

In Favor of the Design-Build Approach (an opinion piece)

It is often said that an architect's dream is an engineer's worst nightmare. Yet, the divisions between disciplines are not conducive to collaboration, and often, this sentiment is a result of a lack of communication. In order to combat this problem that is unfortunately, more common than not, the walls between fields must be knocked down to build better and more effectively.

Through a more collaborative approach, ideas and designs can be altered as they are reaching their final form, or at least when they are ready to be presented. The conversations that could help improve and add to a design would only be possible if engineers and architects work together, and not on their own.

Thus, design-build firms are an incredibly viable option to further the spirit of interdisciplinary teamwork. These firms house both designers and the people who construct the buildings, fostering collaboration between architects and engineers alike. Firms like these also allow for more perspective to be added to any potential design, giving designers more opportunities to understand how their creations can be feasibly built, while engineers have the chance to understand more about the process it takes to design a building.

This can be applied to Engineering Without Borders as well. There are many architects participating and working alongside engineers in certain projects, providing them with the relevant experience needed to understand the constraints of engineering while also bypassing those barriers across different fields within the larger ecosystem of the construction world. Collaboration, not divisiveness, is the future of furthering design, engineering, and construction, and it would be amiss to ignore the many benefits that would result from this approach.