

# ia architect

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF AIA IOWA

## Welcome

Public Engagement And Social Support

---







Cultivated aesthetic.  
Modern simplicity.



Find more ways to express in brick at [glengery.com](https://www.glengery.com)



# PUBLIC ARCHITECTURE + PUBLIC ART



CREATING A DISTINGUISHED BODY OF PUBLIC WORK

**substance**architecture  
DES MOINES IOWA

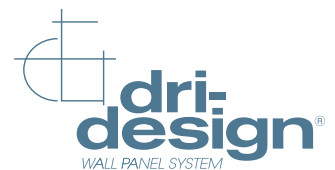


# UNIQUE. DISTINCT. FACADES.



Dri-Design Metal Wall Panels are available in a nearly unlimited palette of colors, materials, finishes and textures, making them a unique offering among other facades. However, what makes Dri-Design distinct, is that it provides this unique range of design options, in a system that installs and performs even better than it looks. A combination of form and function that is truly distinct.

- No sealants, gaskets or butyl tape means no streaking and no maintenance for owners.
- Not laminated or a composite material, so panels will never delaminate.
- At Dri-Design, we have a strict policy of recycling and creating products that the world can live with.
- Fully tested to exceed ASTM standards and the latest AAMA 508-07.
- Available in a variety of materials and colors.
- Non-combustible and NFPA-285 compliant.



616.355.2970 // [DRI-DESIGN.COM](http://DRI-DESIGN.COM)



# contents

IOWA ARCHITECT MAGAZINE FALL 2022



^ *Riviera Stage, p. 34*

## Features

- 18 **Johnson County GuideLink Center**  
Evidence-based community input is at the heart of this facility delivering 24/7 support for struggling individuals.
- 22 **Johnston City Hall**  
A seat of city government extends community space to its citizens.
- 26 **Marion YMCA**  
Membership jumps at new community recreation center that has something for everyone.
- 30 **Kinnick Stadium North End Zone**  
Much-needed renovations elevate the fan experience at the University of Iowa.

## 34 Riviera Stage

A modern stage pays homage to the site's history as an amusement park and music venue.

## Departments

- 8 **On the Boards**  
NIACC Student Dining Center; Stanley Center for Peace and Security; North Side Community Recreation Center
- 10 **Allied Members**  
Partners Dedicated to the Design Community
- 14 **In Memoriam**  
Upon Reflection:  
In Memory of Mark Engelbrecht, FAIA



**ON THE COVER**  
Johnston City Hall,  
p. 22



# MARKETING OPPORTUNITIES

**AIA** Iowa

## Communications

Iowa Architect Magazine  
Newsletters and Websites  
Social Media

## Events

Spring Conference  
Annual Convention  
& More

## Additional Opportunities

Educational Partnership  
Center for Architecture  
Directory  
Career Center

## Membership

Individual Memberships  
Firm Membership  
Allied Membership  
Professional Affiliates

## Learn More:

For questions or more  
information contact:

AIA Iowa  
515-244-7502  
info@aiaiowa.org  
www.AIAIowa.org



## Grow

Promoting your business with AIA Iowa increases your credibility and visibility, improves your image, and builds prestige. It is a strategic way to reach your target audience and grow your business.



## Lead

The American Institute of Architects, Iowa Chapter is a Component of the American Institute of Architects. Since 1904 we have been the voice the architectural profession in Iowa and beyond. Our staff and members are leaders in Iowa communities and at National levels.



## Target

Partnering with us gets you a front seat to engage with architects and designers across the state. Taking an active role in the architecture community will help you build relationships, strengthen your brand, help you meet business goals, and reach your target market.



## Join

Over 90% of architects in Iowa are members. Our Chapter has one of the highest membership saturation rates in the world for a Component of the AIA, second to be exact. The architectural and design community looks to us as the resource for the profession. Joining AIAIowa and being affiliated with the Chapter sends a strong message to leaders within the profession.



# editor's letter



**Andrew Ballard, AIA**  
Editor, *Iowa Architect*

## Welcome!

Around 1750, Giambattista Nolli published a map that depicted the inside of Rome's monumental buildings with the same openness it applied to the city's streets, fountains, and piazzas.

It is a remarkable image. I have a small copy on my wall. The real thing is a beast; 69" x 82" printed from a grid of 12 copper plates. That was before scroll wheels or screen-pinch, so you'd have to zoom by walking closer and leaning in.

Beyond its remarkable detail and accuracy, what architects tend to love most about the "Nolli Map" is the way it represents shared space. The cartographer etched in walls and columns for important buildings but left doors and windows open. Outside flows smoothly in. Even a modern map reader can easily imagine strolling down the street (cue animated, well-gesticulated conversations amidst vespas over cobblestones), ducking into a Baroque church (for example), and gazing into the chapels and niches outlined with minute, curved strokes.

Iowa is not Rome and white spaces on a map are not the only kind of shared amenity. Still, the Nolli Map suggests a way of conceptualizing accessibility that could apply anywhere we live, work, and play. Architecture allows institutions to open themselves.

The Fall 2022 issue looks at welcoming and well-being. It investigates how institutions engage and support society through the built environment and highlights designs that excel at drawing the public realm within, whether that be for celebration, competition, or health. The diversity of these projects, with their own diverse set of stakeholders and user groups, might spark a bit of self-reflection.

What is public? Where am I welcome? Which shared spaces are our most cherished?

## iaarchitect

**Editor** Andrew Ballard, AIA

**Associate Editors** Anna Aversing, Assoc. AIA, Brent Hoffman, Assoc. AIA, Khalid Khan, Assoc. AIA, Grant Nordby, AIA

**Editorial Board** Michael Bechtel, AIA; Justin Burnham, Assoc. AIA; Jason DeVries, AIA; Curtis Ehler, AIA; Danielle Hermann, AIA; Nathan Kalaher, AIA; Cody Knop, AIA; Thomas Leslie, FAIA; Alexander Michl, Assoc. AIA; Gautam Pradeep, Assoc. AIA; Jeff Shaffer, AIA; Alyanna Subayno, Assoc. AIA

**American Institute of Architects, Iowa Chapter**

**Executive Director** Jessica Reinert, Hon. AIA Iowa

**President** Steve King, AIA

**First Vice President/President Elect** Nick Lindsley, AIA

**Second Vice President** Lisa Kalaher, AIA

**Secretary** Pete Franks, AIA

**Treasurer** Naura Heiman Godar, AIA

**Past President** Dan Drendel, AIA

### Directors

Jacob Allen, AIA, Matthew Gaul, AIA, Lyndley Kent, AIA; Anna Schwennsen Squire, AIA; Hoang Tran, AIA

**Associate Director** Benjamin Hansen, Assoc. AIA

**Allied Director** Brenda Golwitzer, Allied Member of AIA Iowa

**ISU Representative** Deborah Hauptmann, Assoc. AIA

**AIAS President** Nicole Friedman, Student Affiliate of AIA Iowa

**Central Iowa Architects Section President**  
Joe Copley, AIA

**North East Architects Section President**  
Scott Huffman, AIA

**North West Architects Section President**  
Julio Munoz, Assoc. AIA

**South East Architects Section President**  
Jacob Allen, AIA

**South West Architects Section President**  
Brian Nohr, AIA

**Iowa Architect**, the official publication of the American Institute of Architects, Iowa Chapter

Iowa Center for Architecture  
400 Locust Street, Suite 100  
Des Moines, IA 50309  
515-244-7502  
www.AIAIowa.org / www.IowaArchitecture.org

### Subscription Rates

\$7.25 per single issue  
\$24.95 per year  
\$67.37 for 3 years (save 10%)

To purchase visit [www.AIAIowa.org/Store](http://www.AIAIowa.org/Store)

**Note to Subscribers:** When changing address, please send address label from recent issue with your new address or call 515-244-7502. Allow six weeks for change to take effect.

 @AIAIowa | @iowaarchitectmagazine  
 @iowaarchitectmagazine | @aiaiowa\_1904  
 @AIAIowa  
 The American Institute of Architects, Iowa Chapter

### Publisher

Innovative Publishing  
10629 Henning Way, Suite 8  
Louisville, KY 40241  
(844) 423-7272

Innovative Publishing specializes in association communications and messaging. To advertise in future issues of *Iowa Architect*, please contact (844) 423-7272 or [advertise@innovativepublishing.com](mailto:advertise@innovativepublishing.com).



**Correction:** A photo in the Spring 2022 issue's "Perspectives" column was misattributed. Ross Chapin Architects designed and provided the photo for the project featured on page 12, at the top of the article.



# on the boards

Projects  
In Progress



## NIACC Student Dining Center at North Iowa Area Community College

Mason City, Iowa

Bergland + Cram Architects

As an inviting and interactive space, a new community college dining center will be an enticing amenity on campus for students and a dynamic tool for recruitment. Focusing on the concept of sustenance, the design conveys an increased awareness of the process of gathering, preparing, and consuming food with the building reflecting this in three segments. The raw and unadorned receiving mirrors simple food ingredients being gathered. The centrum displays motion, reflecting the act of mixing, cooking, and interacting with prepared food as well as circulation in and out of the building. Finally, the dining area acts as a presentation piece, displaying the finished product as something of value. The open dining room supports the consuming of food in a social atmosphere, further reinforcing the cycle of food by overlooking natural elements such as a pond and surrounding farm fields. The overall design is “plated” and presented on a circular gathering patio. The completion of this project will be an impactful communal space for students, faculty, and visitors.



## Stanley Center for Peace and Security

The Stanley Center for Peace and Security works around the world to mitigate climate change, avoid the use of nuclear weapons, and prevent mass violence and atrocities. Demonstrating a commitment to their hometown, the Center has embarked on the transformation of a former 1970s-era public library into their new headquarters. The facility will embody their global mission by meeting the standards of the Living Building Challenge, making it one of the most sustainable buildings in the Midwest. The design provides a mix of private and communal spaces for local programming, which will include free resources related to the Center’s work and educational information about the facility’s green technology.

