

By Sandra Gunn, a native Houstonian and Realtor. Her team at Boulevard Realty specializes in the unique and prides themselves on being architects of community. | www.sandragunn.com | Hair by Mario at Riario; Makeup by Edward Sanchez at Urban Retreat

archichat

Photography by Jack Potts

JEREMY MCFARLAND | BRICKMOON DESIGN | WWW.BRICKMOONDESIGN.COM

Jeremy McFarland was the in-house designer for Allegro Builders which Bill Baldwin of Boulevard Realty represents. Jeremy also designed the Boulevard Realty office at 1545 Heights where I caught up with him to discuss his practice, Brickmoon Design.

IT IS THE MARRIAGE OF COMMUNITY AND DESIGN THAT DEFINES THE ART OF ARCHITECTURE. WHETHER IT'S A MIXED-USE PROJECT SUCH AS THE TIME WARNER CENTER IN MANHATTAN, WHICH PROVIDES A GREAT EXAMPLE OF THE NEED TO MELD 5 STAR ZAGAT RESTAURANTS, AUSTIN'S WHOLE FOODS AND THE MANDARIN HOTELS U.S. FLAGSHIP WITHIN THE HISTORIC MIX OF PRE-WAR RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS AND ENHANCE WALKABILITY IN A CITY KNOWN FOR SUCH, OR TO HAVE INNATE ABILITY TO "GET IT" AND BE ABLE TO DESIGN "NEW" TO MERGE WITHIN A HISTORIC COMMUNITY IN A WAY THAT EVEN THOSE IN THE REAL ESTATE INDUSTRY SAY "WHAT A GREAT OLD HOUSE" WHEN IT WAS BUILT 6 YEARS AGO.

EDUCATION BACKGROUND:

Texas A&M University, Bachelor of Environmental Design
Arizona State University, Master of Architecture

HONORS/AWARDS:

Star Award Finalist 2008 - Best Kitchen, Master Bathroom for Home over \$1M
Star Award Finalist 2008 - Best Architectural Design for Home under \$1M
Star Award Finalist 2007 - Best Custom Home
GHBA Prism Award 2008 - Best Interior Design of the Year
Star Award Winner 2008 - Best Specialty Room, Wine Cellar
West University Festival of Homes, 2009

SPECIALTY:

Upscale custom homes in a variety of styles as well as residential renovations.

CURRENT PROJECTS:

We have a pretty diverse portfolio and our current projects reflect that. Right now, we're working on a modern custom home in Garden Oaks, a craftsman in the Heights, a traditional style in Braes Heights and a number of renovations (new kitchens, master baths and room additions) inside the Loop.

WHAT DO YOU LOVE MOST ABOUT ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN?

I'm inquisitive, by nature. I love asking good, probing questions and, honestly, I love to listen. To me, 90% of the design process is about communication. It's about finding out what a client wants, why they want it and helping them understand the path from vision to reality. In a lot of ways, the relationship between client and designer is like a little marriage: its health relies on proper communication; understanding needs, desires, and expectations; and having a common goal. Oh, and having fun along the way.

WHAT SHOULD A BUYER BE LOOKING FOR IN A PROSPECTIVE ARCHITECTURE FIRM FOR THEIR CUSTOM HOME DESIGN?

The design process can be daunting. It can be long and complicated and represents a substantial investment of your time, mental energy and money. If I were shopping for a designer, I'd look for one who would function as an advocate for

me throughout the entire, labyrinthine course. I'd want them to listen to me, but also educate me on the process as we go – really, to act like a “professional friend.”

Custom home design and construction is a team effort, so it would also be important to choose a firm that has a proven track record at assembling teams and steering those teams in the right direction. Everyone from builders to interior designers to cabinet-makers... I'd want my designer to have good relationships with those people and know how to lead them all the way from concept to move-in.

HOW CAN CHILDREN BE ENCOURAGED TO APPRECIATE ARCHITECTURE?

Art exists as a marvelous result of mankind's innate need and desire to create. To me, architecture is an art form that clearly depicts Man creating in God's world. It's why I named our firm Brickmoon – human creation (brick) meets divine creation (the moon). Children need their inherent creativity affirmed and encouraged. By pointing them to architecture, we show them a wonderful means of creative expression that's both beautiful and practical. It's also a great way to teach children the benefit of working toward something that lasts, enduring for generations.

IF YOU WERE NOT AN ARCHITECT, WHAT WOULD YOU BE?

A fly-fishing guide. Showing people around nature, helping them appreciate their surroundings, and teaching them a skill... that's a nice back-up career.

"WHEN I AM GONE, I WANT PEOPLE TO LOOK AT..." My family. Honestly, it's the best thing I've ever helped create and think of me.

FAVORITES

HOBBY

SALTWATER FISHING. ME, ON A KAYAK IN THE BAY, REELING IN A REDFISH... THAT'S A GOOD DAY.

ON YOUR IPOD

RAY LAMONTAGNE. I LIKE THAT HIS MUSIC IS BOTH MODERN AND OLD-FASHIONED.

VACATION SPOT

A REMOTE SPOT BY AN ALPINE LAKE.

BEST ENCHILADAS

THE BEEF FAJITA ENCHILADAS AT THE ORIGINAL NINFA'S MAKE ME GLAD TO BE A TEXAN.



sandra gunn | jeremy mcfarland



thayer residence



gomez hendrickson residence

Photography by Erin Thayer

Photography by Felix Sanchez