

2018 Real Estate Awards, Top Architecture Firms: Shelden Architecture

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Shelden Architecture strives to empathetically lead and inspire others to make a more beautiful world.

The firm's goal is to walk alongside its clients throughout each project, listening and being a partner.

"A lot of people can talk about being a leader in the industry," says president and owner Stan Shelden. "We want to lead, but as a partner. It's our client's project and we want to be empathetic about who they are, why they are here and what they are trying to do."

Shelden says the firm also serves to inspire its clients.

"If we serve our clients, they will be inspired because they see us giving, caring and wanting to be alongside them, dreaming along with them. Pushing them to think, to dream, to see what could be," he says.

The firm, opened in 2002, now employs 12, from master degree architects to interior designers and graphic designers. Shelden says the people are one reason for the firm's success.



COURTESY SHELDEN ARCHITECTURE

From left: Pam Clinton, Randy Crook, Rianne Moeder, David Beaver, Elham Ghorbani, Stan Shelden, Scott Durkee, Sandra Denneler, Daniel Gensch, Jon Clotfelter, Martina Trifonova, Deyan Trifonov.

“We just want to love people and when we get a chance to do that in the office, we care more for our clients,” Shelden says. “Last year exemplified that. We had a lot of wonderful projects to work on and we just enjoyed each other. While we enjoy each other, we do our best work. We push each other.”

Heartland Credit Union at 37th Street North and Maize Road was named a Project of the Year.

“The owner was passionate and they listened and cared. They made everybody feel a part of the project,” Shelden says. “We listen and care, too, so our connection was synergistic.”

Collaboration is key to Shelden Architecture’s approach.

“Right from the beginning, we’ve worked with the contractors, real estate brokers and developers, bankers, city administration. All those people are critical in the whole scheme of things,” Shelden says. “I want to know what makes them tick and how we can all work together to make Wichita better. With all these different entities talking about the same sort of vision, we’ll end up with something we’re a lot more excited about.”

Shelden says his firm is enjoying the resurgence of Wichita’s downtown as well as projects in smaller college communities around Kansas.

“People are excited about the future and looking to expand or renovate,” Shelden says. “Every architect loves the idea of getting to dream with people. We feel blessed to be doing it.”