Muscatine, Iowa

Neumann Monson Architects





# North Side Community Recreation Center

Des Moines, Iowa  
MA Architecture

North Side Community Recreation Center and Park is planned for city-owned property at and adjacent to the current John R. Grubb Community YMCA, located at 1611 11th Street in Des Moines. The Grubb Y opened on this site in 1994, in a historic building that was once part of the original Dowling High School campus. Located in the King Irving neighborhood north of downtown, the Grubb Y serves as a hub for multiple communities within the broader City of Des Moines. The concept design articulates an exciting, vibrant plan that maximizes the project's potential to serve community groups through a wide range of recreation programs, shared facilities, and community services. Community engagement and equity are key priorities for this project. Several community groups have strong connections to the existing Grubb Y and the people it serves. Thus, input from a wide range of voices has been critical to the visioning process. Public engagement and social support will continue to be critical to make this project a success and reality.

## WHY HIRE AN ARCHITECT?

Architects will make your life easier. Start your next project off on a positive note with an architect to look out for your interests and find ways to make the building process smooth right from the start.

Architects will coordinate a team of experts for your building project, so you don't have to. From sorting out building codes and zoning laws to finding qualified contractors to overseeing a building site to verify the project is being built according to your plans and specifications.

### CONTACT US

**PHONE**  
515.244.7502

**EMAIL**  
info@aiaiowa.org

**WEBSITES**  
www.AIAIowa.org  
www.IowaArchitecture.org

**OFFICE**  
Iowa Center for Architecture  
400 Locust St., Ste. 100, Des Moines, IA

**SOCIAL MEDIA**  
Facebook: @AIAIowa  
Insta: @aiaiowa\_1904  
Twitter: @AIAIowa  
LinkedIn: The American Institute of Architects, Iowa Chapter

Every architecture firm brings its own combination of skills, expertise, and values to its projects. Find the firm that aligns most closely with your project's needs.

- Visit [www.AIAIowa.org](http://www.AIAIowa.org) and search the online firm directory.
- Visit [www.IowaArchitecture.org](http://www.IowaArchitecture.org) to find projects related to yours.
- Contact the helpful staff at the AIA Iowa office by emailing [info@aiaiowa.org](mailto:info@aiaiowa.org) or call 515.244.7502.

## WHEN TO HIRE AN ARCHITECT?

As early as possible, whether you are renovating an existing building or starting anew, Architects are problem solvers and will help you define your project in every respect. Architects will conduct site studies, assist in securing planning and zoning approvals, and provide a variety of other predesign services. An architect is a clients advocate throughout the entire process, from concept to completion. Get your project started on the right foot, by contacting an AIA architect from the start.

### YOUR RESOURCE

**AIA Iowa**

Let the AIA be a resource for you. We are here to connect clients and firms. AIA Iowa offers resources for both public and private business owners. With over 75 architecture firms and over 1,200 members across the state, we've got you covered. Choose local, choose an Iowa architect. Reach out to us and we'll help get you what you need to get your project off the ground.



# Partners Dedicated to the Design Community

As a profession, architecture thrives on one key ingredient: collaboration. Throughout each project our American Institute of Architects, Iowa Chapter (AIA Iowa) members are constantly connecting with experts who provide the products, materials, and services that make their buildings possible. The Allied members of AIA Iowa are our partners throughout it all. Our profession relies on the lasting relationships we have with product suppliers, contractors, developers, manufacturers, distributors, engineers, landscape architects, planners, artists, and vendors in fields allied to architecture. No two projects are alike, and our AIA Iowa members value the deep understanding that each Allied member has about their area of expertise. Allied members help architects meet the ultimate project goal of marrying form with function to build an aesthetically pleasing and sustainably produced building.

“Our goal as Allied members is to partner with architects to help them identify and provide the best solutions for the project at hand. As experts in our areas of concentration, we strive to be the go-to resource, offering assistance from the conceptual stage of design to post-occupancy,” says AIA Iowa Allied Director Brenda Golwitzer of Integrated Sales, Inc.

“Our profession moves at a mile a minute and there is no slowing down the project timeline to do the research to vet every product or service that is available on the market. Our AIA Iowa Allied members are the trusted resource we need to be sure that the projects we are designing have the best quality of materials and solutions to make lifelong lasting architecture,” says AIA Iowa Board of Directors Past President Dan Drendel, AIA, of Slingshot Architecture.

Thank you to all our AIA Iowa Allied members for being the best partners in the profession.



“As experts in our areas of concentration, we strive to be the go-to resource, offering assistance from the conceptual stage of design to post-occupancy.”

– BRENDA GOLWITZER,  
AIA IOWA ALLIED DIRECTOR  
OF INTEGRATED SALES, INC.



## 2022 ALLIED MEMBERS\*

ABcreative Inc.	Enterprise Precast Concrete, Inc.	Marvin Windows and Doors	Shaw Contract Group
Action Reprographics	Fredrikson & Byron Law Firm	Masonry Institute of Iowa	Sika Corporation
Advanced Architectural Products, Inc.	G Davis and Associates	McClure	Skold Companies
Allen Consulting Group, Inc.	Glen-Gery Brick Center	McGough Construction	Story Construction
Alvine Engineering	Graham Construction	Mechdyne Corporation	SystemWorks LLC
Andersen Windows	Greiner Construction	MidAmerican Energy Company	Tarkett
Architectural Products, Inc.	Henning Companies	Midland Concrete Products	TCC Materials
Architectural Wall Systems, LLC	Hildreth Construction Services LLC	Mid-States Concrete Industries	Team Services
Armstrong Ceilings	Holmes Murphy & Associates	MODUS	TECHNOFORM
ASI Signage Innovations	IMEG	Mohawk Group	Terracon Consultants, Inc.
Atlas Molded Products	Innovative Publishing	Molin Quality Concrete Solutions	The Hansen Company, Inc.
Automatic Door Group	Integrated Sales, Inc.	MPC Enterprises, Inc.	The Waldinger Corporation
Baker Group	Iowa Ready Mixed Concrete Association	Nawkaw Midwest, Inc.	The Weitz Company
Beeline + Blue	J.E. Dunn Construction Co.	Neumann Brothers, Inc.	Thompson Electric Company
Bell Structural Solutions	Johns Manville	NRG Sales Lighting and Controls, LLC	Tremco Roofing and Building Maintenance
Bluestone Engineering	Kate-Lo Tile & Stone	Olson-Larsen Galleries	Trivalent Lighting Studio, LLC
BoydJones	KCL Engineering	Pigott	Turner Construction Company
Building Products Inc. of Iowa	Keller & Associates	Porter Trustin Carlson Co.	Virginia Tile
Central Sales, Inc.	King's Material, Inc.	Prairie Pella, Inc.	Wells Concrete
Charrette Venture Group	Koch Office Group	Rapids Reproductions Inc.	Wenger Corporation
Coreslab Structures (Omaha), Inc.	Larson Construction	RCS Millwork LC	White Cap/Stetson Building Products
CSLA Iowa	Lashier Graphics & Signs	Roof Top Sedums, LLC	Willdan
David Bear Inc.	Lighting Solutions	Roofing Representatives	WorkSpace Inc.
DCI Group	Logan Contractors Supply	Schumacher Elevator Company	
DesignCo	Manko Window Systems, Inc.	Seedorff Masonry, Inc.	
Edwards Cast Stone	Mannington Commercial	ServiceReps Inc.	
Energy Panel Structures, Inc.		SGH Concepts	

\*Members as of July 26, 2022.

**Would you or a company you know of benefit from becoming an AIA Iowa Allied member? If so, visit [www.aiaiowa.org/membership](http://www.aiaiowa.org/membership). To view a list of Allied members and their contact information, visit [www.aiaiowa.org](http://www.aiaiowa.org).**



TECHNOFORM

## Performance at the highest level.

Technoform contributes to Space Needle glazing performance.

When it came time to renovate Seattle's beloved Space Needle, improving the thermal performance of the structure's visually-dominant glazing systems was a high priority. Glazing consultant Richard Green insisted on Technoform's warm-edge spacer for its leading thermal performance, while delivering the highest levels of durability and structural integrity. **Get the full story at [Technoform.com/SpaceNeedle](http://Technoform.com/SpaceNeedle)**

Getting the right insulating glass spacers in there made the difference. Spacers tend to be a fabricator's choice. Many use stainless steel as standard; we needed better.  
— Glazing Consultant, Richard Green, P.E.

Quality counts, and on this iconic project, where glass is everything, Technoform's team was extremely helpful in visiting our location, representing the product and supporting us all the way through the process.  
— the late Bárnard Lax, CEO Pulp Studio

330-487-6600  
[info.us@technoform.com](mailto:info.us@technoform.com)

©2021 Technoform



SUSTAINABLE MEP ENGINEERING

3433 BROADWAY STREET NE – SUITE 475, MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55413  
MAIN: 612.279.4200 || FAX: 612.279.4201 || [www.ctamep.com](http://www.ctamep.com)



Collaboratively Engineered. Sustainable Solutions  
Cain Thomas Associates, Inc. 2022

# Bee an Architect

## Activity & Coloring Book



Find more about becoming an architect and engaging youth through the AIA Iowa Bee an Architect program. Visit [www.AIAIowa.org/FutureArchitects](http://www.AIAIowa.org/FutureArchitects) to find free resources for all ages, including the Bee an Architect Activity & Coloring Book available in digital and print formats.



As an Allied Member, The Hansen Company is a proud supporter of AIA Iowa and the architectural firms that make up its membership.



We're **building** relationships and community, while delivering excellence in engineering.



