



Let there be
Light!

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Insider

The quarterly
newsletter
of Sparks Reed
Architecture
and Interiors
of Tulsa

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Welcome to our first *SR Insider!*

Welcome to *SR Insider*, the new quarterly newsletter for Sparks Reed Architecture and Interiors!

With this product, we intend to give you a better understanding of just what we do, and how we do it. We will offer information on our activities in our firm and our community. We'll reflect back on past projects, and look forward to future successes. We'll share secrets about how we approach business, and what we feel is important

in work and life. In short, this is our family album, the latest chapters in our story. And that's why we're sharing this with you, our customers, family, and friends. To succeed in business requires strong relationships and trust. We want you to feel at home with our company. So please come in, put up your feet, and share some of our stories! As a part of our family, you are always welcome!

"As the son of a builder, I have been around construction and the building industry for over 30 years. I learned at a young age on the construction site the clear meaning of 'time is money.' When a contractor has questions it is imperative that the design team work to provide clear direction quickly and respectfully."

— David Reed, co-founder of Sparks Reed Architecture and Interiors



Mr. Reed Goes to Washington

David joins other architects studying industry issues

Sparks Reed co-founder and principal David Reed traveled with several Tulsa architects to Washington, D.C., in March to study industry and leadership trends with national executives and lawmakers. Their activities started with the American Institute of Architects' Grassroots 2017 conference, March 8-10 at the Grand Hyatt Washington hotel. This gathering offered multiple workshops to help AIA members learn about industry concerns and fine-tune their organizational skills.

"It brings people in who are entering their leadership roles, and it shows them how our organization runs from top to bottom," said Lindsey Ellerbach, executive director of AIA's Eastern Oklahoma Chapter. "It shows us what's going on at the national level, regionally, and at our state and local level, and how we can best navigate those issues."

Delegates also met with Oklahoma's congressional representatives and other national leaders to learn about Capitol Hill and share their concerns.

"For example, we're watching the national historic tax credit right now and waiting to see what the new administration is going to do with that," said Melissa Hunt, executive director of AIA's Central Oklahoma Chapter. "That really impacts us locally because the state tax credit is tied to the national tax credit."

Ellerbach led the Tulsa delegation with chapter President Jonathan Crump (of Dewberry's Tulsa office) and President-elect David Reed. Hunt and President-elect Jason Hukill (of LWPB Architects) represented their Oklahoma City chapter.

Ellerbach said this year's Grassroots conference focused not just on industry issues, but leadership roles architects may play in their communities.

"We're all looking forward to learning not just how to be leaders on the AIA board, but how we can be positive leaders in the local community," said Reed.

Reed said he intends to share insights learned at this conference with other newly elected officials in AIA's 340-member Eastern Oklahoma chapter. Eric Miller (SGA Design Group) is the group's new secretary, and Ivan Dubikovsky (also of SGA) is treasurer. Sarah Ramey (SGA) is the chapter's associate director, and Carrie Johnson (Wallace Engineering) is the affiliate director. Two new architects also were elected to the chapter board: Weldon Bowman (W Design) and Francis Willmore (ASL Architects).

"I look forward to learning how to leverage what the national AIA has to support the local chapter," said Reed, who will become president of the Eastern Oklahoma chapter in 2018. "And to help our local members as they get more involved in the industry and community."



Underway **at last!**

Three Sparks Reed clients launch construction projects

Sparks Reed Architecture and Interiors helped three clients start February construction projects in Kellyville, Owasso, and Tulsa.

"It's always an exciting time to see a project take its first step into the built environment," said David Reed, a principal and co-founder of Sparks Reed. "The amount of time and energy it takes for us to design and produce the drawings to get to this point is all worth it, when we get to see the joy and excitement on the faces of the owners and users of these facilities. This has been a very exciting two days for our firm and our clients."

Festivities started Feb. 9 with Tulsa Public Schools breaking ground for a new McLain High School field house. This Sparks Reed design, funded by a 2015 bond issue, will feature two basketball courts, plus space for McLain's volleyball, wrestling, and other programs. Tulsa-based Flintco will begin construction in August for completion by November 2018.

