



## PROJECT UPDATES

Construction of the **Carnegie Building in Fort Worth, Texas** continues successfully. The finished columns are now going up in the lobby with substantial completion anticipated in August. The first tenants are scheduled to move in this October.



Carnegie Building Construction

## ALWAYS THE ARCHITECT



National Cowgirl Museum and Hall of Fame, Fort Worth, TX.

In high school, Tom Greene knew his interests were in science, art and the human experience. In the center of these, he discovered architecture. Innocently enough, Tom started checking out library books on architecture because they looked “interesting.” He then signed up for architecture and engineering classes. “My school offered the classes, so I just kept taking them,” Tom modestly states. But the truth is, he was so enthusiastic as a student that his father turned down a promotion that would require the family to relocate to an area in Virginia where the schools didn’t offer architecture courses.

During the summers and throughout junior college, he’d find work at architectural practices such as Cohen, Haft & Associates. He even finagled himself a job with a blueprint delivery service to get greater exposure to the craft in action. “I wanted to see all the architectural offices in town. I wanted to see their operations and what they were working on.”

In the mid-seventies, Tom attended the School of Architecture at the University of Maryland, which he describes as “the only school I could afford.” In his third year, he took time off to work on a solar house that had won him a design competition. During this time, David Schwarz was looking for support on a project in D.C. and his contacts at the University directed him to Tom. After the project, Tom went back to school but continued to work with David on breaks. The two operated out of a small room in David’s townhouse. The other rooms were rented out to college students.

“I only expected to work for David for three months before going out on my own,” Tom laughs. “But then we were working on a townhouse and David came up with an innovative solution to a design problem, one that I didn’t even consider. His three dimensional thinking really impressed me and I thought maybe I should stick around longer.”

During his thirty year tenure with David M. Schwarz / Architectural Services, Tom says his list of memorable projects “promised to get too long.” But with a little prompting, he notes Cook Children’s Medical Center and the National Cowgirl Museum and Hall of

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**The River Walk at Central Park**, the new central business district in **Flower Mound Texas**, moves closer to reality. The owner and team of consultants continue to work with town of Flower Mound staff on developing all of the necessary amendments to the town's master plan, Land Development Regulations, and Zoning Ordinance. Most recently, the town's initial traffic impact analysis was completed. The hospital's architect is now in schematic design with foundation work scheduled to commence mid-fall of this year. DMSAS anticipates starting design work on the first medical office building by late spring.



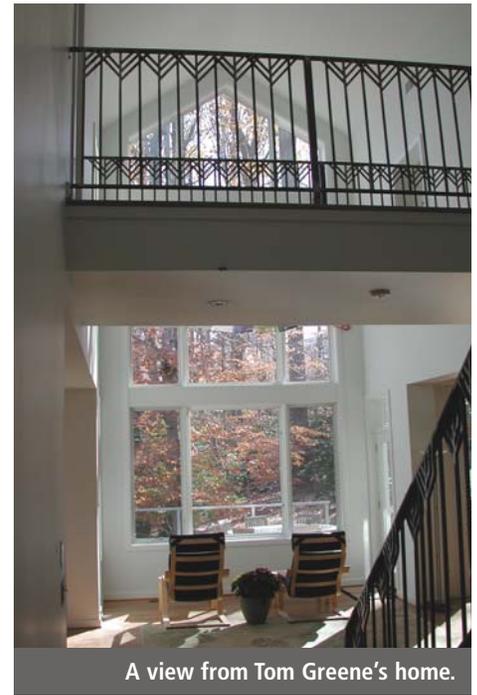
**The River Walk at Central Park, Flower Mound, TX.**

Fame (both in Fort Worth, TX) as particularly rewarding experiences.

In 2004, he started his most personally rewarding project – the renovation of the home he shares with his wife Louise. “Technically, I’ve been working on this renovation for twenty years, since the first day I bought the house. I am an architect. In my mind, I’ve been taking down walls and re-designing all this time.”

The design created a better relationship with the outdoors and emphasized sustainability. Tom created a room in the back with a 25-foot high wall of windows. The glass is low-e coated and argon-filled, allowing the temperature to be controlled without compromising the natural light. Adjacent to this is an 18-foot deck overlooking his backyard which abuts Rock Creek Park. Upstairs, Tom created a master bedroom suite and an open work space for the couple. This space was designed taking into account current needs and the needs of future owners. It can easily be converted into two bedrooms and an additional bathroom.

“We have the attitude that the house will live longer than we do. We are not



**A view from Tom Greene's home.**

its permanent owners, just the current occupants, and we should leave it in a condition that can serve those who come afterwards.”

## CREATING AN ENVIRONMENT FOR HEALING

When Cook Children's Hospital and Fort Worth Children's Hospital merged in the 1980s one of the first orders of business was finding the proper site for the development of the facilities. Master planners selected the site, while the newly formed Cook Children's Medical Center Board set out to find the right architectural team.