604 Locust St. Suite 202  
Des Moines, IA 50309  
515.279.3900

trust • relationships • stability • excellence • passion

Visit us at [www.kpff.com](http://www.kpff.com)





# UPON REFLECTION:

## In Memory of Mark Engelbrecht, FAIA

WORDS : ROB WHITEHEAD, AIA IMAGES : ROB WHITEHEAD

The last review panel I ever shared with Professor Emeritus of Architecture and Dean Emeritus Mark Engelbrecht, FAIA, was for the design of a memorial and a sepulcher (he was a stickler for the right word). Professor Lee Cagley and Mark reflected profoundly on the importance of ceremony, place-making, and the connections between memory and design. After Mark died on December 30, 2021, at 83 years old, I reflected on this conversation and the intellectual spryness and wonderment with which Mark regularly confronted the profundity of living and its intersectionality with architecture. Why did I think about these things? Mark taught me to.

Thirty years ago, *The New York Times* suddenly sold an unexpected number of subscriptions to a group of fifth-

year architecture students at Iowa State University. The prompting event was simple; our professional practice instructor at the time, professor Mark Engelbrecht, told us we needed to become more interesting, more inquisitive, and better read. It was a harsh but fair assessment—and some of the best advice we ever heard. As he explained it, great architects should be critical thinkers who are ravenously curious about more than just buildings and creative culture. He wanted us to envision how we'd situate ourselves within the complicated and rapidly changing world of the early 1990s. Every week, we'd read the *Sunday Times*, find an article that was interesting to us personally, and write a well-crafted one-page reflection about how the article related to architecture.

A few of us would be randomly chosen to read it aloud in class and defend our thoughts to our peers. Mark's high expectations and remarkable candor—he never suffered fools or laggards—focused our attention and helped us to create formative thoughts. Each paper's aptitude was graded based on critical thinking and grammatical rigor; he always left comments that challenged us to think more critically.

Although he was a self-professed Stoic, you knew when you'd exasperated him; he once called me a churl and insisted I go look it up (which still cracks me up). After a rough patch of unproductiveness in studio he delivered an enduring plea to us: "See what's possible, not what's difficult." Indeed. You see, we often focused on what was difficult because a cacophony of jarring life events befell many of us that year, including Mark. We all bonded over the work and what it meant within the context of our lives. Under his tutelage, I realized three things that would change my life: significant architecture is contextual, its practice demands intellectual rigor and creativity, and Mark believed in me. I fight through tears as I write those words, as I do often when I think of my teacher, who became my mentor, my friend, my boss, my colleague, and my intellectual hero.

Reflecting on these shared moments is intended to reveal more about the man than a simple recounting of his accomplishments. Although the merits and impact of what he accomplished hardly need context to be impressive. He was a designer, instructor, and leader with few peers.

He received a Bachelor of Architecture from Iowa State University in 1963 and a Master of Architecture degree from

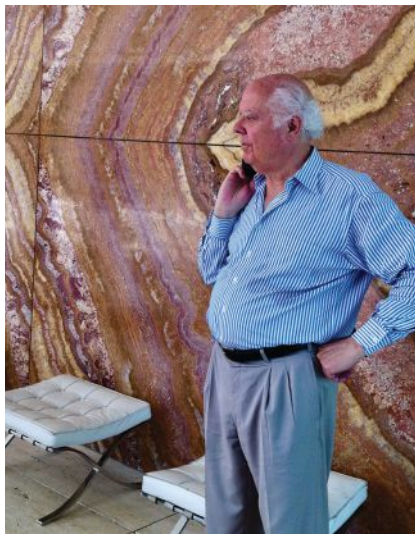


Columbia University a year later. He practiced architecture for 35 years, serving as principal in five different firms: John Stephens Rice Architect, Hunter Rice & Engelbrecht, Engelbrecht/Rice, Engelbrecht Rice & Griffin and Engelbrecht & Griffin (1979-2000). I frequently walk past one of his best buildings, the Barbican housing complex, a modernist concrete tower and slab. His subterranean design for Maucker Union on the University of Northern Iowa's campus was a revelation—it earned him a prestigious Progressive Architecture Award (the only one ever awarded to an Iowa State faculty member) and it was recognized by the American Institute of Architects, Iowa Chapter (AIA Iowa) as one of Iowa's top 50 buildings of the 20th century. For the last two decades of his practice, he became an internationally renowned expert in comprehensive housing design—including spaces for seniors. I've heard Mark reflect upon his designs decades after their completion; he understood the profound obligation of positioning design within the context of people's lives and he honored that challenge. Aptly, he was elevated by the American Institute of Architects to the College of Fellows (FAIA) in 1998.

For more than 40 years, Mark served as an instructor and administrator at Iowa State University (ISU). He began teaching in 1969 as an adjunct and transitioned to tenured professor in 1984. In 1994, following an era of relative upheaval and uncertainty in the leadership of the College of Design, Mark became dean of the College of Design. Despite his insistence that he was merely steering a massive battleship with little capacity for radical maneuvers, in his 15 years in that position, he navigated an impactful legacy including the creation of the first-year

“Architects can be a salty lot, but they are considerably more interesting than dentists.”

— MARK ENGELBRECHT, FAIA



Core Design Program, the establishment of the foreign travel Rome Program, and the expansion of critical facilities. He taught for another several years, finally retiring in 2014. He was regularly honored for this work; he received the inaugural AIA Iowa Educator Award (1996), the AIA Iowa Medal of Honor (2006), the Order of the Knoll Faculty-Staff Award from the ISU Foundation (2009), and the Christian Peterson Design Award from ISU's College of Design (2010).

He was more than an architect and instructor. For decades, his daily ritual involved classical music, swimming, cars, carefully selected food and wine, and tireless reading. When traveling, he'd create these masterful watercolors—interpretive sketches of buildings and places that were lovingly rendered. Although his routine was consistent, his intellectual growth remained dynamic. Mark wanted us to reflect upon what we found interesting, and consider ways to nurture these interests, because *he did*. He remained steadfast in expecting this from others. In fact, I recently found a letter Mark sent me 20 years ago encouraging me to follow my dreams to become a teacher. He implored me to remain bound to practice, and he reminded me, with his classic wit, that “architects can be a salty lot, but they are considerably more interesting than dentists.”

I'll admit that seeing what's possible (not difficult) is more complicated without you. But I understand the necessity of it. Design is an enduring discipline that demands our rigor and efforts and we all need to do our part. Thank you for another reminder, and the opportunity for one final reflection. On behalf of all of those you've touched, I wish you Godspeed, my friend.



# COMMERCIAL NEW CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM

*it pays to make energy efficiency part of the plan*



**APPLY TODAY!** [energyassistance.willdan.com/cnc](http://energyassistance.willdan.com/cnc)

Contact the program implementer,  
Willdan: [cnc@willdan.com](mailto:cnc@willdan.com) or 877-939-1874



## NEUMANN MONSON ARCHITECTS

IOWA CITY | DES MOINES



ACCESS FOR  
EVERYONE

Iowa State Capitol Small Domes Restoration  
OPN Architects  
Des Moines, IA



[www.seedorff.com/restoration](http://www.seedorff.com/restoration)



Renew.  
Restore.  
Repurpose.



Lemme Elementary, Iowa City, IA



Sudlow Intermediate, Davenport, IA

**WELCOME**  
to a world of possibility.

**SHIVEHATTERY**  
ARCHITECTURE + ENGINEERING

Learn more about our K-12 studio:  
[shive-hattery.com](http://shive-hattery.com)



# JOHNSON COUNTY GUIDELINK CENTER

## An Offering of Support

**WORDS :** VALLEN GLOVER **IMAGES :** CAMERON CAMPBELL, AIA, INTEGRATED STUDIO  
**ARCHITECT :** NEUMANN MONSON ARCHITECTS

The GuideLink Center, a publicly funded collaborative led by the Johnson County Board of Supervisors, provides immediate care for adults facing emotional, mental health, or substance use challenges. The center provides an alternative to incarceration or hospitalization. It offers a welcoming space where experienced staff can deliver 24/7 services such as assessment, triage, stabilization, and follow-up support. Individuals visiting the facility can leave when they want, receive the care they want, and stay for up to five days. The facility is highly visible and strategically located near other supportive services, as well as bus, bike, and pedestrian routes.

GuideLink's operational model, crafted from evidence-based health care and law enforcement input, results in better outcomes for people, less burden on emergency personnel, and lower total cost for taxpayers. It is an intelligent response from an evolving network aiming for systemic community change. The list of partner agencies and organizations continues to grow.

Dan Broffitt, AIA, Neumann Monson project manager for the GuideLink Center, says that, prior to this facility, options for people in difficult situations were slim: "When law enforcement would pick someone up, regardless of the circumstance, sometimes they would have a choice to take them to the emergency room or take them to jail. This gives a third option to them where a lower level of intervention is needed."

Neumann Monson was chosen to design the center, in part, due to its long-term relationship with Shelter House, a local nonprofit

---

**At top:** The project balances a need for privacy with a desire to observe and bask in natural light. **Bottom left:** The exterior blends a low-slung brick form with steel to convey earnestness and welcoming. **Bottom right:** A screened, enclosed outdoor area offers space for relaxation and privacy.







focusing on housing, employment, and mental health recovery. Shelter House champions stable housing as a means to break vicious and expensive cycles of imprisonment and emergency care. Shelter House and its partners had studied mental health's impact on homelessness and knew an approach was possible—one that could anchor a broad coalition of private and nonprofit entities, along with public agencies, in a life-changing mental health facility.

"You can go to the GuideLink Center if you're having a mental health crisis," says Kevin Monson, AIA, founder of Neumann Monson. "You can check in and stay for 24 hours under observation, or you can be admitted to a three-day stay to help you overcome the crisis at hand. You will be evaluated and get immediate care, which is so needed in our communities."

