



MARTHA DE PLAZAOLA ABBOTT
Co-Managing Director
GENSLER
gensler.com

Martha rejoined Gensler in 2017 and is now the Co-Managing Director of Gensler's Phoenix office. With over 28 years of experience, she brings a diverse skillset and tested leadership to her work. Her comprehensive portfolio includes a myriad of "Work-Life" projects encompassing mixed-use, higher education, cultural institutions, hospitality, retail and office.

What professional accomplishment gives you the most pride and what makes it so rewarding?

Being a Principal and Vice President at my last firm seemed like the accomplishment of a lifetime. However, my new role at Gensler represents a huge opportunity to really effect change within our community and I am proud to now have the mechanism and platform to make these new goals a reality.



RUSS SANDERS
Principal, Workplace Studio Leader
SMITHGROUP
SmithGroup.com

Russ Sanders, AIA, is a Principal leading the Workplace Studio at SmithGroup's Phoenix office. Russ is an award-winning architect with a depth of experience across a diverse cross section of building types including office workplace, aviation, municipal, multi-family residential, hospitality, healthcare, historic preservation, and education. Russ gravitates toward projects that incorporate culture, history, context, and place-making.

What professional accomplishment gives you the most pride and what makes it so rewarding?

Earning the trust of our clients and business partners in the community has been rewarding. This industry is about people who push each other and encourage each other to create amazing things. I'm inspired by our great team of talented, sometimes quirky, people with boundless energy and commitment to their craft.



SHERMAN CAWLEY
President
Cawley Architects
cawleyarchitects.com

Sherman Cawley is a native Arizonan who has practiced architecture in Phoenix for 38 years. Cawley Architects focuses on delivering the highest-quality professional design services, primarily in



the design-build commercial arena. The firm has designed 15 million square feet of commercial and industrial buildings since its inception in 1994.

What professional accomplishment gives you the most pride and what makes it so rewarding?

Seeing the results of a tremendous team effort over many years transform into a successful, sought-after practice gives me (and the team) great pride. And working in a professional arena where trust is the watchword is one of my great rewards.

What advice would you offer to someone who wants to become successful in commercial real estate?

Relationships, trust and performance are all key components of a successful career.



JASON PLOSZAJ
Associate Principal
RSP ARCHITECTS
rsparch.com

As design lead for a highly collaborative studio in RSP Architects' Phoenix office, Jason's award-winning portfolio ranges from large scale planning, corporate, hospitality, mixed-use and international projects. He is passionate about fostering a culture of design while mentoring staff to develop innovative solutions that are meaningful for clients and community.

What advice would you offer to someone who wants to become successful in commercial real estate?

Integrity. Build lasting relationships as you never know where opportunities come from.

What do you consider the most surprising fact about you?

Avid outdoorsman. Jason loves to hike, backpack, fly-fish and bow-hunt as many weekends as possible (sometimes with his toddler along for the journey, riding in her backpack).

STEVE RAO
President
DWL ARCHITECTS + PLANNERS, INC.
dwlarchitects.com

Steve is President of DWL Architects + Planners and has led the Transportation Services Group for over 20 years. He is active in the Arizona Airports Association, Airport Consultants Council, Southwest Chapter American Association of Airport Executives and currently serves on the board of the Support Sky Harbor Coalition. Steve has a Bachelor of Arts in Architecture degree from Columbia University and a Master of Architecture from Arizona State University.

What professional accomplishment gives you the most pride and what makes it so rewarding?

Working with the team of professionals at Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport and DWL coworkers for the past 29 years has been a source of great pride. Together we have accomplished numerous projects that have shaped the character and contributed to the operational success of the airport. The friendships I have gained over the years is by far the most rewarding.

