Operationally superior companies continuously review and update their processes, and that discipline extends to post-job procedures as well.

It takes dedication and diligence to create an operationally superior company, leveraging the lessons you learn from one job to the next.

Cre tin Be t-in-Cl Communi tion

An area often ripe for improvement is communication with clients. Additionally, communication internally across the entire team, from the off ce to the jobsite, must be clear and eff cient. Understanding what and when to disseminate important information can help drive productivity, improve employee engagement, and generate repeat customers.

Communicate with customers on a regular basis and don't surprise them without offering potential solutions.

Operationally superior companies make their customers feel informed and part of the process from the beginning with regular updates. They establish a clear communication cadence, create touch points at various milestones, and proactively manage their relationships.

This applies to all types of companies since the key to this principle is about building and maintaining relationships. Clients should not be surprised with project changes,

creates action items and ways for easy follow-up. Meetings
should end with answers for what needs to be done, by when,
and by whom on the project.

Cre te U ble Repo itory of Inform tion

Lessons learned on projects are stored in a library that is a firmwide repository for all best practices. Post-job reviews are one avenue to populate this repository.

The key to creating this library is to make the information

Imagine trying to complete a project without your best workers. Nurturing your relationships extends to your vendors, trade partners, subcontractors, and other team members, and includes making sure they're paid on time.

These teams are an important part of delivering quality work and satisfying clients. Also, for smaller subcontractors, your job may be the entirety of their margins needed to pay their own people and keep the lights on. Project managers should be advocates for their vendors and partners. Operationally superior companies understand this, communicate quickly and push to make sure their best teams are paid in full and on time.

Invoicing is a top priority for everyone on the project team.

To get paid, you must bill for work. For many project managers, it is last on the list of tasks since it feels like something that can be pushed. But as we have seen time and time again, one

About the Author

Gregg M. Schoppman is a partner at <u>FMI Corporation</u>, management consultants and investment bankers for the construction industry. Schoppman specializes in the areas of productivity and project management. He also leads FMI's project management consulting practice. Schoppman has expertise in numerous contract delivery methods, as well as knowledge of many geographical markets.

Contact Schoppman by email at gregg.schoppman@fmicorp.com.

About the Arti le

Republished from <u>Construction Business Owner</u>. Construction Business Owner (CBO) is the leading business magazine for contractors and is designed to help owners of construction f rms run successful businesses. Founded in 2004, CBO provides real-world business management education and knowledge that is of real value to the owners of construction companies.

Any views and opinions expressed in this article may or

ma #