Bob Gassman, Assoc. AIA, points out that the center can help in areas of physical concern as well. "There may be an abusive situation, or someone may just need to get away and get out of the environment that they're in," Gassman explains. "It just gives a space to get help, whether that is mental, physical or just a little bit of respite from whatever's going on."

That offer of respite is also open to a group whose mental health is regularly overlooked: first responders and law enforcement. The team created a room in the building specifically for this group of people, who are so often exposed to traumatic situations. "It's so easy to think of law enforcement officers as emotionally immune, but they still need a place to decompress," says Gassman. "We were looking to them initially to provide feedback on how to take care of the community, but they also brought up the point that they need help, too."

The complexity of the facility's needs and variety of its stakeholders and user groups required careful planning. Gassman likens the planning phase to solving a puzzle. "This was an opportunity to get all those pieces together correctly," says Gassman. "Collecting all of the feedback from the initial stakeholders, we went through exercises of moving these pieces around. We tried to get it to fit into an existing building. At one point, the building was flipped. With the complexity of the user group and program, this allowed us to really think about the best location for each component."

GuideLink's organization provides immediate legibility, with clear sightlines and easy wayfinding that create a safe and welcoming environment for both staff and patients. This often starts with how the staff is positioned and what sightlines are available to them—is there visibility to greet people coming through the door so that they immediately feel welcome and seen? From there, how will a patient progress through the facility? No matter the condition they are to be treated for, there should be an obvious flow to how the facility is laid out. "If you walk into a facility that feels chaotic," explains Gassman, "it's going to probably be more difficult to get the help you need ... If you can reduce the mystery of what this facility is going to be like for a new person coming into it, you bring them that much closer to getting the help they need."

A secure reception area connects its two wings: the mental health and substance abuse treatment center and a homeless shelter. The treatment wing is the center's primary function and occupies the western 75 percent of the building. It houses a short-term mental health unit, a substance abuse detox center, small and large communal spaces, and a central glazed nurse station. Inpatient rooms include private bathrooms and exterior views. A communal sobering room serves those staying for only a few hours. The wing also provides offices for first responders, health care service providers, and law enforcement. Large meeting rooms are available for use by government agencies. The homeless shelter, dedicated to



Windows are inset from the face of the building and granted additional privacy through landscaping.

the winter months, increases Shelter House's capacity by about 40 cots and provides greatly improved restrooms and showers. During warmer months, it serves as a multipurpose space.

The team at Neumann Monson worked with care providers to create an inviting, approachable space. From the outside, GuideLink Center offers a first impression of earnest welcome. The building's exterior dispels any expectation of antiseptic institutionalism. A crisp, low-slung form in brick and weathering steel delivers durable tactility at a residential scale. Inside, a cool, natural color palette infuses the interior with a calm atmosphere that minimizes environmental stressors. Durable materials and behavioral health furnishings can endure high impact while responding to the specific needs of trauma-informed design.

A high, 300-foot-long north-facing window provides consistent indirect daylight. Monson notes that the "goal was to provide natural lighting throughout the facility, not just the perimeter. Clerestory windows help provide illumination and access to the sky in those large central spaces ... Access to natural light was a very important design element that we wanted to have within the facility to help create a happy and well space."

Broffitt describes how the team balanced natural light with user-controlled visibility: "There was an abundance of natural light, but not in the sense where anybody should feel like they are being put on display," remarks Broffitt. He continues, citing the concept of prospect and refuge: "People generally feel more comfortable where they can conceal themselves and have the ability to view out or observe what's going on around them." The team incorporated these concepts throughout the facility, especially in the inpatient sleeping



The building systems include a 390-panel solar array that is projected to offset over 50 percent of the building's total expected load.

rooms around the perimeter. Each sleeping room has windows with operable blinds; the windows are inset from the face of the building and the view is buffered by landscaping to offer an additional layer of privacy.

Even in social areas, patients are never too far from a private or semiprivate space so that they can get away if needed. The furniture is clustered in such a way that it can be used to actively engage with others or maintain a preferred distance; it is up to the individual to choose, and the power of that choice cannot be underestimated.

A screened, enclosed outdoor area offers patients another location to relax and heal while maintaining their privacy. It gives patients the option to go outside without leaving the premises—"being able to be outdoors but yet not necessarily seen," says Monson. The translucent wall at the back of the courtyard allows additional light into the space and makes it feel even more open.

The project team invested in building systems that, although more expensive initially, would be far more efficient and economical in the long run. A 390-panel photovoltaic array is projected to offset over 50 percent of the building's total expected load. Those numbers are impressive, especially for a building that's open 24/7. An extensive geothermal system below the building, combined with a VRF mechanical system, efficiently accommodates a generous number of temperature-control zones.

Demand for the completed facility started high and continues to grow. According to GuideLink's March 2022 data report, the center

saw a total of 1,175 encounters (people seeking a service) during its first 12 months. Of those, 917 led to admissions into a GuideLink Center program, 415 went to crisis stabilization, 332 went into the medically monitored withdrawal program, and 171 went into the sobering program. Some of the individuals who weren't admitted into a program received crisis counseling that proved sufficient. Others exceeded GuideLink's capabilities and were referred to partner institutions or passed on to jail.

The center, its partners, and the county frequently review accumulated data to adapt to vulnerable populations' needs. The building's thoughtful, open-ended clarity will allow it to support both patients and caretakers as those needs and treatments evolve.

The Johnson County GuideLink Center was a community project from the very beginning. Monson says that it was heartwarming to see the community come together and work this out, despite the difficulty. "There wasn't a roadmap to do this because this was cutting edge," he says. "It is a fantastic example of what can be done, and hopefully it will be a prototype for many other communities dealing with these problems, whether it's a winter shelter, mental health, abuse of drugs or alcohol or just getting help in the moment that you need it."

Gassman is grateful to have worked on such a rare, fulfilling project: "We work on all different types of sectors, and each project has value, but some just make you feel a little better working on them. It's not a money-driven project—it's community driven."









# JOHNSTON CITY HALL: TOWARD THE FUTURE

**WORDS :** MCKENZIE NALLEY **IMAGES :** ALEX MICHL, ASSOC. AIA, OPN ARCHITECTS **ARCHITECT :** OPN ARCHITECTS

A city hall can be more than just the seat of government; it can be the focal point of the community. Rather than a symbol of authority, it can be a symbol of convocation—not a place of decrees and bureaucracy, but of gathering. OPN Architects’ goal for Johnston, Iowa’s new City Hall was to create not only a municipal administrative center but a community venue; a multipurpose space whose potential uses are as varied as the needs of the community it serves.

Johnston is a growing Des Moines suburb along the Des Moines River on the south side of Saylorville Lake. City Hall forms the civic core of a new town center development. For OPN, centering this development on a welcoming, flexible open space took top priority. The building fronts a vast green space that is intended as a public venue, a kind of town plaza meets park. As project architect Joe Feldmann, AIA, puts it, “In the winter, it’s an ice-skating rink; in the summer, it’s a splash pad. They do concert events. They do movie nights.”







A modern portico transitions between interior and exterior on the building's south side, providing shelter and shade. "It's the front porch of the city," Feldmann says; a familial gathering place made civic.

To maximize its openness, the building has entrances on all sides and uses natural light extensively. "You can't look in any direction and not see the exterior and have access to daylight," Feldmann says. The east-west axis of the building forms a clear public pathway. Along that axis, Johnston residents can see and walk straight through the building, through a forum between the administrative (north) and public (south) spaces. The southern half includes restrooms, community rooms, training rooms, and a council chamber with a 14-foot glass wall that symbolizes the government's transparency and openness to its citizens.

OPN capitalized on opportunities to integrate allusions to Johnston's history in the design. The town, named for railway operator John F. Johnston, began in the early 1900s as a railway stop midway between Des Moines and Perry. During World War I, nearby Camp Dodge became a major training camp, greatly spurring the town's growth. The town incorporated in 1969 and celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2019.

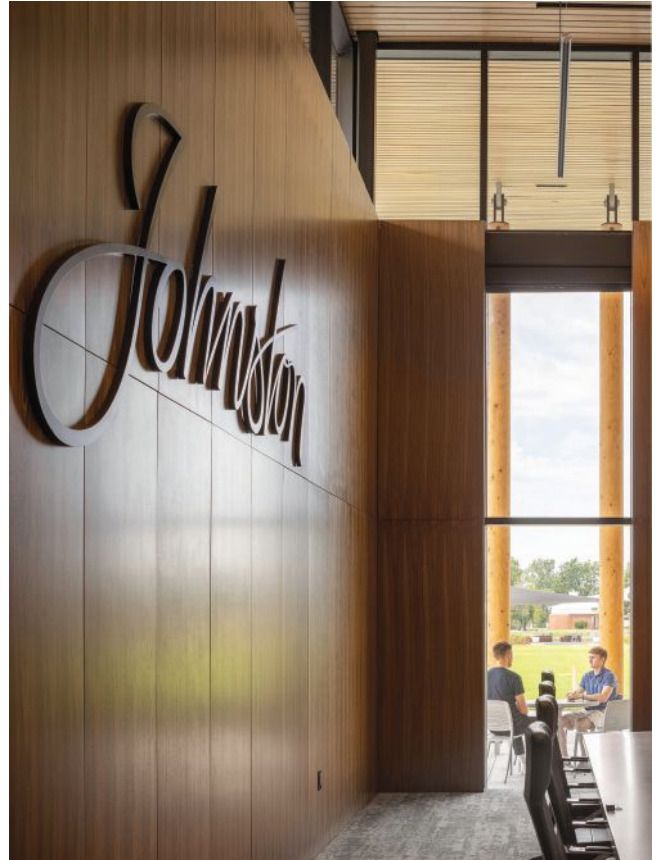
OPN worked diligently with the Johnston Station Historical Society to ensure that they incorporated as much information as possible about the city into the design. Railway motifs appear subtly and repeatedly throughout. The angle at which the railway formerly cut through the city's grid is used as a design motif through City Hall. Similarly, the building's columns are spaced proportionally to the spacing of rail and tie spacings from the railroad.