TPS Superintendent Deborah Gist said the \$12 million facility will do far more than improve McLain's athletic programs.

"When our students participate in athletics, they're far more likely to stay in school, have good attendance, keep up their grades, and ultimately graduate," Gist said after that Thursday morning ceremony.

Jim Glover Auto Family broke ground the next morning on a 20,000-plus square-foot Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep, and Fiat dealership. This will occupy five acres just southeast of the 106th Street and U.S. Highway 169 intersection in Owasso. Glover expects its new dealership to add more than 80 jobs to the local area once Crossland Construction completes its work in July.

Both President Jim Glover and Vice-President Jared Glover thanked Sparks Reed for its work on the project.

"I was so greatly impressed with every last detail of how this dealership has been designed," Owasso Mayor Lyndell Dunn said at the groundbreaking. "I really think this dealership is going to be one of the most aesthetically pleasing and appealing dealerships in the state of Oklahoma."

That Friday afternoon, Kellyville Public Schools celebrated its construction start on a 40,000-plus square-foot field house to go up on the east side of its high school campus. This 2,000-seat arena, to be built by D.C. Bass and Sons of Tulsa, will also provide space for various other campus programs.

John Tuttle, vice president of the Kellyville Public Schools board, hopes to complete construction in time for the 2017-18 basketball season.

"They have done several of these," Tuttle said of Sparks Reed's multipurpose design. "That really impressed us. They knew what worked and didn't work."

Sparks Reed Architecture and Interiors was founded in 2011 by three professionals who have worked together on private and public architectural and interior projects valued at more than \$500 million. Known for finding creative solutions to difficult projects, Sparks Reed prides itself on utilizing cutting-edge technologies to preserve existing environments while building upon a client's rich traditions. To learn more, check out sparksreed.com



Pictured in this Kellyville groundbreaking photo, from left to right: Will Berry of D.C. Bass, KPS board clerk Julie Clayton, board member Cristy Evans, board President David Ayres, board Vice President John Tuttle, KPS Superintendent Joe Pierce, David Reed of Sparks Reed, and KPS Athletic Director Jim Upshaw.

Photo by Kirby Lee Davis



Let there be Light!

*The City of Muskogee has revived
its pioneering past
to light its downtown's future*

Working from designs by Sparks Reed Architecture and Interiors, general contractor Warfeather LLC has built a series of lighted steel towers and soaring arched signs to welcome visitors to Muskogee's Katy and Depot Districts.

"This is something that's going to make you remember going downtown," said Sparks Reed architect John Alig. "It shows that the city cares, that they're not giving up on downtown."

The \$750,000 Muskogee Gateways project, paid for with a grant from the City of Muskogee Foundation, is designed to strengthen this community's once vibrant downtown. The project involved construction of a two-story, street-spanning welcoming sign, another 97-foot-long marque mounted on a highway bridge, and four independent pillars, all boasting programable LED lighting systems.

Analysts expect these landmarks to help attract more retail business downtown, home to an estimated 7,000 daytime workers. The lights also should spur increased consumer traffic for evening business and heighten tourism appeal for the Oklahoma Music Hall of Fame, Three Rivers Museum, Muskogee Civic Center, and other area attractions.

City officials illuminated the last gateway tower Jan. 12.

"This is sending a signal to downtown merchants and the city as a whole that this is the heart of the community," said city economic consultant Ron Drake.

"The city can't purchase buildings and renovate them to bring in restaurants," said Drake, the owner of Ron Drake Consulting of Siloam Springs, Ark. "What we can do is promote more beautification ideas that will possibly entice developers to do those things. These arches, these gateways, are beautiful, and the public knows it."

These steel web structures emulate one of Oklahoma's early statehood marvels: the historic three-story "Welcome to Muskogee" sign that greeted newcomers from 1910-15 to what was then eastern Oklahoma's largest commercial area. That downtown sign visibly demonstrated Muskogee's ambition, for it used more than 1,400 Tungsten electric lights



Photographs by Sparks Reed cofounder Gary Sparks

to daily dazzle its KATY Railroad depot visitors at a time when such displays were quite rare.

