

# The Year In Review 2021

# At FGM Architects, 2021 was a year of resilience

## The Big Picture

Throughout 2021, FGM Architects (FGMA) continued to thrive by adhering to our mantra: We Build Community. In July, Architecture Record ranked FGMA #122 among the nation's top 300 architectural firms.

FGMA staff worked remotely for much of 2021. Despite logistical complexities, our resilient team maintained close client relationships, drove existing projects forward and competed successfully for new design challenges. In fact, firmwide, FGMA hired 20 new architects and interior designers, including four new positions in the St. Louis office.

The entire FGMA team was honored recently when our President, Tim Kwiatkowski was named "Architect of the Year" by the U.S. Minority Contractors Association. Tim currently serves as Vice President of the USMCA Missouri Chapter.

In the fall of 2021, we began our migration back to the FGMA office. Listening closely to guidance from local/national authorities and with considerable input from our team, we're implementing new policies that ensure a safe workplace and accommodate the needs of individuals who need to maintain a remote or hybrid schedule.

FGMA specializes in projects that enhance the environments where people

learn, work, play and gather to worship. Here are some 2021 highlights of our work in Southern Illinois and Missouri.

## To Protect and Serve

FGMA is well-known for its expertise designing municipal and public safety facilities.

This year, we began design for the **Public Safety Building at Emerson Park** in East St. Louis. Herb Simmons, Chair of the St. Clair County Transit District says, “This facility will enable (our partners) to streamline communications, thus improving the safety and security of the public transit system.”

Residents served by the **Rock Township Ambulance District** in northeast Jefferson County celebrated the opening of two new station houses that FGMA master planned and designed. Relocated to new sites, these state-of-art facilities are expected to yield improved response times to emergencies.

Civic pride is growing with the ongoing transformation of the **St. Clair County Administration Building**, an FGMA-designed renovation that includes the addition a two-story interior lobby space with a rooftop plaza.

## Learning for All Ages

FGMA specializes in the design of

learning environments. We keep pace with changing approaches to education and incorporate new knowledge of how design can support health and wellness. Our longstanding relationships with many school districts enhances the community knowledge we bring to these projects.

School facilities don't last forever. In 2021, we completed a 3-year renovation of **Effingham Junior High**, modernizing a range of learning spaces including classrooms, science labs, music/art spaces as well as the gymnasium and auditorium.

This year we began design on the **Collinsville Community Unit School District's** new Caseyville Elementary School which will share its site with the Caseyville Public Library. This shared space reflects a growing trend in many communities to co-locate spaces that citizens support and use.

Students and their parents are anxiously awaiting the construction of a new Elementary School that will serve Grades 2-5 in the **Litchfield Community Unit School District**. The school will also serve as an ICC 500 Tornado storm shelter, increasing its community value.

Higher education is a force for good in local communities. At **Kaskaskia Community College**, students and staff

will be the beneficiaries of upgraded learning spaces in the Adult Education and Career Pathways facilities.

At **Southern Illinois University Edwardsville**, the School of Dental Medicine recently celebrating the opening of the Advanced Care Clinic which FGMA designed. This new facility will strengthen learning for future dental practitioners and expand a critically needed health service to the larger community.

## Places to Play

Finally, FGMA was delighted to be Project Architect for the renaissance of **Tower Tee**, a beloved recreational destination for generations of golf devotees. The new and improved Tower Tee features a clubhouse, driving ranges, a nine-hole golf course and outdoor pavilions.

## Looking Ahead

These projects are but a few among dozens that FGMA has on the boards. Heading into 2022, Kevin Meyer, St. Louis Managing Director says, “*At FGMA, we build community. We’ll continue to improve communities throughout the region by working with our clients to design timeless and sustainable buildings where people learn, play, and work.*”

## We Build Community



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