Inside the building are two history walls that detail the story of the Johnston community; of its connections to the railway, to the army camp, and to the nearby Saylorville Lake and Des Moines River. The walls also outline many of the sustainable features present in the building, and present a picture of where the city has come from and where it is headed.

The building demonstrates Johnston's commitment to sustainability. Where possible, public-facing elements are of site-salvaged wood. The council dias, podiums, and reception desks all came from the site's felled ash, oak, and walnut trees.

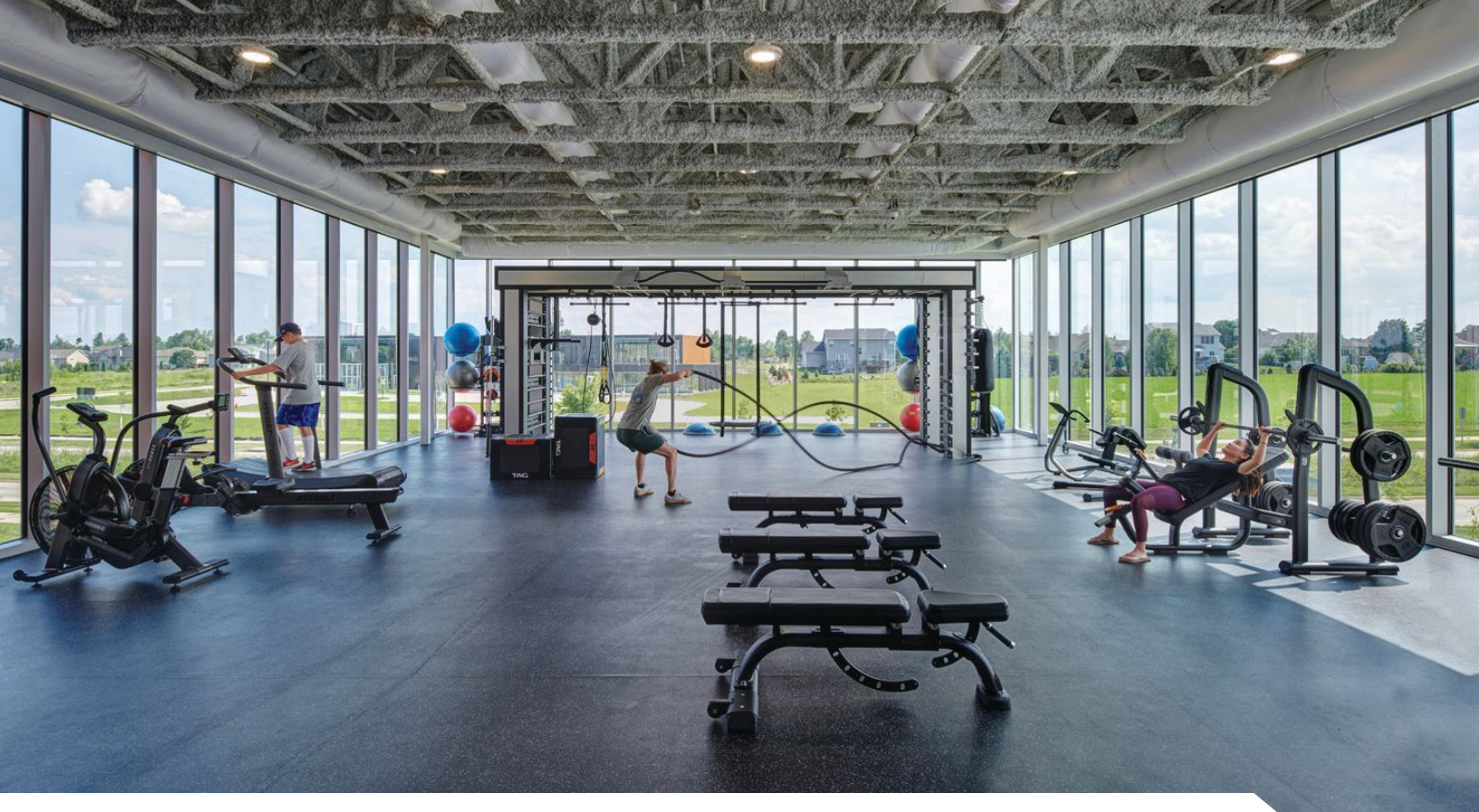
The City of Johnston initially set its energy and sustainability sights on LEED certification (which the building is currently in the process of receiving). The city was all for it. "I really give them kudos," Feldmann says. Feldmann speaks of how the city supported OPN every step of the way, helping to make the building the best possible space it could be in every way: "Whether it was the art committee trying to incorporate art into the project, the sculptures that we wanted to do on the exterior, all the way to working with the town's history, the community [of] Johnston was great and supported us all the way."

Johnston's new City Hall embodies and is everything that a city should be for its citizens. It is welcoming, inviting, and supportive; it unites and convokes; and it preserves its history and identity while ushering in a new, bold, and innovative future.



**Opening spread:** The building has entrances on all sides. **Opposite top and above:** Inside the building are two history walls that detail the story of the Johnston community. **Bottom left:** The council dias, podiums, and reception desks all came from the site's felled ash, oak, and walnut trees. **Bottom right:** The city hall is both an administrative space with offices and a multipurpose space. **Top:** Indoor and outdoor meeting spaces visually connect.





# MARION YMCA

## A WELCOMING SPACE TO BUILD COMMUNITY

**WORDS :** REAGAN COFIELD DIAMOND **IMAGES :** CAMERON CAMPBELL, AIA, INTEGRATED STUDIO **ARCHITECT :** OPN ARCHITECTS

Community connectedness, a welcoming spirit, and well-being make a city and its people flourish. A beautiful all-ages gathering space that fosters relationships and wellness, the new YMCA branch in Marion, Iowa, is a \$17 million, 86,000-square-foot project opened to the public in January 2021. It was designed as a “holistic community and wellness center” that “connects both figuratively and literally with its site,” says OPN Architects.

OPN’s David Sorg, AIA, served as principal in charge, while Landon Burg, AIA, was the project architect. Both were heavily involved in the design and process of what it took to make this project a reality for the citizens of Marion and surrounding areas.

The project features a six-lane lap pool, a warm water/leisure pool with a play area for children, three full-size basketball courts, a 1/8-mile indoor track, two racquetball courts, and a classroom or meeting space

on the first floor. On the second floor one finds two group exercise rooms, cardio and free weight equipment, and a QueenAx functional training area. There are also locker rooms for men and women, as well as three family changing rooms.

“There was a vision meeting led by Jill Ackerman, the president of the Marion Chamber of Commerce, called Imagine8 in 2009 where it was said, ‘What are the top 10 important things that we should have as a community?’” Sorg says. “A community recreation center was at the top of that list. This was a realization of what the community said they needed.”

According to statistics provided by Burg, when the old branch of the Marion YMCA closed in December 2020, the number of active Marion-only members was 2,673. After the new branch’s opening on January 18, the number of members jumped to 4,614. The numbers have steadily





**Opposite:** Cardio and free weight equipment in an open, light-filled space. **At left:** The first floor has a six-lane lap pool. **Below:** One of two group exercise rooms. **At bottom:** The building is 86,000 square feet in size.







**Top left:** A large social stair provides additional space for gathering. **Top right:** The facility has three full-size basketball courts. **Bottom left:** The central lobby and community gathering space welcomes visitors, who upon entering can visually connect to the pool, child care and community rooms, group fitness area, gymnasium, and track. **Bottom right:** The basketball courts, track, and cardio equipment are all visible from one vantage point.

grown since then. As of February 2022—one full year since the new branch opening—the number of active Marion-only members was 8,380. As of mid-June 2022, the number was at 8,726 active members.

Burg views the building as a “benchmark for design” within the community. The parti is three simple parallel bars wrapped in precast concrete and metal panels, each terminating in views to the community and athletic fields. The bars are punctuated by a double-height, curtain-wall-wrapped lobby that intersects and unites the building’s primary program functions. The central lobby and community gathering space welcomes visitors, who upon entering can visually connect to the pool, child care and community rooms, group fitness area, gymnasium, and track. Dual kiosk stations replace the traditional large reception desk to remove the barrier between staff and visitor, while also clearly defining the space and entry sequence. A large social stair provides additional space for gathering, making a powerful statement about community and encouraging users to pause and interact with one another. It also provides a direct visual and circulation path to the second-level fitness floor, running track, and group fitness rooms. Overlooks along the track connect the upper and lower levels, so parents can observe activity in

the gym without disrupting runners and walkers. The competition pool, hot tub, and family pool have direct views to the exterior and are visible from the lobby and second-level fitness floor, and are fully accessible.

The highly efficient circulation, window-to-wall ratio, and simple building massing maximize space and programming in a naturally lit and community-centered recreation wellness facility, with a material palette Sorg describes as “very minimalist.”

“It’s like a blank canvas and you allow the activities to animate it,” he says. “How the building knits itself into its immediate fabric is amazing. If you’re in the yoga room, there’s glass on three sides. You feel so connected to nature, and biophilic design is a key part of it [the building] connecting itself to nature.”

The project’s success is evident in both its design and number of new members, and it came to fruition while overcoming challenges.

“There was a very large program,” says Burg. “Delivering that program within the defined budget was a real challenge. Partially into design, we were further challenged with increasing what we had originally—three smaller-sized gyms—to three full, high school-sized gyms. This really pushed the entire team to be creative with

## Watch Marion YMCA Membership Grow!

Closure of Old Branch in December 2020: **2,673**

New Branch Opening on January 18, 2021: **4,614**

First Full Month of New Branch Being Open in February 2021: **6,317**

First Full Year of Being Open in February 2022: **8,380**

Mid-June 2022: **8,726**



the materials that we used, especially the glazing, just to be sensitive to cost and designing with exposed structure throughout the building.”

