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## Why is design so important in building software?

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**Christopher Pow**, Writing software since before I was born.

Answered October 15, 2014



Originally Answered: Why design is so important in building software?

Because without some semblance of design, at least an idea, preferrably written down if you're part of a team, you end up with:

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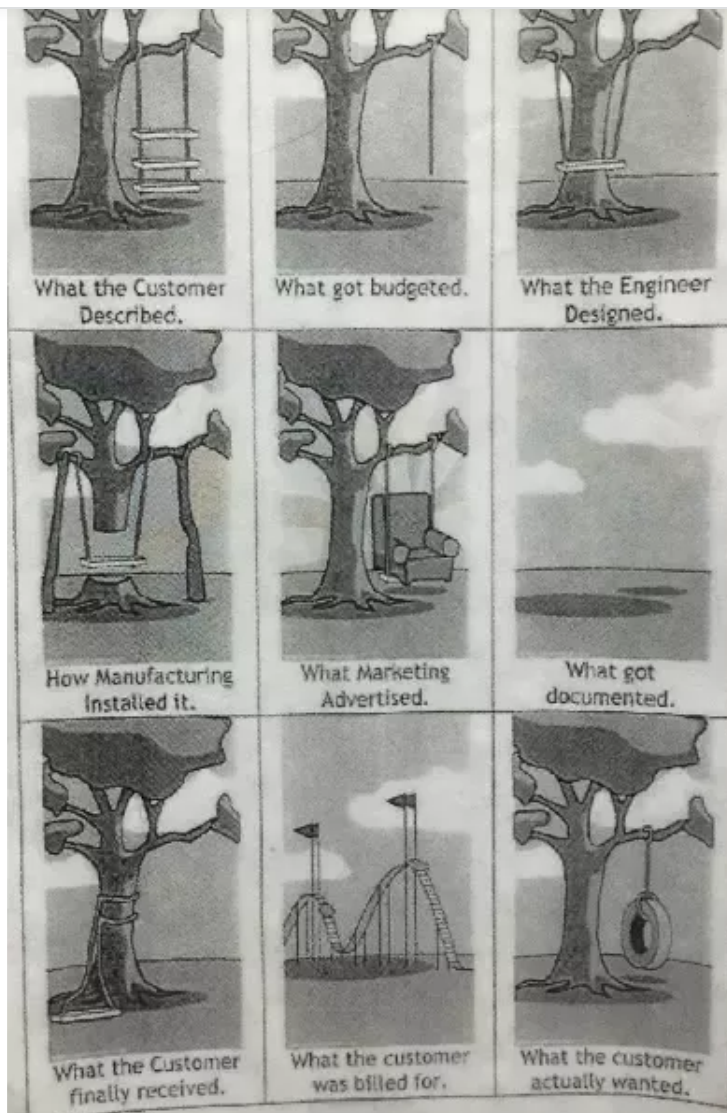
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When what you and your users/customers really wanted is:



On our office door at work is the following gem, which also illustrates what can happen with lacking designs or communication:



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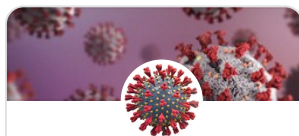
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For object-oriented programming, the design step is perhaps the most important phase in the process of developing software. It is in the design step that we decide how to divide the workings of our program into classes, when we decide how these classes will interact, what data each will store, and what actions each will perform. Indeed, one of the main challenges that beginning programmers face is deciding what classes to define to do the work of their program. While general prescriptions are hard to come by, there are some rules of thumb that we can apply when determining how to define our cl ... [\(more\)](#)

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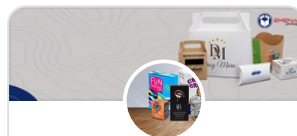
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Answered October 16, 2014

User experience and interface design is very important when building software when it interacts with people for the simple fact that if they do not understand what they see they will not use it unless they are forced to do so or someone spends their time to teach them... Often developers build applications focusing on the functionality that the application can do and forget real world scenarios such as colour blindness, blurriness of vision, environment of users, expected flow of tasks according to the users, user tendencies like looking at specific parts of the screen and avoiding others, etc. ... [\(more\)](#)



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that kind of market is how well your version works and how it looks. That's where design comes in.

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Without shared understanding, team members will have different understandings of the same idea. Design bridges that gap and helps everyone on the team understand what needs to be done. You can read more on a post I wrote about this here <http://www.bula.ma/2017/03/10/the-importance-of-software-design/><sup>[1]</sup>

### Footnotes

[1] [The Importance of Software Design](#)

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