

TITLE: Architectural Designer
REPORTS TO: Partners
STATUS: Full-Time, Exempt



About Studio GWA

Hello! We're Studio GWA, a nine-person team of architects, designers, and planners dedicated to improving the quality of life through design.

Studio GWA was established in 1982 by our founder and principal architect, Gary W. Anderson. His dedication to the revitalization of downtown Rockford, Illinois—honoring its unique architectural history while building spaces that met the community's needs for the future—was visionary. This unique blend of foresight, optimism, and creativity has been the foundation for strong client relationships and successful adaptive reuse and community-building projects throughout the Midwest.



Over the years, Studio GWA has become home to other like-minded urban planning, architecture, interior design, and development services professionals. We are a small office that works in a studio-style environment: open, collaborative, and creative. Our main office is pretty hard to beat: We're above the Prairie Street Brevhouse, an historic mixed-use facility steps from downtown Rockford, Illinois, with an office deck overlooking the Rock River. Our secondary office is in downtown Monroe, Wisconsin with beautiful views of the historic City Square.

Studio GWA is committed to building an inclusive, welcoming team. We are proud of the fact that half of our staff are women, including our Partners. The firm is pursuing certification as a Woman-Owned Business Enterprise (WBE) and anticipates receiving that status in 2022.

Summary + Overview

Under the supervision of the firm's Partners, the Architectural Designer will play a key role in project and drawing production - from concept meetings with clients all the way through construction. Within this position, a typical day at work might involve developing design ideas, product specification, coordination with consultants, contractors, and clients, as well as internal project management. Site visits and building walk-throughs are a regular part of the job and occur as necessary. We work in a collaborative environment and often bounce ideas off each other, jointly design, and problem-solve together.

This position is primarily based at Studio GWA's main office in Rockford, Illinois, with flexibility for working in our Monroe office.

Position Responsibilities

- Supports project teams in design development;
- Assists with project controls, cost estimates, quantity takeoffs and manpower requirements for proposals, forecasts and change orders;
- Develops drawings, specifications, calculations, charts and graphs as needed;
- Reviews and approves technical design phases of projects;
- Ensures project quality of service and profitability on assigned projects;



- Interacts and negotiates with client and other project representatives;
- Participates in professional development opportunities;
- Participates and interacts with community groups and organizations;
- Attends client meetings, both in-house and on-site;
- Consults with manufacturers to evaluate materials.

Position Requirements

This position requires a combination of education, experience, skills, and abilities, including but not limited to:

- Bachelor's or Master's Degree in Architecture;
- 3-5 years experience preferred in a similar or transferrable project management role;
- Proficiency in Revit and AutoCAD;
- Knowledge of local and International Building Codes;
- Excellent organizational and project management skills;
- Strong written and verbal communication skills;
- Able to communicate and connect with clients for sales and marketing of our firm's skills and abilities;
- Able to manage project workflow;
- Able to collaborate with large multi-disciplinary teams.

Preferred Skills + Certifications

- AIA;
- NCARB (or working towards);
- Proficiency in design software including SketchUp and Adobe Creative Suite;
- Knowledge of the Historic Tax Credit program as it applies to preservation and reuse projects.

Work Environment + Physical Demands

This is a typical professional office environment that involves working with standard office equipment (e.g. computers, phones, photocopiers) and remaining sedentary for longer periods of time. Occasional field work and site will occur, and may include exposure to inclement weather.

Compensation + Benefits

Salary range is \$50,000-70,000 annually DOE. Studio GWA offers a competitive benefits package including:

- Medical, dental, vision, short-term disability, and life insurance;
- Two weeks of PTO annually;
- Two weeks of paid vacation for the first three years, and three weeks of vacation thereafter;
- A 401k retirement program.

Our standard work schedule is 7:30-5:30, M-Th with a half-day 7:30-11:30 on Fridays, year-round. We understand that life has many demands and are open to discussing schedule flexibility.

How to Apply

Email a cover letter, your resume, and three samples of relevant work experience to admin@studiogwa.com with "Architectural Designer Position" in the subject line. The position will remain open until filled. No phone calls, please.

Studio GWA is an equal opportunity employer. We do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, marital status, age, national origin, ancestry, physical or mental disability, medical condition, pregnancy, genetic information, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, veteran status, or any other status protected under federal, state, or local law.

