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architecture humanity awareness



So, who am I? I have two distinct sides; one with an insatiable desire to explore this world of ours and one that loves home and hearth. With the kids finally gone from the nest, I think the explorer is winning. The funny thing is that my adventure appears to have included the paradoxical first step of building a robust design firm right back in the hometown I left years ago. Go figure.

I grew up in Gulfport, Florida, the son of a plumber and a nurse. Dad worked at all the cool construction projects in town, from hospitals, to the old Florida Power campus, to an upside-down pyramid at the end of a pier (which has since come to the end of its iconic run). This was all very impressive to a small kid. Mom regaled us during dinner with war stories from her time in the O.R.; even more exciting to an impressionable child. As a plumber working with my Dad, I grew familiar with the mud and muck of a project site; from my mother, I received a sense of what it takes to heal. I've spent the last 40 years of my architectural practice combining the experience in the trenches (literally) with my love of design and a desire to provide places that, at some level, give us a chance for healing to occur.

I made it through parochial school and moved out into the world, going to Junior College when SPC was still a JC and the University of Florida when a 2-win football season would have been an improvement. I received my degree in architecture, moved to Hawaii, started grad school, quit grad school, sailed across the Pacific, surfed, fell in love, and moved to Boston.

I went back to grad school at MIT and now know the meaning of the saying that an education there is like drinking water from a fire hose. My first son arrived one month before thesis was due, I survived the end-of-school celebrations, and moved to the Pacific NW. What followed was another son, my own design firm, stepchildren, and projects both local and international.

To my surprise, there was an ever-increasing number of projects back in Florida and a second firm was born in St Petersburg. Many fun projects have been completed there and I was gifted the time to spend with my aging parents.

Which brings me back to the current adventure. My folks have since passed, both locations of the firm are running smoothly and it is time for me to explore deeper not just the cultural and natural landscape of these two special places, but to see how best I can be of service using the skills from a lifetime of practice.

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