Sorg has his own view of the challenges of such a large project. “A challenge of this project is that the project moved sites,” he says.

While this project had many elements that bring a sense of awe, Sorg considers “wayfinding” to be the “standout feature.”

“When you design a facility like a recreation center, it should be multi-generational and very inclusive and accessible,” says Sorg. “Our goal was when you walk in this facility, you can see everything it has to offer. One of the things that was important was for this facility to be welcoming, energizing and bring people together—not to be intimidating. Wayfinding is really important. We wanted people to walk in and your pool or gym is right there. Children can see their parents in the multipurpose room in stretching class, and parents can see their son or daughter swimming. If there’s a basketball game going on, you can see it from the lobby or fitness area. You see all aspects of the facility when you walk in.”

The idea of supporting and engaging the public is one the Marion YMCA promotes through a variety of wellness and exercise classes, meeting spaces, and community events.

“We were just there for Healthy Kids Day, and it was heartwarming to watch how this space was used by the community and how it brought the community together,” says Sorg.

Adds Burg, “This project continues to promote wellness within the community. It’s one of the fastest growing communities and it’s amazing to see the growth, development and focus on wellness. Developing this in partnership with the city is something that was really exciting to be a part of.”

Fostering community connection is the pinnacle of what this project attempted to achieve, says Sorg.

“[Community connection] is at the core of why this exists and why it’s successful,” he says. “When we first started, we wanted this building to have a level of transparency. Current, well-designed recreation centers have a lot of natural light and glass connecting both the inside and outside. We wanted a facility that visually connected you to the landscape from the inside—and the landscape is evolving. It’s a rural landscape on one side, and commercial and residential development on one side. Whether it’s the yoga room, the lobby, the pool or the fitness floor, we really wanted you to connect with the community.”

The community connection is driven by the design of the space, Sorg explains. “The fitness floor as an example reaches out toward the primary street and is very transparent. We want people to drive by, see this activity happening and have a visual cue to something

that is really cool. It’s like a reminder that ‘this is something we should be a part of.’ When you drive by the social stair in the lobby area, there’s usually a lot going on and you see the activity there. When there’s an event or tournament, you really see people gathering there and it provides that strong sense of community.”

Sorg also mentions the practicality of the YMCA’s design when it comes to swim meets, games, and tournaments for various sporting events.

“What happens during swim meets and basketball tournaments is you’re there all day,” he says. “So, where do you go between games? How do parents watch and check in? The social stair is a place for kids to hang out. There’s data ports and plugins for their phones. We wanted to create these community spaces where people could stay and didn’t feel like they had to leave because they were standing on top of each other.”

Sorg adds, “I’ve been to many different facilities from traveling for kids’ activities, and it’s a constant state of benchmarking. Something you see quite often on tracks or around gyms is signs that say ‘don’t stand on the track’ with photographs of people standing on the track. It’s human nature to walk across the track to see what’s going on. Far more often, you are watching the current event because it is too busy downstairs, or your kid is playing next.” The design, Sorg continues, is based on the ability to connect these different programs.

“There’s inherent conflict with connecting the track to the gym because you don’t want to disrupt people walking and running. So, we lined up vertical slot windows that occur between each of the courts and we have bridge overlooks. You can walk across the track under this bridge overlook and then look down to watch an entire game or check on people, hang out and socialize without disrupting the track. And they are used quite often.”

Adds Burg, “Establishing that strong sense of connection was central to the project. After the building opened up, I was meeting Bob Carlson, who is the CEO. I remember asking him, ‘What do you think?’ His response was, ‘We did it.’ We were standing in the lobby looking around, seeing all of the activities going on and all of the spaces from that one central point. That was the impetus for the project. It was that connection that we fought and worked hard for throughout the whole project. We really felt like it ended up being a success.”

“The amount of people that use this facility ... It has truly become a gathering space,” says Sorg. “It has created a wave of involvement that I don’t know would exist otherwise. It’s truly the place to be for these kids, which then has parents and grandparents coming along to watch and interact. It’s been pretty amazing. It just works and is unique.”





# Kinnick Stadium's New North End Zone Reimagines the College Football Experience

**WORDS** : PAIGE HOLMES **IMAGES** : CAMERON CAMPBELL, AIA, INTEGRATED STUDIO **ARCHITECT** : NEUMANN MONSON ARCHITECTS

Kinnick Stadium at the University of Iowa, one of the largest college-owned stadiums in America, is a cornerstone of college football and a landmark of the state. With nearly 100 seasons of football to its name, the stadium was due for some much-needed renovations. The architects at Neumann Monson knew they needed to give Kinnick Stadium a new north end zone worthy of its long-standing reputation.

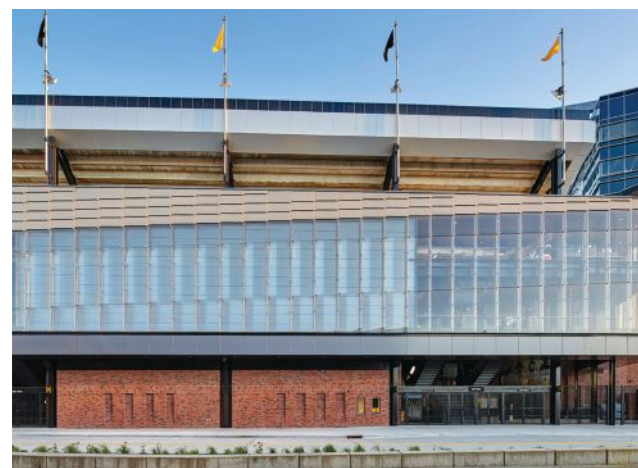
The firm was already familiar with the stadium, having designed a new south end zone for Kinnick in 2006, as well as a rebuilt press box and structural updates. A 2015 feasibility study looked at the north end

zone, last updated in the 1980s. The renovations were completed prior to the start of the 2019 football season.

Neumann Monson's Bill Hoefer, AIA, and Kim McDonald, AIA, also brought personal experience with the stadium's accommodations, as attendees of its regularly sold-out games.

"I grew up a Hawkeye fan, attending games at Kinnick since I was 7," says Hoefer, Neumann Monson's project manager. "I understand [the stadium's] traditions and experienced its shortcomings that needed upgrading as part of this project. My goal was for our team to drastically





**Opposite:** The renovated end zone comprises three decks and includes two separate concourse levels, a club level, and upper and lower seating bowls for general admission. **Top left:** The team used a vertical approach because of the limited footprint available. **Top right and above:** A shingled glass screen wraps the renovation, designed to evoke a hawk with its wings open over the stadium itself. **At left:** Young fans observe the crowd. Neumann Monson's project manager himself grew up as a Hawkeyes fan.



improve Iowa fans' experience, without sacrificing the character of Kinnick Stadium."

"I used to sit in the press box," says McDonald, principal-in-charge of the project. "But two years ago, we moved to the north end zone, and you're actually much closer to the field. Great seats, especially for an end zone seating situation."

The goal was a bigger and better north end zone, but the site left a small footprint to work with. A road behind the end zone restricted expansion possibilities.

"There was this desire to enclose the north end zone," says McDonald. "The only way to do that was to go up, so [the university] was open to looking at a different approach. That opened the doors of what we could do."

The renovated end zone comprises three decks and includes two separate concourse levels, a club level, and upper and lower seating bowls for general admission.

"To fit all the seating, concessions and indoor club space within the constraints of the project site, we had to design a vertical, stacked stadium," says Hoefer. "This approach freed us from trying to replicate the existing stadium's masonry exterior, so we were able to create a more modern, lighter structure that still aligns with and complements historic Kinnick Stadium."

While more than 10,000 seats were part of the project, this lowers the number of total seats in the stadium in exchange for a safer and more comfortable area to enjoy the game. No matter how close the game is, cramped seating detracts from the fun.

With more than 65,000 attendees per game on average, a premium seating experience for every fan will ensure they'll be back again to cheer on the Hawkeyes. Adding to the game-time experience are brand-new restrooms, videoboards, and concourses alongside renovated food and concession areas.

Even the Hawkeye team benefits from their fans' new seating arrangements.

"Besides just creating an upgraded appearance for the north side of Kinnick Stadium," says Hoefer, "the proximity of the seating to the field and its imposing height have created a daunting home field advantage for the Hawkeyes. The fans in the north end zone have embraced their role within this 'wall of sound' to have an active influence on the game."

The exterior is a striking addition to the complex. A shingled glass screen wraps the renovation, designed to evoke a hawk with its wings open over the stadium itself. A custom frit makes the glass visible to birds while continuing the theme with feather-like detail on the wings. In addition to the artistry, the wings serve the practical purpose of ventilation and protection from Iowa's winter winds.

Hoefer, McDonald, and Neumann Monson created a unique piece that merges art and architecture in the expression of athleticism.

"People should think of architects anytime you have a building where public safety is paramount," says McDonald about the importance of this project. "Design is also important, so this was a great opportunity to do something very different than your typical project."

"If people aren't thinking about sports and architecture together, they should be," says Hoefer.



The renovation includes a club level.



