

Event Title

Big Concept/Small Project: *adventures in sole practicing*

Bart Shaw AIA

Description

After working in large firms for about 10 years, Bart Shaw set off in 2011 to start a design practice. Receiving significant recognition for his early conceptual design work, Bart embarked on a journey to see if he could make it on his own with a firm committed to good design.

With limited resources and taking any project he could get his hands on, he scraped through the tail end of the recession to emerge on the other side with a practice known for its excellence in architecture, receiving design recognitions from National AIA, Texas Society of Architects, IIDA, and AIA Fort Worth.

This presentation will look at 4 projects representative of the his journey. Bart will share experiences from 6 years of working as a sole practitioner. He will offer the lessons learned navigating the challenges of building a reputation for good design from the difficult arena of small commercial work. From digital fabrication to manual fabrication, always looking for creativity where you can find it, and finding a way to get it built, Bart has found that these projects with low budgets, and few contractors available to participate, teach us what is important about the work we do, and the importance of getting others invested in our vision.

Learning Objectives:

1. Objective 1: Discuss the challenges of construction methods and the current contractor environment.
2. Objective 2: Examine how the selection of building materials for resilience and durability to address clients program requirements, can be utilized as feature design elements.
3. Objective 3: Relay the importance of involving tradesmen and contractors in dialogue about the design and quality of construction goals before beginning construction. Explain how these conversations have influenced their construction approach.
4. Objective 4: Investigate available fabrication techniques and creative ways to successfully express conceptual design in finished construction.

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