



# High Performance K-12 Building Design

Thomas Fernandez, Energy Manager

Colorado Springs School District 11

(719)477-6011

[fernatom@d11.org](mailto:fernatom@d11.org)

*EPA State Clean Energy-Environment Technical Forum*

*December 8, 2005*

# D11's New Schools

---

- 4 different design teams
- Attractive designs
- Highly functional
- Excellent comfort levels
- D11's best student achievement scores

# Energy Performance

---

- Trailblazer Elementary 68 KBTU/SF/YR
- Scott Elementary 71 KBTU/SF/YR
- Jenkins Middle 76 KBTU/SF/YR
- Tesla Middle 101 KBTU/SF/YR
  
- D11 Average 70 KBTU/SF/YR
- National K-12 80 KBTU/SF/YR

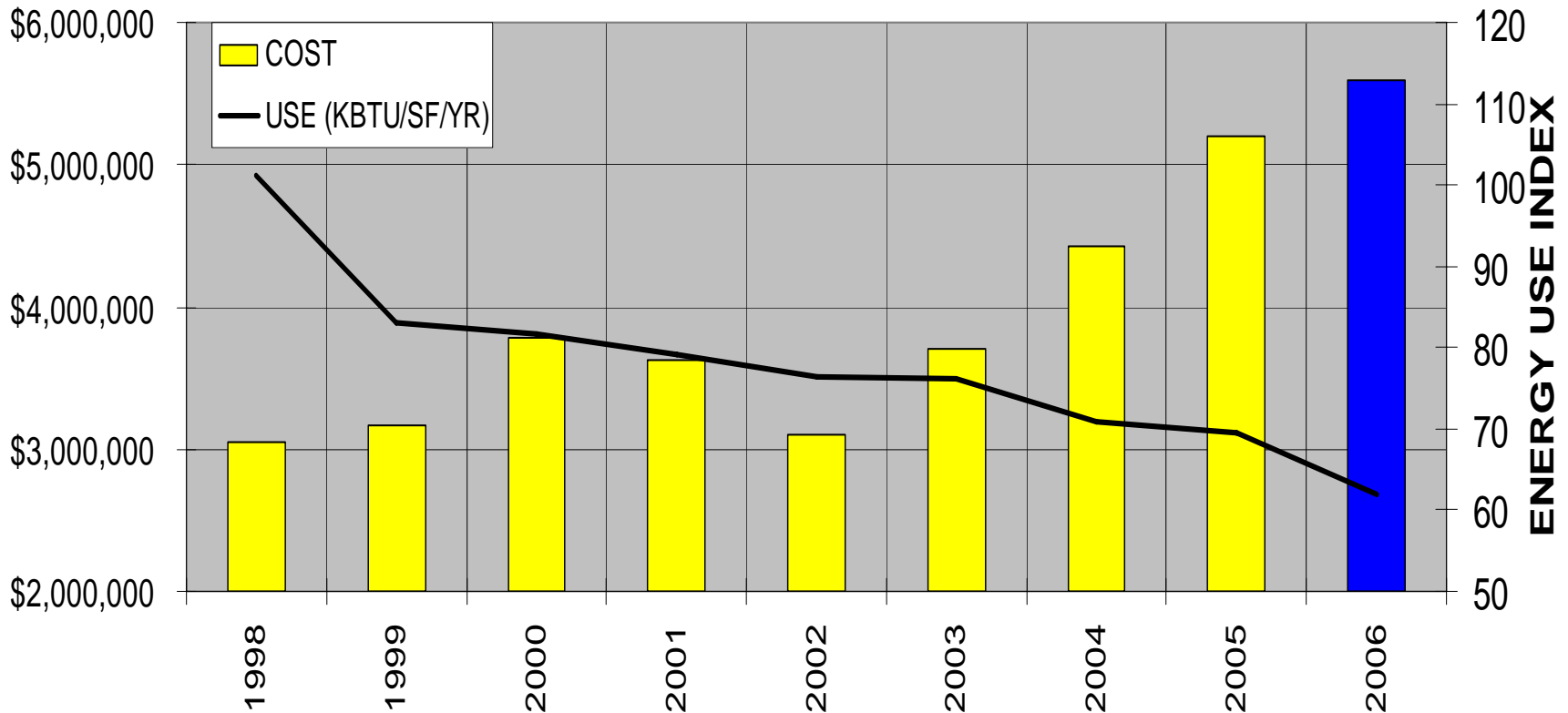
# Energy Use Index

---

$(\text{Gas} + \text{Electric}) / \text{Total Sq. Ft.} = \text{KBTU/SF/YR}$

# Why It Matters To D11

## D11 Energy Cost & Use



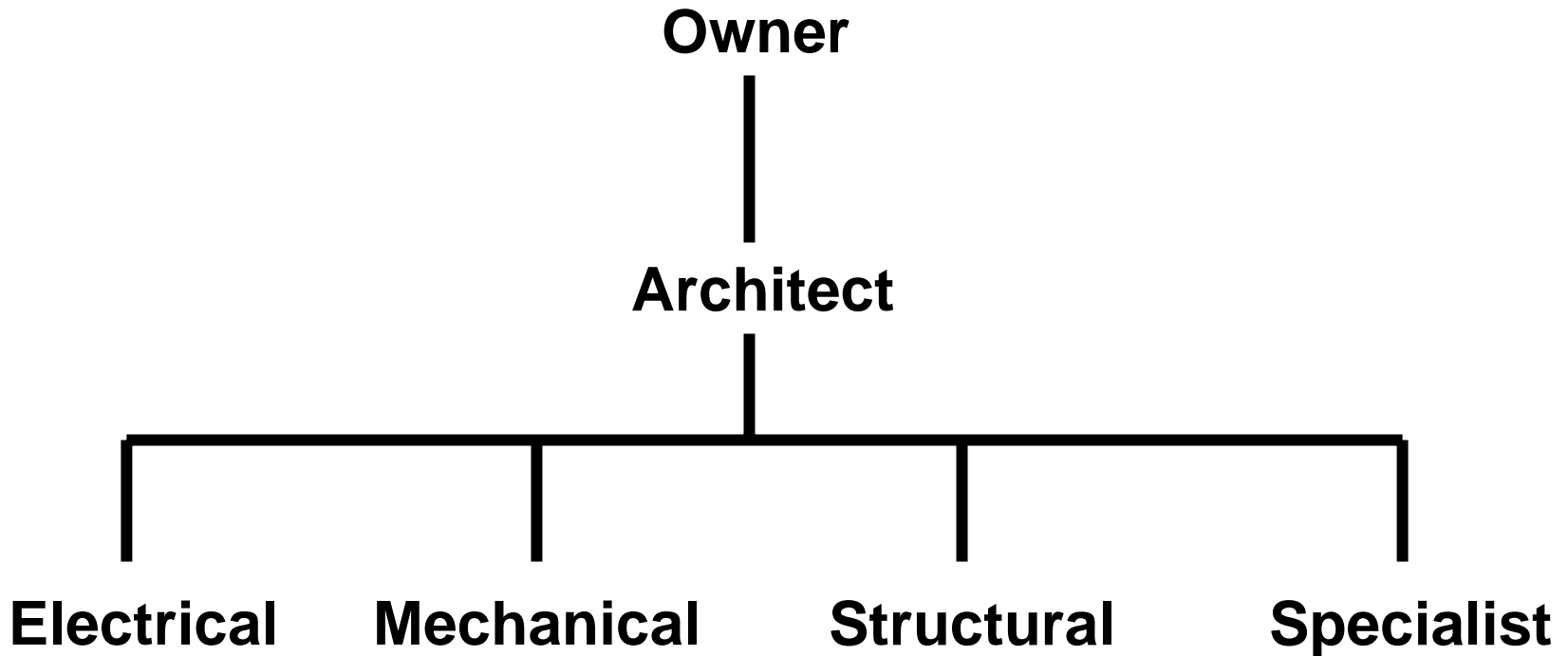
# Lessons Learned

---

- No clear understanding of HP buildings
- No clear understanding of HP design
- No specific building energy goals
- Traditional “architect down” design
- Passive during design

# Traditional Design Hierarchy

---



# Traditional Design Process

---

- Owner sets budget & functional scope
- Architect designs for form & function
- Mechanical & electrical systems must fit around architect's design
- Minimal interaction between disciplines
- Fixed design fees – no incentive



# High Performance Design Process

---



- Form & function designed around HVAC and lighting systems
- Maximizes use of natural lighting, heating, cooling, ventilation
- Reduced equipment sizing & run time
- Reduces energy use

# Integrated Design Team

---

- All team members onboard from concept
- Energy goals clearly understood
- Architect allows team to interact freely & collaboratively to achieve energy goals
- The power of performance based fees
- Design process costs more

