Commitment to Health and Safety: Penn is committed to providing a safe and healthy workplace for members of our community by encouraging the inclusion of employee health and safety in the design process. At the core of Penn’s safety philosophy is the implementation of the Hierarchy of Controls, which emphasizes the elimination of hazards over mitigation by other means. This philosophy is included in the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) initiative- Prevention through Design (PtD). By eliminating a hazard or hazardous condition safety will not be dependent on following a procedure, obtaining training, maintaining equipment, or using appropriate personal protective equipment. The A/E must strive to eliminate hazards or hazardous conditions during the design phase of capital projects.

Examples of PtD include designing passive building fall protection with 42-inch-high parapets or railing/cable systems instead of active fall protection using anchor points and horizontal lifeline systems and installing equipment above ground instead of in an underground vault or pit which is considered a confined space. If the hazard cannot be eliminated and does not have a less hazardous replacement, efforts should be made to use engineering controls, such as sound absorption or enclosures for noise, ventilation for confined spaces, and barriers and guards for moving parts.