CIVICpride COMMUNITYidentity PUBLICspace



**Buildings are  
part of a  
community's  
social fabric.**



Cedar Rapids  
Des Moines  
Iowa City  
Madison  
Minneapolis

[opnarchitects.com](http://opnarchitects.com)

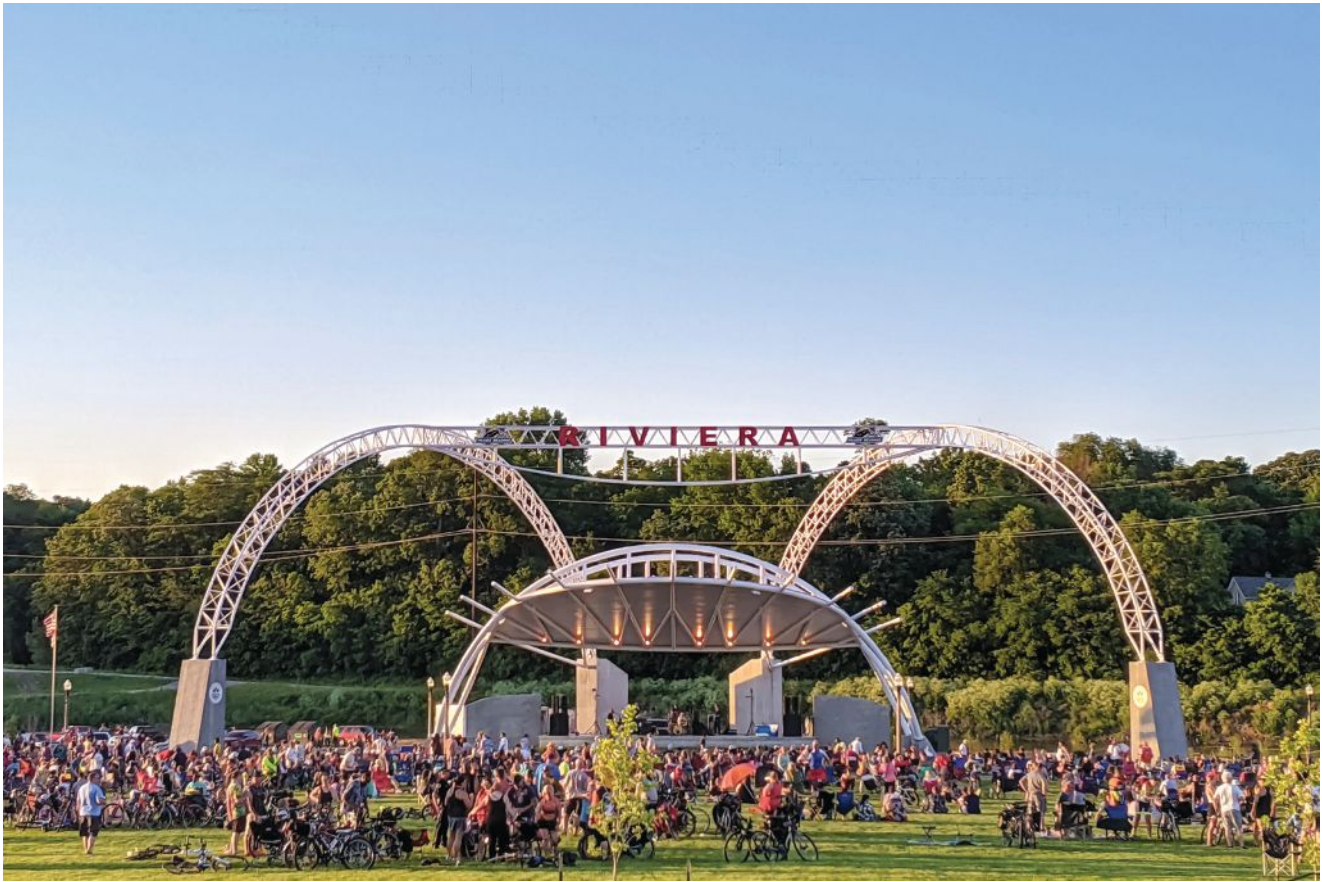


Johnston City Hall



Marion YMCA





## RIVIERA STAGE

# PAYING HOMAGE TO A THRIVING COMMUNITY

**WORDS :** DREW CLARK **IMAGES :** BARBER PHOTO STUDIO AND CAMERON CAMPBELL, AIA, INTEGRATED STUDIO **ARCHITECT :** ASK STUDIO

A sculptural structure of concrete and steel in a park lush with history, the Riviera Stage by ASK Studio is an homage to the past in a revitalized community space.

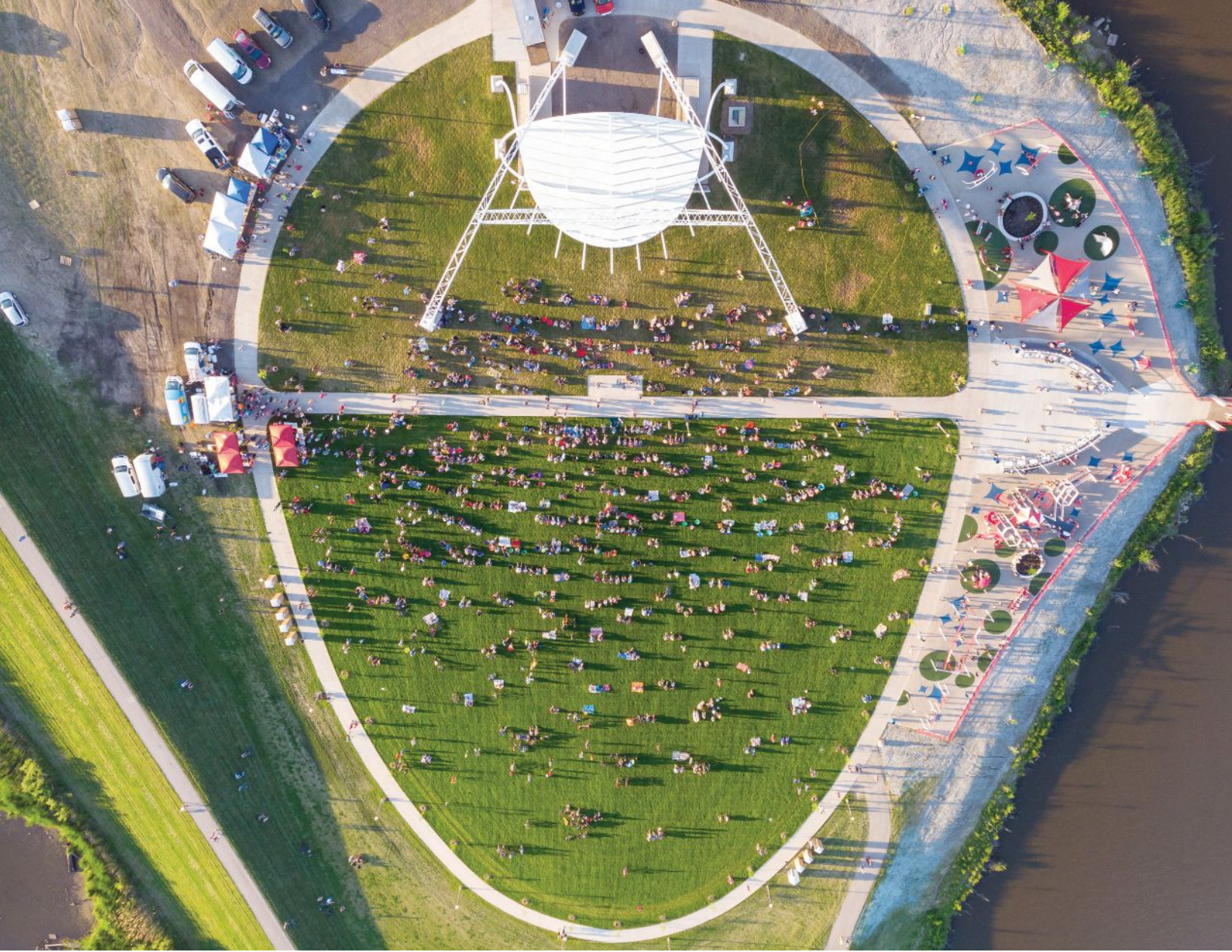
Riverview Park, open from 1915 to 1978, was once home to an amusement park and music venue. Its Riviera Ballroom hosted some of the greatest musicians, including Duke Ellington, Ella Fitzgerald, and more. Located in Des Moines and serving the Oak Park, Highland Park, and Union Park communities, the site was also home to many carnival rides: a steel coaster named “Wild Mouse” and wooden coaster simply called “The Coaster.”

In its heyday, Riverview Park was an entertainment staple in the Des Moines area. When the park shut down in 1978, the property was left vacant. After being closed for so long, a grassroots effort jump-started by the Parks Area Foundation—and picked up by the Des Moines Parks and Recreation Department—revitalized the site and led to the design and construction of the Riviera Stage amphitheater.

The stage project was completed in three carefully thought-out phases that accommodated budget needs. The first phase focused on the concrete, which involved constructing the stage platform, ramps, and the piers for the steel structure. The second phase was sitework, which included grading, seeding, planting, road turn-around, lighting, and utilities. Finally came the steelwork, with its expressive trussed arches.

Although the stage is modern in design, the main goal of the project was to pay homage to the park’s history. Architects at ASK Studio researched other outdoor stages for design inspiration, the most prominent being the Jay Pritzker Pavilion in Chicago designed by architect Frank Gehry. According to Kurtis Wolgast, AIA, architect at ASK Studio, the team aimed to build a structure that created a space not only for performers but for the audience as well. Similar to the structure in Chicago, the Riviera Stage’s massive steel arches “reach out” from the stage and over the enormous lawn. Thus, the arches create an outdoor





**Opposite:** The Riviera Stage's massive steel arches "reach out" from the stage and over the enormous lawn. **Top:** The effort to revitalize the landscape led to the assembly of an all-inclusive playground that is wheelchair-accessible and modeled after the Coney Island-inspired amusement park. **Bottom left:** The park is situated on an island that can be accessed via a pedestrian bridge. **Bottom right:** The arch design serves as a callback to the roller coasters of the old Riverview Park.