"It's one of the things that people really identify with in the city," said Warfeather owner Adam Oglesbee, who was raised in the Muskogee area. "I grew up seeing images of this on T-shirts and postcards."

Today's gateways grew from an inspiration by Sparks Reed. That Tulsa firm was hired in 2013 by the Action In Muskogee (AIM) revitalization initiative to help Muskogee streamline its downtown development strategy. In their year-long study of the commercial area, architects David Reed and Alig learned about the city's original sign, which in its time was considered the largest such marque in the southwest U.S. The duo decided to incorporate similar landmarks into Sparks Reed's visionary proposal, to the delight of AIM, the Muskogee City Council, and the foundation.

"Everyone latched onto these towers," Reed said with a smile. "They were something everyone agreed to make happen, and it did."

The towers gave symbolic importance to the downtown project, said Dr. Bob Blackburn, executive director of the Oklahoma Historical Society.

"Every community needs touchstones of shared memory," said Blackburn. "These lights, reflecting a time when Muskogee was the Queen City of the Southwest, create a strong link between the past, the present, and the future, while creating a vivid new identity for first-time visitors."

D.J. Thompson, president of the Greater Muskogee Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism, expects the gateways to improve Muskogee's quality of life while aiding its economic development.

"We felt like we needed something visual that people could see, a positive thing changing visually on a continuous basis," said Thompson. "If your city begins to look nicer, then it begins to feel better to you, and then it begins to feel better to people that are visiting. The long-term effect that those pillars

and that archway will have on the quality of life in Muskogee is significant."

Advantage TerraFab led the Muskogee area manufacturers that worked on the structures, which echo the historic sign down to its pillar-topping spheres.

"Each one of them was all hand-welded here in Muskogee, then transported locally," said Oglesbee, whose firm is based in Coweta. "Everything was fabricated within 30 miles of Muskogee."

Construction came with a few challenges, from hanging the Katy District sign on a state highway bridge to securing power grid connections and accommodating holiday shopping needs. But Muskogee civil engineer Prag Mahajan said work progressed without any major hitches.

"It was a fun project to work on," added Alig.

Just building the gateways boosted downtown traffic over the last several months as tourists and shoppers started posting social media selfies among the signs.

