

## Finding a 1% Solution to Nonprofit Needs

### Overview

For more than 75 years, the architectural and design firm Perkins+Will has been dedicated to the philosophy that design has the power to transform and enhance the mission and business of its clients and improve society overall.

Since 2007, Perkins+Will has more explicitly served society by committing to donate 1 percent of its billable resources to support public interest work. It now contributes the equivalent of a 15-person firm working fulltime to provide pro bono services to organizations in its local communities.

### Social Responsibility Challenge

Almost 95 percent of construction projects worldwide don't use an architect. But if architects could apply their design skills to help those who cannot afford an architect, they can make a difference.

Most nonprofits can articulate their vision for a project very well and are adept at raising funds for construction or renovation. Architects and designers can bridge the gap between the wish list and the groundbreaking.

"One of our big challenges was assembling full teams of design professionals—the engineers, specialty consultants, and contractors needed to help make a project succeed. We have been fortunate over the last three years to secure the participation of talented partners in these related fields," says Chris Sciarrone, SR coordinator for Perkins+Will's Atlanta office.

### Solutions

In 2007, Perkins+Will partnered with Public Architecture, an organization that connects nonprofits with architecture and design firms. The company then signed on to Public Architecture's 1% Program, which challenges architecture and design firms nationwide to pledge a minimum of 1 percent of their time to pro bono service.

Based on a 40-hour workweek, 1 percent represents a modest 20 hours per year, per person. Perkins+Will's services, including zoning analysis, urban planning, and bricks-and-mortar built projects, are advancing causes for organizations that will have profound impact in their communities.

Local offices seek to address basic human needs: food, shelter, health, education, and empowerment. The dozens of projects they undertake each year include family health clinics, arts centers, domestic abuse shelters, and more.

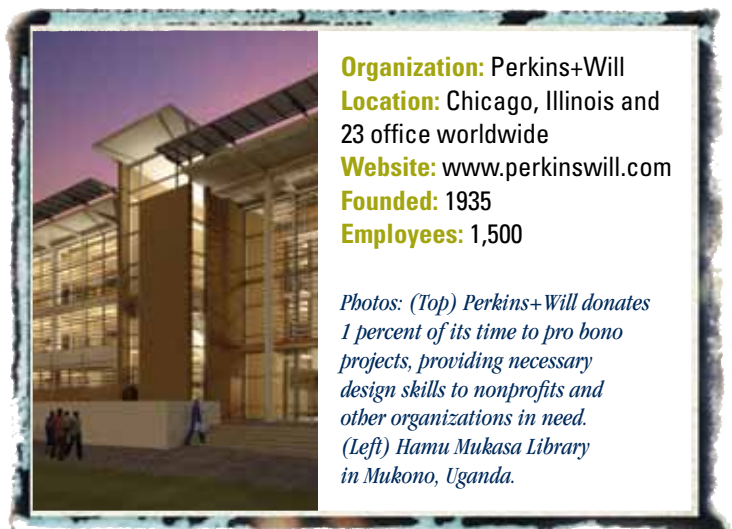


### Measurement/Results

Perkins+Will produces an annual report that highlights its pro bono projects and provides ideas for others who may be seeking their help. Employees report their time electronically, so that progress against an hourly budget can be tracked. All pro bono design projects are subject to the same in-house design and quality assurance reviews as for-profit projects. In 2009, Perkins+Will donated 17,848 hours of professional services, serving on boards and contributing to community outreach.

### Other SR Involvement

Perkins+Will's environmental conscience also involves membership in the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) and is demonstrated by its commitment to upholding the standards set by USGBC's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System® in its own buildings and those of its clients. The firm has more than 1,000 LEED accredited professionals, more than any other similar-sized architecture firm.



**Organization:** Perkins+Will  
**Location:** Chicago, Illinois and 23 office worldwide  
**Website:** [www.perkinswill.com](http://www.perkinswill.com)  
**Founded:** 1935  
**Employees:** 1,500

*Photos: (Top) Perkins+Will donates 1 percent of its time to pro bono projects, providing necessary design skills to nonprofits and other organizations in need. (Left) Hamu Mukasa Library in Mukono, Uganda.*