# High Performance Energy Difference

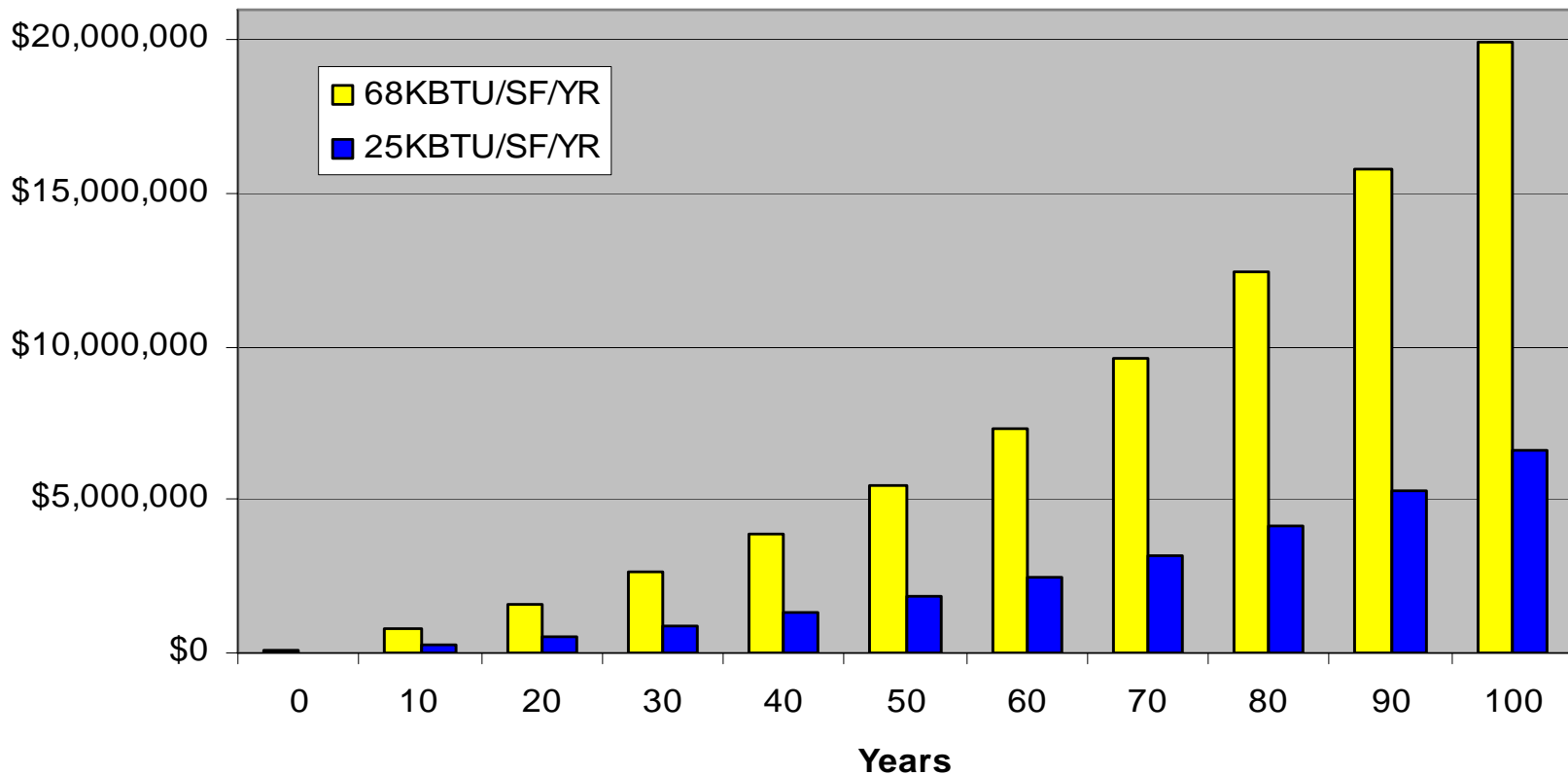
---



- K-12 High Performance 25KBTU/SF/YR
- K-12 National average 80KBTU/SF/YR
- Does not have to cost more to build
- LEED certification doesn't guarantee high performance
- Higher design cost - quick payback

# The Lifecycle Cost Difference

**Lifecycle Cummulative Difference  
 Trailbalzer Elementary**



# Owner Responsibilities

---

- Understands the HP concept
- Sets specific energy goals
- Finds the right design team
- Budgets for higher design fees
- Hire an integrated design process expert

# D11 Building Performance Goals

---



- 25 KBTU/SF/YR - total building energy
- 2.4 GAL/SF/YR - domestic water
- 4.5 GAL/SF/YR – irrigation
- Power factor > 0.95 lag
- Elementary school construction <\$110/SF

# D11 Authored Documents

---

- Educational / Functional Specifications
- High Performance Design Specifications
- RFP for design services
- Performance based fee schedule

