



Featured Builders Exchange Partner

Studio Kremer Architects continue making schools, libraries, Kentucky a better place



For more than 20 years, Studio Kremer Architects has been taking on projects large and small throughout the Louisville and Southern Indiana area and beyond. And while their slogan might be “Our niche is no niche,” for the last few years, the full-service, multi-functional architectural provider has created award-winning community epicenters like schools and libraries.

Studio Kremer often partners with Builders Exchange on these projects to help spread the word and get the area's best contractors. But more on that in a bit.

The firm, which employs 13 and recently relocated to a historic building — that they gutted and rehabbed — at 1231 S. Shelby St. in Louisville's Shelby Park, celebrated 21 years in business this spring, but its history actually goes back much further. In 1997, Studio Kremer purchased the assets, archives and ongoing business of CC Brumley Architects Inc., which was founded in 1968 and incorporated in 1975. Scott Kremer, current firm president, served as an intern architect under Brumley early in his career.

Diana Dinicola, business manager and partner of Studio Kremer, says things aren't slowing down anytime soon for the firm, and in fact, they put five major projects out to bid within a span of five weeks this spring. Those projects are the Marnel C. Moorman School in Shelby County; the Camden Station Elementary School in Oldham County; the Henry County Public Library; the Ronald McDonald House renovation/expansion project; and the Hogsett Primary School in Danville, Ky.



(Thomas Nelson High School)

These are all currently in the works, and some of the highlights of Studio Kremer's portfolio include the award-winning Eminence EdHub, the St. Matthews branch of the Louisville Free Public Library, Clarksville's Renaissance Academy, Thomas Nelson High School, YouthBuild, the Moremen Chapel renovation, and Sullivan University, among many others.



(Clarksville's Renaissance Academy)

Dinicola says part of the firm's mission is to make a mark that'll reach far into the future and having a positive impact on the community through what projects they take on.

“We make sure we put out projects that are going to stand the test of time, especially in the case of our school and library work,” she says. “Those are the places where probably thousands of members of our community all around Louisville will have memories — hopefully happy memories — of being in those spaces.”



(St. Matthews Library)

Dinicola explains that the firm's partnership with Builders Exchange is important, especially when it came to putting out those five upcoming projects in the span of a few weeks.

“We impacted the construction community pretty heavily all at one time by having those five projects out,” she says. “We had to think carefully and advise our clients on the sequencing of that. Those are all huge projects, and you want to get good, competitive bids. It was hard on us, but it was also hard on the contracting community, because we wanted people to get their bids in, we wanted it to be competitive and thorough, but it was too much to expect everyone to be prepared for five big, complicated jobs all in the same day.”

Studio Kremer relied on Builders Exchange to help spread the word to contractors, and Dinicola is happy to report that all the projects are now underway.

Cate Noble Ward, an architect and project manager for Studio Kremer, works with Builders Exchange more closely in her day-to-day responsibilities. She explains that the Exchange helps get their drawings to vendors and subcontractors, making them available to a broader audience. Builders Exchange also helps the architects facilitate better relationships with those vendors.

“While we can't pick and choose each product or person who will work on this job, Builders Exchange opens up this whole community of people who, in turn, make our projects more varied, inclusive and available to more people,” says Ward. “They keep us in the loop of having access to so many more people than we would normally have access to, and they can connect us with people who can answer our questions.”

Ward says she has a personal connection with some of the staff of Builders Exchange and knows she can call them up anytime and say, “Hey, I got this product on my job and I don't know who to call about it.’ They're always able to put us in touch with the right people,” she adds.

And although the partnership between Studio Kremer and Builders Exchange isn't financial, it is mutual and beneficial for both parties.

“It's just kind of staying in touch and sharing information,” says Ward. “I think it makes the job better when more people are aware that these jobs are currently bidding and they may be able to give a better price or a better project — and that just makes everything better.”