



University of California
San Francisco

Susan Fisher, Ph.D.
Professor

UCSF Box 0512
513 Parnassus Ave, S-534
San Francisco, CA 94143

Zip code for Express Mail
94122-2722

Tel. (415) 476-5297
Fax (415) 476-1635

Email
sfisher@cgl.ucsf.edu

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To whom it may concern,

It is a great pleasure for me to recommend, with the highest possible enthusiasm, Bonnie Blake-Drucker as an architect. I am a professor at the University of California in the Department of Cell and Tissue Biology. During the last four years, I have worked with Bonnie on two large-scale projects. The following describes these projects and my interactions with Bonnie, which were both fun and productive.

The first contact I had with Bonnie was during an interview process in which four professors who were to occupy the Health Sciences West 6th floor of the UCSF Medical Center interviewed a series of prospective architects to design and oversee the remodeling of that space. Of those who presented to us, Bonnie clearly had the best plan and was the most enthusiastic about the job. My initial impressions of her never changed. She was thoroughly professional and a true delight to work with. I felt that she genuinely took all four professors' opinions into consideration, not an easy task given our sometimes disparate views of how the space should be organized. She really did her homework, gathering information about similar remodels that had been completed on the UCSF campus during the last few years. She took the best of those designs and introduced new elements that she thought would make the Health Sciences West 6th floor a superior space. For example, it is very difficult to get spatial orientation when entering many of the floors in that section of the medical center. Bonnie resolved this issue by creating a central corridor that allows those who enter the area to see the trees outside. This relatively small design element has a huge effect, as visitors are able to immediately understand the layout of the space. In addition, the effect is visually stunning.

Bonnie also worked very hard to create design concepts that included interesting color elements. For example, she broke up the boxy look of a typical laboratory by introducing arches that are both a design element and a way of giving the impression of individual space. I particularly liked the way she designed the lunch and break room area, which by necessity is relatively small. She incorporated a kitchen in the corner, out of view of the casual visitor passing through the space to reach the academic and administrative offices. The area with couches and tables is illuminated by lamps that add an interesting design feature. Also, she was very helpful in formulating the layout of the academic offices. She made wonderful suggestions about orienting the desks, tables and chairs to maximize the space as well as the privacy of the researcher occupants. Finally, I note her talent with regard to the use of color. She suggested a green theme, which would echo the view of the trees from the central corridor. This worked wonderfully as a coherent theme that opens and brightens the space. As detailed below, my group never occupied the newly remodeled laboratory. Thus, I do not have first-hand

knowledge of how the space works. However, I hear from my colleagues that everyone, including the administrative staff, loves the efficiency and the look of the newly remodeled area.

As my group was about to move back to the Health Sciences West 6th floor space, the School of Medicine offered me different space in the Health Sciences East Tower on the 16th floor. Since we would have the opportunity to have neighbors doing similar sorts of research in human embryonic stem cell and reproductive biology, I jumped at the chance. Again, a remodel of the area was required, and for me there was only one choice with respect to the architect: Bonnie Blake-Drucker. After the requisite round of interviews, I was delighted when Bonnie agreed to do this project. My experience with her the second time around was even more enjoyable than the first. By then she knew my group and our needs extremely well. This degree of familiarity allowed her to streamline the design process. Because we had to work with existing walls, as we did not have sufficient funds to carry out an entire demolition, creativity was again required to make maximum use of the space. I am extremely pleased with the plans Bonnie has made and am very excited to see the project unfold during the coming year. She designed a central hall that segregates, on either side, different sorts of activities. We envision that the end of the hall will contain a video monitor where we can display movies of cells and other elements of our work. Finally, I am very excited about the color scheme, which will also be an important element of the design.

By touring the areas of the medical center that Bonnie has designed, it is easy to see that she is a very creative person. What you can't see is that she is a delight to work with, extremely patient, and willing to listen to the opinions of all who are involved in the project. I have never seen her be less than completely professional. Most important, her energy and enthusiasm never flag. She truly enjoys working with scientists to make the most efficient work space possible, and this shows in every aspect of her work. I also note that she is able to attract the best subcontractors and, therefore, has a reputation for delivering projects under budget and on time, another important consideration.

If you have additional questions, I would be happy to talk with you about Bonnie. My direct office line is (415) 502-4135.

Sincerely,



Susan Fisher, Ph.D.
Professor
Department of Cell & Tissue Biology
Department of Anatomy
Department of Pharmaceutical Chemistry
Faculty Director, Biomolecular Resource Center