# Finding The Right Team

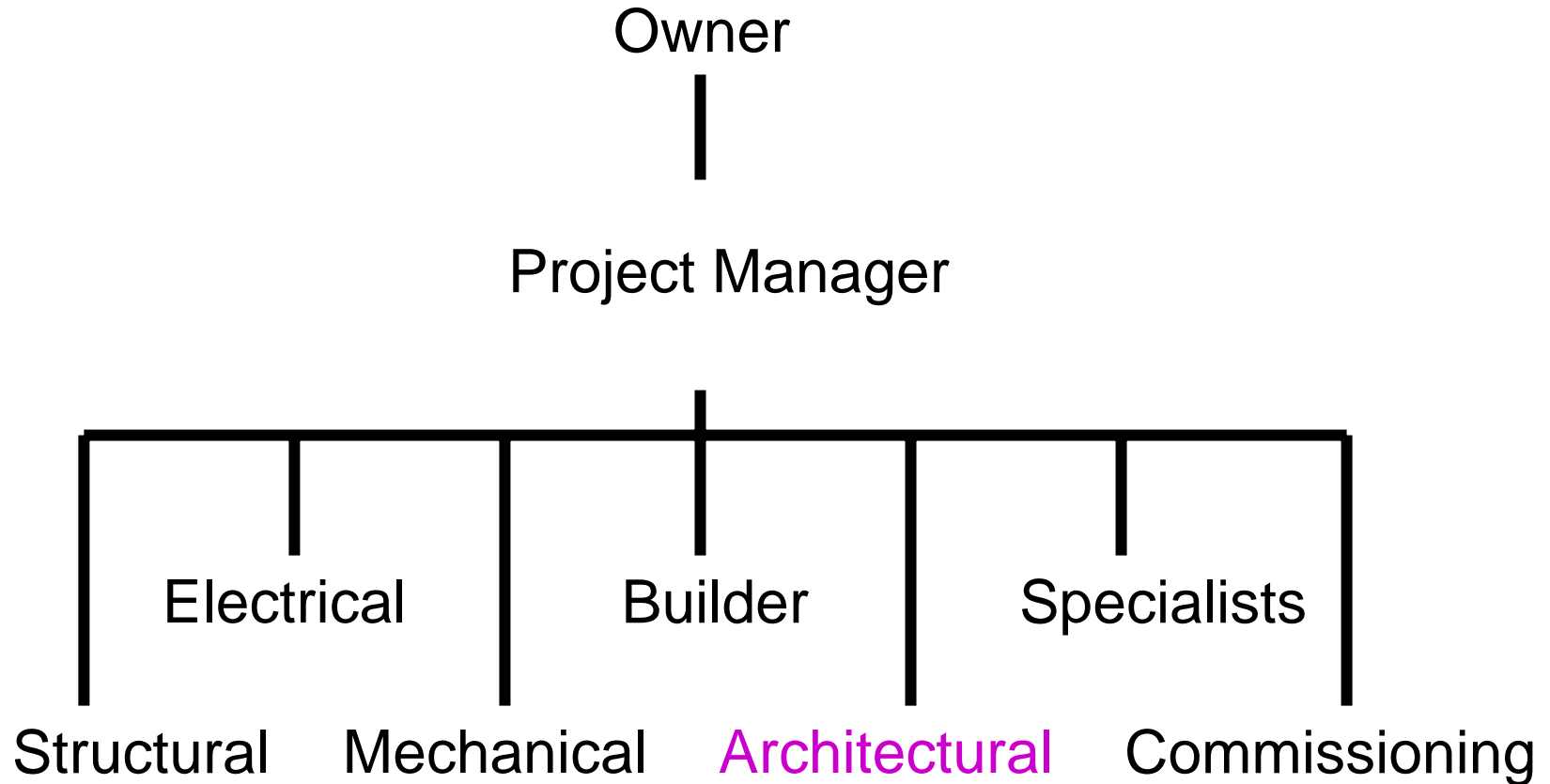
---

- Ask for documented KBTU/SF/YR results for similar building type
- Demonstrated use of integrated design team approach
- Willing to accept performance based fees
- Don't rely on LEED certification



# Owner Direct A New Alternative

---



# Owner Direct Design Team Structure

---



- Owner direct – HP expert project manager
- Owner direct - all design disciplines
- Design team free to meet design goals collaboratively without traditional barriers
- Performance bonus for all members.

# Useful Tools

---

- During design - EPA Energy Star “Target Finder” tool - KBTU/SF/YR
- During verification - EPA Energy Star “Portfolio Manager” benchmarking tool  
KBTU/SF/YR

# Conclusion

---

- High performance buildings are achievable
- They don't have to cost more
- They already exist - go visit them
- But it won't happen without a educated determined owner – at least not yet!
- It's the right thing to do - for generations to come

# Contact Information

---



Thomas Fernandez, Energy Manager  
Colorado Springs School District 11  
(719) 477-6011  
fernatom@d11.org