PROCESS FOR DESIGNING THE SPACE

What is Space Programming?

The research and decision-making process that identifies the needs of the building/facility and allows the design to take place. Programming typically involves groups of end users gathering to discuss how they plan to use the building and what they will need from the space to make it as effective as possible.

The program is a list that itemizes the spaces that must be in the building. This serves as an outline and square footages and descriptions can be added to each item to keep you more organized.

What is a Bubble Diagram?

A Bubble Diagram is a very simple (hand) drawing that consists of roughly drawn bubbles (representing spaces) connected by solid lines, broken lines or wavy lines etc. to specify the type of relationship between the spaces.

The bubbles can be used to represent different kinds of spaces in a plan, varying in shape to represent features of greater or lesser importance and size. The bubble diagram can create a rough sense of flow which is used to develop a more refined plan. A bubble diagram floor plan, for example, can represent the flow of a space and provide information about the sizes of rooms relative to each other.

The main purpose of the bubble diagram is to help you translate the program into a strategy or form. Bubble diagrams simplify this step by graphically depicting the program and allowing for quick expressions, multiple layouts, and revisions.
Tips: Start with drawing a bubble for where your main entrance could be. Mark small bubbles at any other places where you feel you will need a door or entrance.
FLOOR PLANS

A floor plan is a scaled diagram of a room or building viewed from above. The floor plan may depict an entire building, one floor of a building, or a single room. It may also include measurements, furniture, appliances, or anything else necessary to the purpose of the plan. Floor plans are useful to help design furniture layout, wiring systems, and much more.

Think about the following when designing your floor plan:

- **Size matters** – Whenever designing any room or hallway, think about how many people will be in the space at one time. Do they have room to move around? Is there room for furniture to accommodate all the planned activities?
- **Scale** – use a scale to draw your floor plan to ensure the total area will fit where it is to be built.
- **Dimensions** – Label dimensions between walls to specify room sizes and wall lengths. It may also be helpful to label the square footage of each room/space.
- **Draw walls** – add walls to each room of the building to show how spaces will interact or be separated.