help You?

- a. A Project Team consists of representatives from ACES and Corps of Engineers design professionals (i.e., planners, architects, interior designers, etc.) that will conduct an on-site meeting to work side by side with the users (food service staff and DPW representatives) for an intense exchange of ideas to develop project solutions.
- b. Rapid problem resolution with the Project Team will trim months from your project.

What Are The Benefits?

- a. You get workable solutions to your specific problems in shorter periods of time.
- b. Various client groups will agree to the solutions because they were active participants.
- c. On-site problem solving approach combines research with solutions.
- d. Site assessment, pre-planning, pre-design, architectural character, delivery approaches, etc. are beneficial to your project.
- e. Months trimmed from the pre-development phase of the project.
- f. Solutions will include knowledge of local methodologies.