

## GROWTH STRATEGIES

### 'Bricktown pioneers'

AFTER NEARLY TWO DECADES IN BRICKTOWN, ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN GROUP INC. REMAINS IN HIGH DEMAND

By Mallery Nagle

Architectural Design Group Inc., 116 E Sheridan, has grown along with its Bricktown neighborhood.

"We're Bricktown pioneers," said Anne-Marie Funk, director of business development for ADG, as the company celebrates 31 years in business, 19 of which have been spent in the heart of the now-thriving business and entertainment district.

The company has grown from just 20 employees six years ago to 50 today. As Funk sees it, her company's success is mirrored in the area's success.

"We're downtown's best-kept secret. We are committed downtown residents," she said. "As we've grown and needed space, we've waited until (Bricktown) space was available. We are part of downtown. We can see the success around us as everything grows and grows." Funk attributes the company's growth to several factors.

"We do good work for clients and we get a lot of repeat business," she said. "About 60 percent of our business has been in healthcare design, and that is a growth industry. It will continue to be a growth industry."

Slated for a fall opening is the ADG-designed St. Anthony Hospital Surgery Center-East. Funk said the original four-story building, to which two floors are being added, was never designed to be made taller. The firm was charged with making the existing structure strong enough to withstand the addition.

As a further challenge, construction could not completely disrupt the day-to-day activities of the surgery center. This has required constant communication among the firm, the hospital

and the contractor. That, Funk said, is another reason why ADG is in demand.

"We have worked as an integrated team," she explained. "We've worked in phases to pull it off. There is lots of scheduling and communication. We have representatives at the hospital and we problem solve as a group. There has been no finger pointing."

Flintco is constructing the 45,000-square-foot addition and a 77,000-square-foot renovation.

ADG is also in the design phase of an 80,000-square-foot St. Anthony's physicians' office building along Ninth Street. Construction should begin in August with Flintco.

Other healthcare projects include the design of the \$23 million Duncan Regional Hospital expansion and renovation in 2004 and 2005. Funk said the hospital upgrades have allowed rural patients to remain closer to home for surgery, obstetric and other high-tech medical services.

ADG also has worked with Integris Health for five years, as the medical center renovated several of its wings, including its heart health unit.

"The trend in healthcare is to have everything that is needed in one place," Funk said. "It's more personalized and more family-friendly."

The 77,000-square-foot Dean A. McGee Eye Institute expansion is also an ADG design. Funk said the additional space will be used for clinical trials, research and as a clinic. This project is in the design phase. Construction is expected to begin in the fall.

ADG is surrounded by its own designs.



Architectural Design Group's executive committee is perhaps best recognized for designing the AT&T Ballpark in Oklahoma City. This month, the firm celebrates 31 years in business. Photo/Shannon Cornman (Photo from left to right: Scott Dedmon, Mike Tower, Betsy Brunsteter, Anne-Marie Funk, Steve Shelley, Lori Moody, Tom Wilson, Gary Clark, David Forgey, Greg Blevins, Steve Matthews, Steve Von Tungeln).

Lippert Brothers will complete the 2,000-car City Center Garage this fall. Funk said it will add 1,000 spaces to the area.

Nations Contracting has just begun work on the 303-unit Legacy at Arts Central apartment complex, on Walker near the art museum. Funk said although the complex will not be complete for 11 months, owners are already pre-leasing.

Nonna's and the AT&T Bricktown Ball Park are also ADG designs. Funk said the construction of the ball park, nearly 10 years ago, began a nationwide era of sports arenas being used as economic development tools.

"We're an advocate for our clients," Funk said. "We handle the project throughout its lifetime. We put ourselves in our clients' shoes and we

make sure the client gets the best value." She noted this is increasingly important in this period of rising construction material costs. Fifteen percent of the firm's employees work in the construction administration department to insure smooth operations.

This does not go unnoticed by clients.

"ADG knows how to build a partnership and understands the importance in working as a team to reach a client's goals," said Eric Wenger, P.E. and MAPS for Kids program manager. "ADG rose to the occasion on the first MAPS project, the Bricktown Ballpark. Its success kicked off the positive development underway in Downtown Oklahoma City today." ♦