Industry Leaders of Southwestern Illinois

Tim Kwiatkowski Leads FGM Architects Into the Future

THE EDITOR

Tim Kwiatkowski, AIA, President of FGM Architects (FGMA) is someone whose naturally personable temperament fully aligns with the mission of the firm he leads: We Build Community. Indeed, he headlined his 2021 President's Report on FGMA's financial/operational performance, "People Are Our Greatest Asset." Tim's temperament combined with deep experience, strong management skills and an appetite for growth position him well to lead FGMA in these challenging times.

Becoming a Leader

Tim grew up in Southern Illinois and lives today with his family in Belleville. After receiving his B.S. degree in Advanced Technical Studies at SIU-Carbondale (1993), he launched his career at Eggemeyer Associates and joined FGM Architects in 1999.

In the ensuing years, Tim managed a rich portfolio of projects in central/southern IL and Missouri. His expertise and management acumen developed as he led diverse projects across FGMA's practice areas including PK-12 schools, higher education institutions, municipal and fire service facilities as well as federal projects. Despite the challenges during individual projects, Tim's approach consistently reflects his belief that, "Strong relationships drive the most successful outcomes."

Over time, Tim grew into FGMA' leadership. In 2018, he was appointed Executive Vice President and Managing Director of FGMA's St. Louis region, overseeing operations. In 2020, Tim became FGMA's President at the same time his colleague, John Dzarnowski, AIA, was named Chief Executive Officer.

A Firm's Evolution

Like Tim, FGMA's roots are firmly planted in southern Illinois. Founded in Mount Vernon in 1945, the firm prospered in the post-WWII years, building a statewide practice in K-12 school design. In the early 1970s, FGMA's leaders began branching into other aspects of community-based design, building and renovating municipal, police, fire, emergency response and recreational facilities. Throughout, FGMA maintained a strong portfolio of federal based projects.

In the 1990s, FGMA strengthened its management capabilities with the appointment of a Chief Financial Officer and formalized strategic planning processes. These efforts paid off: AIA Illinois honored FGMA as their "2003 Distinguished Firm of the Year" and, in 2010, Crain's Chicago named FGMA a "Fast Fifty" firm, recognizing its significant growth. FGMA's expanding Missouri practice was bolstered with the creation of a St. Louis office in 2014, followed by a Milwaukee office in 2018 to serve Wisconsin communities. More recently, FGMA has expanded nationally with the acquisition of firms in Austin, TX and Reston, VA.

Looking Forward

Over 75+ years, FGMA's leaders have learned how to weather the ups and downs of economic cycles. Today's uncertainties are compounded by the challenges of emerging from the pandemic, supply chain constraints, rising energy costs and inflation as well as labor shortages and the urgent need to address social injustice.

As FGMA's President, Tim's proven leadership abilities and robust networks serve him and the firm well. Throughout his career he has actively "given back" through membership in groups such as the Southwest Illinois Leadership Council and the U.S. Minority Contractors Association which recently honored him as "Architect of the Year." Accepting the award, Tim noted that, "FGMA believes in the power of diversity in our business and our world. One of our key strategic goals is modeling diversity, equity, and inclusion for the communities in which we work."

While he orchestrates the complexity of leading a firm with offices in five states, Tim keeps the FGMA team laser focused on building strong client relationships and delivering high-quality results. Recent local projects that Tim is most proud of include Public Safety Building at Emerson Park, Litchfield Workforce Development Center, Caseyville Elementary School, a new combined station/HQ for the Godfrey FPD and the St. Clair County Administration Building.

This is the essence of FGMA's commitment to building strong communities by providing the facilities where people work, learn, play, protect and serve others.

Learn more about FGMA

St. Clair County Emerson Park Station

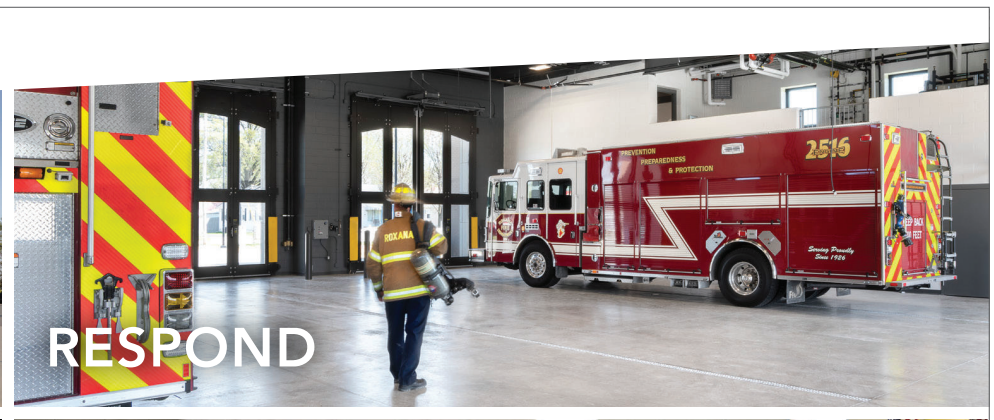
Litchfield Workforce Development Center

Caseyville Elementary School

Godfrey Fire Protection District

St. Clair County Administrative Center

We Build Community



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