Robert Bass, Chairman of the Board wanted David M. Schwarz / Architectural Services for the task. Bass first worked with David on an historic preservation initiative in Fort Worth and later used the firm to design a car dealership he owned. Bass was impressed by the innovation the firm applied to the showroom design. Since a car's natural habitat is outdoors, DMSAS approached the showroom interiors as if they were exteriors. Within the showroom, DMSAS used a terrazzo floor to create traffic lanes, curbs and lawns. Where a wall forced a road to end, mirrors were used

to create the illusion of continuity. The walls were also cityscape murals. Bass wanted DMSAS to apply this kind of thinking to the new medical center to create an environment that was warm, friendly and a source of support to children and families. DMSAS signed on, working in close coordination with Karlsberger Associates, an architectural practice out of Ohio that specialized in health care facilities. DMSAS would focus on creating a warm experience, while Karlsberger ensured the functionalities of the hospital were top notch.

Perhaps the most important decision to impact “experience” was the selection of the actual site. The original the master plan called for the facility to be pushed off to the left to allow for an existing street to stay active. DMSAS proposed that the street be closed and that ample space be dedicated to accommodate a significant building fitting for a major institution.

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On April 16th, DMSAS with The JBG Companies presented to the **City of Rockville Planning Commission** comments and suggestions on the City's draft RORZOR (Rockville Zoning Ordinance Revision) provisions. Using 1800 Rockville Pike as a test case of the Mixed-Use Transit District (MXTD) Zone, DMSAS discussed the need for pedestrian scaled streets and blocks, the proper location of building uses and height, parking and public space, as well as the merits and disadvantages of a highly prescriptive ordinance versus one that allows for flexibility and creativity. The presentation was well received by the council and we look forward to the inclusion of our thoughts into the final zoning ordinance which is slated to be adopted later this year.

A recent New York Times (April 23, 2008) article on the development of a new urban core in **Las Vegas** called **Union Park** describes **The Smith Center for the Performing Arts** (designed by DMSAS) as the "linchpin" to the initiative by providing a cultural hub for the community.

Designs were then created for 300,000 square feet of new construction that would provide 199 patient beds, a grand indoor atrium, tranquil outdoor gardens, a bridge connecting to the existing Harris Methodist Fort Worth Hospital, and a garage for 600 cars.

DMSAS created a warm experience from beginning to end. The gardens as you approach the building are filled with fanciful topiary animals, the building's exterior design calls for larger and more frequent window placement. Bigger windows are used in areas looking into public spaces and children's playrooms. Faux windows even adorn walls where fire stairwells are situated, so that the exterior appearance of the building is more open and friendly. The window railings are playful interpretations of Tic-Tac-Toe boards that children can see and understand. Tom Schieffer (who was then President of the Texas Rangers) would later notice these railings on a visit to hospital with his child. This eventually would lead to the firm's commission of the Ballpark in Arlington.

In the interior, the main hospital services, patient rooms and corridors are all situated around a seven-story high atrium that floods the facility with sunlight and provides an easy way for patients and families to orient themselves. "The atrium functions as a town square. There's always something going on there, something cheerful like a book fair or a visit from Santa Claus," notes Tom Greene, DMSAS



The atrium at Cook Children's Medical Center, Fort Worth, TX.



The Cook Children's Medical Center Signage Program Featuring "Little Russell"

principal and project manager for Cook.

Rooms for bone marrow transplant patients overlook the atrium on the third floor. Due to the suppressed immune systems of these patients, there is a need to isolate them even from their own families. The separation can be grueling on the child and the entire family. Cook's design includes private balconies that allow the family to visit with their child and allow the child to feel connected with the interactivity of the community without compromising privacy.

In regular patient rooms, parent beds are provided and medical equipment that is not necessary can be concealed behind wall panels. "It looks more like a hotel or a home bedroom than a hospital room," explains Tom. "The kids decorate their rooms."

Everything is oriented to the child. The nurses' stations are low and approachable, the directional signage is placed within a child's sight-line and contains visual imagery for those who can't read. For example, the registration sign shows a graphic of "little Russell" doing paperwork. The sign for Radiology shows the same little boy looking at the ice cream cone and hot dog in his belly via x-ray.

"It's great to see how our planning has really held up and how much people appreciate it," adds Tom. The original building opened in May 1989. Since then several expansion efforts have taken place including the development of the North Pavilion Inpatient facility.

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**The Nancy Lee & Perry R. Bass Performance Hall** celebrates its 10th anniversary with an array of events scheduled for April 29th through May 4th. The program includes: "Learning How to Fly" a performance that spotlights young talent from Bass Hall's Children's Education Program; a free community concert by Jack Ingram presented by Chesapeake Energy; a Chuck Mangione and Diane Reeves performance; a Liza Minelli concert; and Kirk Franklin gospel performance.



Nancy Lee and Perry R. Bass Performance Hall, Fort Worth, TX.

## DESIGNING FOR FUTURE EXPANSION

Designing for major institutions requires a tremendous amount of planning. Whether it's a civic center, a municipal facility or a hospital, design must address current needs while providing flexibility for the future. Here are some of the elements utilized by DMSAS in the initial design of the Cook Children's Medical Center that have allowed the institution to expand over time.

- The original building site was altered. DMSAS advocated to combine two blocks and center the main building on that plot. With the bigger block, DMSAS was able to leave ample room on each side for future expansion.

- DMSAS planned the circulation and floorplan of the initial building taking into account where future additions would be sited and would connect into the main structure. Instead of using expensive materials such as limestone, DMSAS used glass curtain walls on the exterior façades in these places to create a sense of continuity from day one.

- Parking facilities were designed that would allow for additional stories to be added to the main structure as needed to support facility growth.



Careful massing design of Cook's North Patient Pavilion (added in 2003) Creates a small building pedestrian experience while fulfilling a big building hospital program.

Every few years Cook's master plan is reviewed to ensure the facility can continue to provide the best possible health care and experience. Right now, plans are in the works to increase the neonatal intensive care unit, and to develop new outpatient pediatric facilities and administrative offices.

## FAMILY NEWS



David M. Schwarz / Architectural Services Firm Photograph from the Design Symposium

The firm is pleased to welcome Jeff Sozio. Jeff is currently completing his junior year in the BS-Arch program Catholic University and he will be working part-time for the remainder of the spring semester, with the intent to transition to full-time during the summer months. Jeff has been hired to primarily help with building models and he is slated to begin by assisting the Las Vegas PAC and USC Business School teams.

Each summer David M. Schwarz / Architectural Services, Inc. sponsors an Internship and Traveling Fellowship program, whereby students work at the firm and are then supported as they travel to study examples of architecture abroad. Fellowships this year have been awarded to the following recipients: Amy Chang, Yale University Graduate Fellow, who will be studying the significance of Wat temples and their roles in religion, politics, and public realms in Laos; David Derenick, University of Maryland Graduate Fellow, who will be studying the architecture of healing environments throughout Switzerland and Eastern France; Pauline Smith, University of Notre Dame Graduate Fellow, who will be studying the works of Jože Plečnik as the "Other Classicism" in Ljubljana, Slovenia and "Classicism in the Industrial City" in Birmingham, England; and Camden McClelland, University of Notre Dame Undergraduate Fellow, who will be studying the character and organization of the typical Scottish High Street in Glasgow, Edinburgh, Perth, and Stirling.

The firm design symposium held last month was a tremendous success. The event included a presentation on stylistic choices made in past firm projects and an architectural scavenger hunt requiring teams to find specific architectural examples and themes as they exist in downtown DC. A DMSAS family photo was also captured at the event. Thanks to the Education Committee for all of their hard work putting this event together!

DMSAS Google Earth initiative is attracting the eye of the industry and was recently featured in an AIArchitect article by Micheal Tardif. Models from the DMSAS portfolio that were recently submitted to the Google Earth Warehouse include: The Griffin, 1818 N St. NW, Montessori School Fort Worth, and Sundance East.

Congratulations to DMSAS architectural staff member Jennifer Paloski on her recent engagement to Ken Stinson. We are looking forward to eating wedding cake with you on the big day.

Best wishes to all in the David M. Schwarz / Architectural Services family celebrating a birthday in April and May: David Fruzynski (April 2), Michael Swartz (April 7), John Herrington (April 12), Eric Jackman (April 14), Tom Greene (April 19), Paul Jackman (April 26), David Brawner (May 4), Jeffrey Loman (May 11), Alex Dickson (May 15), Kent Tittle (May 20) and Monique Faggans (May 21).

Congratulations to Virginia Escalona who is celebrating 14 years with the firm this April and Michael Swartz who is celebrating 25 years with the firm this May.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Readers,

We welcome your feedback and comments to our newsletter. Submissions can be sent to [newsletter@dmsas.com](mailto:newsletter@dmsas.com) for potential inclusion in our next edition!

Here is some of the response we received from our last edition.

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"I love receiving the newsletter and we are especially pleased that the Schermerhorn Symphony Center is listed. The people in Nashville love our new facility and we are very proud of it..."

**Martha R. Ingram**, Immediate Past Board Chair Schermerhorn Symphony Center

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"Your newsletter was shared by a co-worker of mine. Very nice effort, informative about projects, colorful, detailing but not over done. Keep it up. If possible, please add me to your distribution list." **Freddie T. Bustillo, Gilbane**

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"Looks great! Very nice and appropriate entree into our anniversary celebrations. It would be nice if the next issue included a picture of the entire office staff. If we're going to talk about family, which is a really nice way of personalizing and humanizing this thing, a 'family photo' seems appropriate." **Steve Knight, DMSAS** (See photo above!)



Sundance East Google Earth Image