The stage itself is situated on a massive green lawn surrounded by water.

room that brings the audience and performers together into one interconnected space. “When you look at some outdoor amphitheatres, they have spaces that are more confined by seating or how the landscape works around it,” explains Brent Schipper, AIA, principal at ASK Studio. “While we do have some earthen berms around us ... the large arches actually start to define an outdoor space.”

The hard-to-miss truss arches have their own interesting story. To build the stage while working with a more modest budget (“We certainly didn’t have a Frank Gehry budget,” Wolgast jokes), the ASK Studio team had to think outside the box when coming up with materials. “Something that we’ve always strived for at ASK Studio is how [to] take ordinary, off-the-shelf products and elevate them to extraordinary levels,” Wolgast explains. With this in mind, the team utilized trusses that are typically used in agricultural buildings, and barrel barns, to construct the unique contours they had in mind for the stage.

The trusses themselves were cost-effective, and their design serves as a callback to the roller coasters of the old Riverview Park. The arches soar above the park and can be seen from many angles from the surrounding neighborhoods; the curves of the arches mimic the twists and turns of the old roller coasters that once roamed the spot. “I think when people see the Riviera, they don’t see those [trusses] as something that barrel barns are made out of,” Schipper notes. “The use of those components save money, but people don’t see them as storage building parts. Once they see them as a roller coaster, it’s kind of fun.”

The park is situated on an island that can be accessed via a pedestrian bridge. In addition to the stage, the effort to revitalize the landscape led to the assembly of an all-inclusive playground that is wheelchair-accessible and modeled after the Coney Island-inspired amusement park. The stage itself is situated on a massive green lawn surrounded by a lagoon. As described in an article from the *Des Moines Register*, the venue can hold up to 9,000 people during events.

While paying homage to the park itself, ASK Studio also wanted to incorporate the Riviera Ballroom’s old design in the stage. In addition to hosting notable musicians, the ballroom hosted local sock hops and

“The idea of creating spaces and environments that serve a large community is always an exciting thing to be a part of.”

— KURTIS WOLGAST, AIA

teen dances throughout the 1960s. Before the music venue burned down in 1980, one of its most notable characteristics was the open-air dance hall, which had open side walls and exterior seating. When coming up with design ideas, ASK Studio had to contemplate how they could pay tribute to the old Riviera Ballroom with an outdoor stage. While the old ballroom was an indoor structure, its open walls served as design inspiration, and the metal arches come into play once again. Although the arches are meant to resemble roller-coaster tracks, the design also calls back to the old ballroom’s open-air feel: The arches bring the once-indoor space outside. The stage is also located almost exactly where the old dance hall once stood.

Now open to the public, the renovated Riverview Park has not only become a hallmark of the surrounding neighborhoods, but to all of Des Moines. Schipper explains, “I think that what we’ve accomplished is much bigger than the neighborhood; it is citywide—the city [of Des Moines] now thinks of the Riviera Stage as one of its markers.”

“The music venue brings more people to an area that was underutilized and it’s providing new life for a space that was once vibrant,” Wolgast says. The park’s concert series, “Rendezvous on the River,” is now more popular than ever, and the park is home to music festivals, film festivals, movie nights, and more. The stage’s modern design brings life back to the once-abandoned site but also pays respect to the memories of what it was at its core: a gathering place for the city.



**PIGOTT**

## Redefine Modern Design.

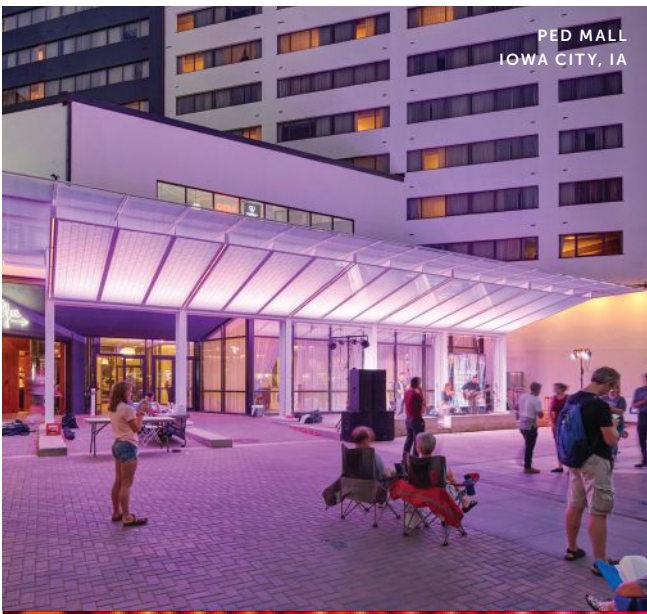
As a MillerKnoll Certified Dealer, Pigott has access to the most comprehensive set of design brands in the industry. This uniquely innovative collection creates a robust portfolio of products to suit diverse needs.

Ready to elevate your space?  
 Learn more at [www.pigottnet.com](http://www.pigottnet.com)

Des Moines | Cedar Rapids | Davenport | Dubuque | Sioux Falls

**MillerKnoll**  
 CERTIFIED DEALER

**DIRTT**



**GO OUTSIDE & PLAY**

**Schuler Shook**  
 LIGHTING DESIGN / THEATRE PLANNING / AUDIO VIDEO DESIGN

# CONCRETE NEVER LOOKED SO GOOD.

With over 112,000 square feet of concrete polished last year, there's a unique finishing solution for every project. Visit [taraconprecast.com](http://taraconprecast.com) or scan to contact us about your project:

**TARACON**  
 precast





## IT'S NOT A FIREPIT.

It's roasting marshmallows.  
It's compiling stories and s'mores.  
It's late nights with good friends.  
It's reconnecting with a spouse.  
It's a quiet escape.

## IT'S BUILT WITH KING'S.

CONCRETE • MASONRY • LANDSCAPE

**KING'S**  
MATERIAL INC.  
[kingsmaterial.com](http://kingsmaterial.com)



**Project:**  
Leapfrog Technologies

**Contractor:**  
Build to Suit Incorporated

**Architect:**  
ASK STUDIO

**Photo:**  
Steve Sullivan (Sullivan Photography)



*Proudly serving the  
Midwest's precast needs.*

(319) 986-2226 (Mount Pleasant)  
(515) 214-7771 (Des Moines)  
[sales@mpcent.com](mailto:sales@mpcent.com) / [mpcent.com](http://mpcent.com)

+ Follow MPC  
on LinkedIn





WE BUILD INSPIRED PLACES TO  
**HEAL**



**KINDRED MERCY REHABILITATION HOSPITAL**  
CORALVILLE

[jedunn.com](http://jedunn.com)

**LEARN ABOUT INNOVATIVE DRONE TECHNOLOGIES + LEVERAGING ON-SITE VISITS**

AIA Continuing Education Opportunities through Knutson Construction. Interested in learning more? Scan the QR code below.

Image Below: 3D Drone Inspection  
Abbott Northwestern Hospital;  
Minneapolis, MN










Iowa City | Cedar Rapids  
[www.KnutsonConstruction.com](http://www.KnutsonConstruction.com)

## Johnston City Hall

**Location:** Johnston, Iowa  
**Architect:** OPN Architects, Inc.  
**Contractor:** Hansen Companies  
**Environmental Graphics:** Kuhlmann Leavitt, Inc.  
**Landscape Architect:** Confluence  
**MEPTF:** IMEG Engineering  
**Signage:** ASI Signage  
**Structural Engineering:** Raker Rhodes  
**Photographer:** Alex Michl, Assoc. AIA, OPN Architects

## Johnson County GuideLink Center

**Location:** Iowa City, Iowa  
**Architect:** Neumann Monson Architects  
**Contractor:** Merit Construction  
**Landscape Design:** Hawks Design  
**MEP Engineer:** Modus  
**Structural Engineer:** M2B  
**Photographer:** Cameron Campbell, AIA, Integrated Studio

## Marion YMCA

**Location:** Marion, Iowa  
**Firm:** OPN Architects, Inc.  
**Civil Engineer:** Hall & Hall Engineers  
**Construction Manager:** Knutson Construction Services Midwest, Inc.  
**MEPTF:** IMEG Corp.  
**Structural Engineering:** IMEG Corp.  
**Photographer:** Cameron Campbell, AIA, Integrated Studio

## Kinnick Stadium North End Zone

**Location:** Iowa City, Iowa  
**Firm:** Neumann Monson Architects  
**Audio Visual Engineer:** WJHW  
**Civil Engineer:** Shive Hattery Architecture + Engineering  
**Contractor:** JE Dunn

**Food Service:** Bigelow  
**MEP Engineer:** IMEG  
**Structural Engineer:** HNTB Architecture; Raker Rhodes Engineering  
**Photographer:** Cameron Campbell, AIA, Integrated Studio

## Riviera Stage

**Location:** Des Moines, Iowa  
**Firm:** ASK Studio  
**Contractor:** Henkel Construction  
**Metal Fabricator:** Johnson Machine Works  
**Structural Engineer:** Raker Rhodes  
**Photographer:** Barber Photo Studio; Cameron Campbell, AIA, Integrated Studio

CHECK  
OUT OUR  
*digital*  
EDITIONS!



Check out **iaarchitect**'s digital offerings, and find out how to share your message with more industry professionals.



844.423.7272 | [advertise@innovativepublishing.com](mailto:advertise@innovativepublishing.com) | [www.innovativepublishing.com](http://www.innovativepublishing.com)





Iowa Center for Architecture  
400 Locust Street, Suite 100  
Des Moines, IA 50309  
Change Service Requested

# DON'T KNOW WHICH WAY TO TURN?

Feel like you're working your way through a maze? Partnering with your local precast concrete producer early in the design process is the best way to harness their extensive knowledge and creativity resulting in the most efficient and economical design possible.

Contact a PCI Midwest precast concrete producer member today!

[www.pcimidwest.org](http://www.pcimidwest.org) • [info@pcimidwest.org](mailto:info@pcimidwest.org)