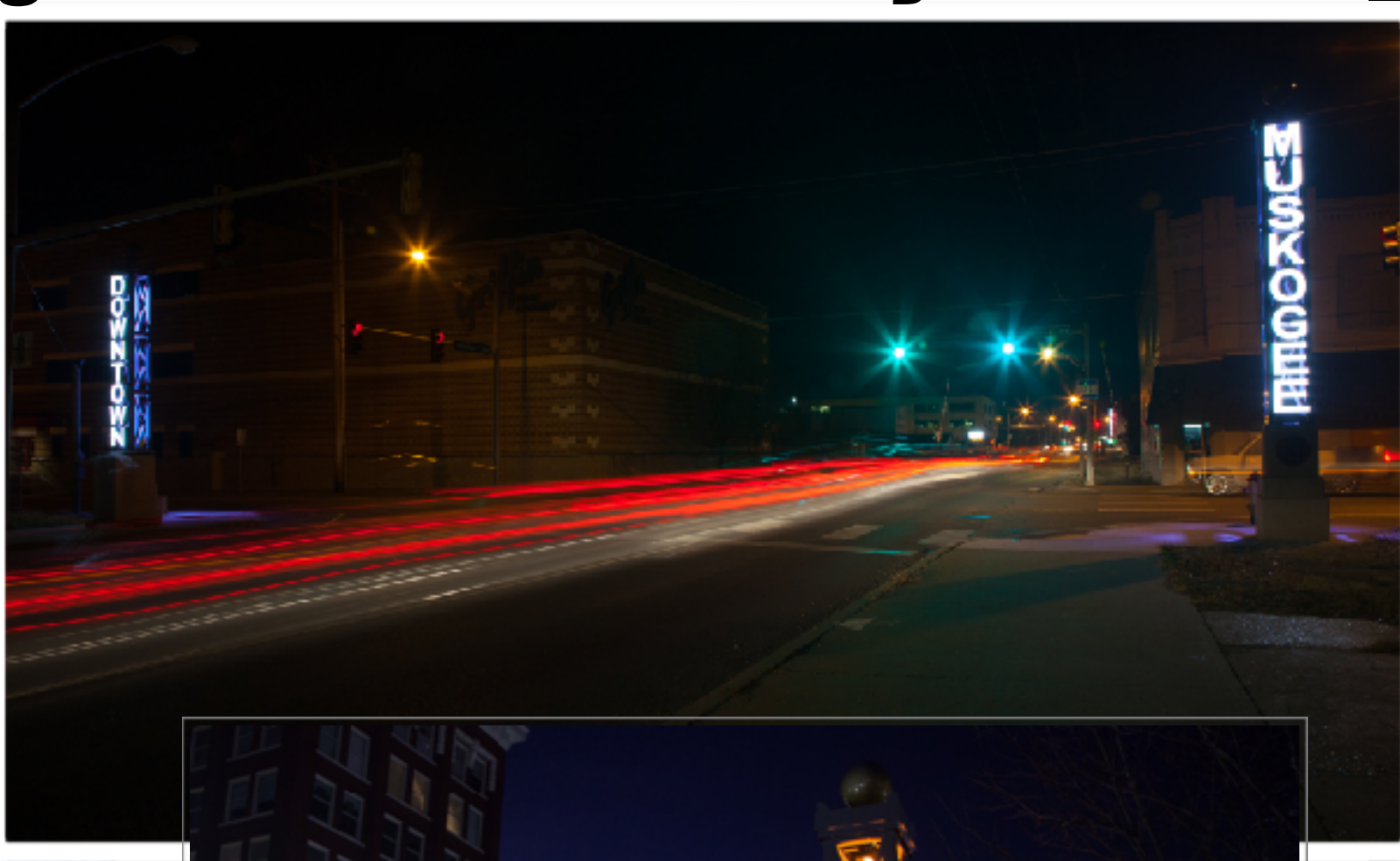
"There was a steady stream of people out there," said Oglesbee. "We had more traffic on Columbus Avenue during the days we took to install these things than I have ever seen there in my lifetime."

The Muskogee Gateways marked just one recent improvement to the downtown area. The Muskogee Little Theatre, Nanna's Broadway Bakery, Bros Haberdashery, and American Pie Wood-fired Pizza and Spirits opened their doors there over the last year, while Pinon Creek Trading Co., Hoopes Hardware, and Club Lunch moved or renovated their downtown stores. Erly Rush Coffeehouse is pursuing a facade update, and Muskogee Brewing Co. is renovating a former fire station to provide its future home.

"It's going to take some time before the total fruits of these efforts are shown, but every day there are things happening downtown," Drake said of the Muskogee Gateways. "This is kind of an exclamation mark, a cry out to the community that it's time to bring your downtown back."

I've been waiting for this moment all my life...

Photographs by Sparks Reed cofounder
Gary Sparks





The University of Central Oklahoma celebrated the grand opening of its expanded softball complex on March 23.

Timberlake Construction of Oklahoma City handled this project, working from designs by Sparks Reed Architecture and Interiors of Tulsa. The now-completed second phase included construction of a 2,500-square-foot home team building, with athletic offices, locker room, press box, and dugouts.

This phase also installed new artificial turf, perimeter fencing, and other field improvements.

Several interesting features adorn that home team building. Sparks Reed architect John Alig said the structure employs granite-coated metal shingles designed to withstand large hail stones.

"The hope is that this will resist the occasional pop-fly from denting the roof," he said.

General contractor Timberlake Construction also installed heavy-duty metal screens on infield-facing windows, the mesh capable of withstanding a hurricane's flying debris.

"Again, the thought is this will



prevent softballs from damaging the glass," Alig said.

Sparks Reed designed the building to align with the architectural styles of UCO's surrounding campus structures.

"This mean all sorts of brick patterns constructed out of varying the types of finishes on the brick, rough vs. smooth face brick," he said.

Wonderful day!
Have a
Please let us know what
you think!
newsletter!
to our first
Welcome



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