

Builder/Architect

Virtual Spaces to Become Innovative Green Places

Richard Jones Architecture



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By Brad Anderson

“Listen to your client and respect what they have to say.” — a simple philosophy shared by a group of five young design professionals. The Fab 5, as they have come to be known, has actually been working together for several years. Richard Jones Architecture was launched on January 1, 2008, but principal Richard Jones has been designing well-known South Florida buildings for several years. (Jones, whose career includes five years with IBM’s real estate and construction division, as well as 12 years with a Boca Raton firm, where he was a

Richard Jones and his associates are at the leading edge of green sustainable designed communities.

— Robert Kanjian, Palm Beach County Commissioner

partner and part owner, needed a change.) “I felt boxed in,” says Jones. “I was at a point in my career where I wanted to practice architecture a certain way. Leaving a firm where I had ownership to start a new firm was one of the hardest, yet definitely the best, career decision I have ever made.” So, Jones and four other associates from his former firm moved to downtown Delray and never looked back.

Vista Center Eco Hotel — West Palm Beach, FL





Assisted living facility — Hollywood, FL

The Fab 5 in their downtown Delray Beach studio. Left to right: Richard Jones, Jennifer Snyder, Jarvis Wyandon, Victor Velasquez, Dagny Rissman



Since the move, the group has designed a variety of residential and commercial project types, including hospitality, mixed use, workforce housing, seniors and assisted living facilities, rental apartments, restaurants, retail, office and single-family homes. They all share a common vision to improve the community in which they live and work, be a part of the solution for attainable and

Oceanfront triplex, Highland Beach, FL





Custom home, Delray Beach, FL

workforce housing, be innovative with new ideas and ways to solve problems, and to be green. “We strive to do more with less,” says Jones. “I guess you can say we’re lean and green. We are five design professionals and we focus on our core business of architecture.

When our Habitat homes needed an inspiring image, we turned to the creativity of Richard Jones Architecture.

— Michael Campbell, Executive Director, Habitat for Humanity

Habitat for Humanity streetscape — Boynton Beach, FL



When Catalfumo Construction & Development works with Richard Jones Architecture, we know we are going to partner with an architect who can deliver great design and an exceptional level of service.

— Dan Catalfumo, Catalfumo Construction & Development

We follow a professor/student-like business model in the studio and we all learn from each other.” As a result, Jones and his associates are able to pass on value to their clients. In addition, the firm provides renderings on every project in order to study the design further and work out details and color selections. “I like to be involved from conception through construction, and pick all the materials both exterior and interior,” says Jones. “The renderings and animations are as much a design study tool as they are a marketing



Custom home in Boca Raton, FL



Custom home — Lighthouse Point, FL



Cityview Townhomes — Key West, FL



Tax credit rental apartments — Delray Beach, FL



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When WAM represents a project before any city commissioner, we know Richard Jones' architectural presentation will be a tremendous asset to the approval process.

— Michael Weiner, Weiner Aronson & Mankoff Land Use Attorneys

tool." Jones' clients and business relationships followed him to his new firm, and recent exposure has allowed him to build his client base. "We care about our relationships; we don't look at a new client as a potential new job, but value that client and strive to build a lasting relationship. We also respect the engineering consultants we have been using for years. We're a team and we stick together."

Jones' downtown Delray Beach studio is the perfect location for an architectural practice. "This city has been a model for urban redevelopment in Florida and an ideal setting to enhance creativity. We walk to meetings, lunch and even to the building department," says Jones. "We can study historic details and aspects of New Urbanism." The firm's experience is not limited to Delray Beach. They are also licensed in six states in the southeast region.

The firm's pledge to be green is centered on design professional

Richard Jones is a rising star in workforce and attainable housing design.

— Tim Wheat, Principal, Pinnacle Housing Group



Downtown commercial — Delray Beach, FL



Restaurant — Delray Beach, FL

Senior affordable condos — Boynton Beach, FL



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Workforce housing/mixed use — West Palm Beach, FL

Jennifer Snyder, LEED AP. Snyder is also a certifying agent for the Florida Green Building Coalition and reviews all the plans the firm generates to see where projects can become more environmentally conscious, even if the project will not achieve certification. “The green movement is not a fad,” says Snyder. “As design professionals, we have a

Vacation timeshare — East Tennessee



responsibility to be more ecologically conscience. Through the Florida Green Building Coalition guidelines, we can offer our clients a very simple program to help them achieve certification without adding a tremendous amount of construction costs.”

Richard Jones Architecture also gives back to the community by providing complimentary land planning and density studies for local community land trusts and nonprofit developers, as well as providing architectural services for Habitat for Humanity. “Our community work brings us the most satisfaction,” says Jones. “The opportunity to enhance an individual’s quality of life through architecture is truly a rewarding experience.” ■

RICHARD JONES



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