



KKT ARCHITECTS



Founded in 1989, KKT Architects is a Tulsa-based design firm of more than 70 architects, engineers and interior designers. KKT works on all types of commercial projects, with some of its largest sectors being health care, education, nonprofit, office and retail. We recently spoke with Sarah Gould, owner, president and CEO, to learn more about her and the business.

What is the most rewarding part of your job?

Without a doubt, the thing that keeps me excited every day is knowing the impact that KKT is making within our community. Our spaces impact almost every sector, and it's rewarding to see how our buildings can spark changes in the most important institutions and businesses across the state. Our team is passionate about making a difference, and I'm happy we can offer them the resources and platform to make their dreams a reality.

Do you experience any challenges as a woman in a historically male-dominated field? How do you support other women in the industry now that you're in a leadership position?

There have been situations where my expertise has been questioned based on outdated stereotypes, but those are few and far between. I feel extremely lucky to have some amazing female architect mentors who paved the way for my generation to participate freely in the world of architecture and construction. I feel both an obligation and an honor to work on expanding diversity in the AEC professions, including not only gender but also race and socio-economic backgrounds.

What is an upcoming project you're excited about?

We have so many exciting projects right now! We are ecstatic about the imminent opening of the Discovery Lab at Gathering Place; it has been a labor of love in our office for more than six years. In addition, we are working on a high school for Bixby Public Schools, a men-

tal health hospital in central Oklahoma, the GEIM business incubator at the historic Moton Health Center, and so much more!

How do you foster a culture of inclusivity?

Inclusivity starts with intentionality and authenticity. It is important for everyone in our organization to feel comfortable bringing their authentic best self to work every day. Then, we must create equitable opportunities, support and resources for all voices to speak up and speak out. Over the past year and a half, we had to adapt to the virtual/hybrid environment to nurture collaboration and inclusivity in the office.

What do you think is unique about KKT?

The KKT team embraces all five generations of the workforce. We are proud to be woman-owned, with almost 60% of our staff comprised of women. Our team members have lived, studied and worked across the world and bring that worldview to our experiences and shared efforts as an organization. Within our diversity, we respect each other for our strengths and believe in the value of collaboration and input. That collaboration, paired with our creativity and passion for community impact, keeps us uniquely poised to have a positive impact on the growth and success of all Oklahomans.

What is your biggest piece of advice for running a business?

Hire people who share your core values, train them, and then trust them to do what is right. As your business grows, it's important to step

out of the day-to-day project decisions to focus on the big picture for the firm's future.

Since its founding more than 30 years ago, your firm has been involved in many projects that have helped transform Tulsa. Where do you hope to see Tulsa in the next 30 years?

As a native Tulsan, I am so proud to see the amazing growth that has taken place during the past 30 years! In the next three decades, I am excited to see that momentum grow, especially around local and diverse businesses, ideas and styles. As an architect, I am proud of Tulsa's Art Deco history, and I am even more excited to be a part of the next phase of design where beauty, function and community inclusion work hand in hand to create the Tulsa of the future.

PRESENTED BY:

