



## DESIGNING FOR SPARTANBURG'S FUTURE



The Chapman Cultural Center.

David M. Schwarz Architects has always described itself as an architectural practice for the people — a firm that is focused on building community. It's not your one-off isolated structure kind of shop. Just take a look at some of Washington, DC's historic districts and downtown Fort Worth, Texas and you can see the firm's fingerprints and influence integrated throughout the fabric of the community. In Fort Worth, the firm has built a hospital, a museum, a performance hall and mixed-use buildings that have literally transformed the urban experience and supported the overall growth and enrichment of the community. Today, the firm is taking part in the transformation of Spartanburg, South Carolina.

The city of Spartanburg, some 80 miles southwest of Charlotte, is known historically for its textile industry. But in recent history with less and less of a local focus on textiles and related industries, the community leaders have been cognizant about building a Spartanburg for tomorrow that is rich in experience, education, opportunity and culture. For ten years a group called The Arts Partnership of Greater Spartanburg (of which George Dean Johnson, Jr., an influential Spartanburg businessman and philanthropist, was associated) had been working to build a cultural heart for the city. The idea was to create one facility for several cultural and civic institutions. By bringing the groups together under one roof, they would support each other's growth and development and make a greater contribution to the city and its legacy. The problem was finding the right architects for the job. After many years of community organizing and an initial unsuccessful collaboration with another architectural firm, the Partnership turned to David M. Schwarz Architects. The Partnership liked the way the firm approached the task.

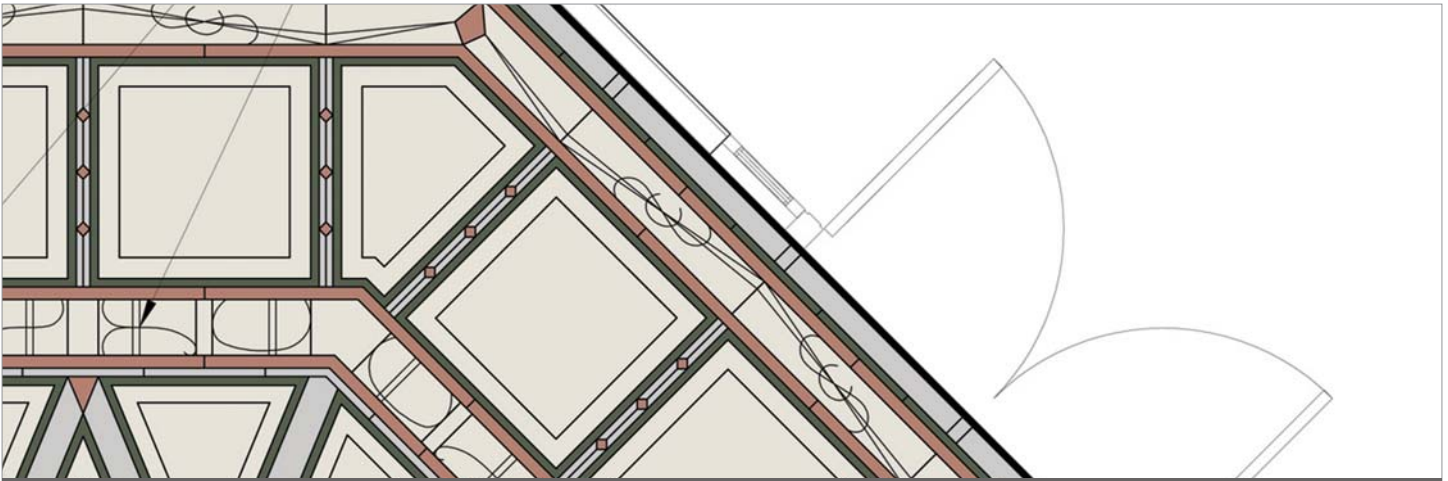
"David M. Schwarz Architects' approaches a project from a holistic standpoint. We don't just look at the particular program and site. We come in, study and really get to know the community we are contributing a design to," commented DMSAS Principal and Chapman Cultural Center Project Manager Gregory Hoss. "We believe understanding the goals, aspirations and needs of the community is the first step to creating a successful design."

In 2003, the Partnership officially hired DMSAS to design the Chapman Cultural Center. The firm quickly immersed itself into Spartanburg and the design process.

"Spartanburg is one of those quintessential small cities. There was a great traditional downtown around which the population grew. But after World War II — like in many US cities — we saw



Spartanburg Day School Site Plan with new DMSAS building in red.



**Design for the University of South Carolina Upstate's College of Business and Economics.** Represented within the inner band of the main lobby terrazzo floor pattern are international currency symbols, including the yen, the pound sterling, and the euro. Within the outer band is a stylized dollars and cents motif, which may also be interpreted as "SC" for "South Carolina."

urban sprawl and the flight of development into the first ring of suburbs. It was clear to us there was a core urbanity in downtown we could work from and help redevelop. The Chapman Cultural Center was the first step in a contemporary expansion of downtown," said Hoss.

David M. Schwarz Architects convinced the partnership to imagine the center as an integrated part of downtown. Instead of setting the campus 500 feet back from the existing city street, the DMSAS design brought the Chapman Cultural Center to the edge of the street and connected it to the city blocks. The location would create a more symbiotic relationship between the cultural center and the street life — linking the cultural experience with the commerce and activity of the city today and providing a catalyst for continued growth downtown.

"David M. Schwarz Architects have had a huge presence in our revitalization efforts," commented Spartanburg Mayor Bill Barnet. "They challenged our community leaders and planners to see our community with different eyes. They were integral in choosing a spot for the Chapman Cultural Center. Its layout on John Street and the firm's vision and planning will continue to impact the future growth of our city."

The Chapman Cultural Center officially opened in October 2007 and by all accounts has been a success. "The Chapman Cultural Center has had an enormous impact," continued Barnet. "From its aesthetics and outward appearance to its quality programming, the center has established a unique and important presence in our community." The institutions within the center are enjoying the benefits of close association. It's quite common to see a parent drop a child off at a ballet class and take advantage of the downtime to visit the art museum on the same campus. Other businesses and institutions have also seen the benefits of being downtown.

The successful collaboration between DMSAS and the Partnership prompted George Dean Johnson, Jr. to recommend the firm for two other projects he is associated with in Spartanburg. Now the firm is busy at work on the University of

South Carolina Upstate's (USCU) downtown campus for its College of Business and Economics and a new upper school facility for the Spartanburg Day School.

The new business school will provide some 600 students with new class rooms, technology labs, an incubator space for new ventures and a dedicated stock trading room. Unlike the current business school, the new location will leave plenty of room to grow in the future. The 60,000 square foot structure will open for summer classes in 2010 with only 36,000 square feet of space in use and the additional 14,000 square feet reserved for future expansion. Construction on the site is at the beginning stages and is slated for completion in May of 2010.

"This building is seen as one component of a larger city development effort," said DMSAS Associate and Project Architect Ted Houseknecht. "Part of the design is a parking garage that will accommodate the school, the Chapman Cultural Center and future mixed-use buildings." Houseknecht notes that Spartanburg continues to build out the road network and infrastructure to support future buildings that will create more density between the traditional core of the city and the edge of downtown where the Chapman Center and the business school are located. A developer is also exploring sites for student housing for the downtown USCU campus.

"Spartanburg is building on the good things from its architectural past. It's building on its core and you can see the renewed vibrancy in the community," commented Gregory Hoss. It is clear that revitalization and growth are underway in downtown Spartanburg. And, there's no telling what great things the future has in store for this community.

**Project Update Note:** *David M. Schwarz Architects is in the schematic and early concept design stages for the Spartanburg Day School new upper school facility. The 26,000 square foot building will provide classrooms for 220 students and will house administrative and faculty offices. The school plans to occupy the new building by January 2011.*

## PROJECT UPDATES

### Carmel Regional Performing Arts Center

Construction continues to progress at the Carmel Regional Performing Arts Center (Carmel, IN). The facility's steel structure is now complete and the exterior and interior masonry block walls are going up. The masons are also starting to install the building's exterior limestone cladding. Slated for completion by fall 2010, the Carmel Regional Performing Arts Center will be a 154,000 square foot facility with 1,600 seats.



Construction image from the Carmel Regional Performing Arts Center (Carmel, IN).

## EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT: JEFFREY LOMAN

Associate Jeffrey Loman has been with David M. Schwarz Architects for more than twenty years. Working primarily on building exteriors, Jeffrey describes himself as a "skin designer." (With this job description, some people outside the architectural field have mistaken him for a tattoo artist. But trust us, there's no human body art going on in his work station!) During his tenure with the firm, Loman has worked on signature firm projects including: the Rangers Ballpark in Arlington (Arlington, TX), the Nancy Lee & Perry R. Bass Performance Hall (Fort Worth, TX), the American Airlines Center (Dallas, TX), the Schermerhorn Symphony Center (Nashville, TN), and most recently the Smith Center for the Performing Arts (Las Vegas, NV). Here's what Jeffrey told our editors about himself and his experiences at David M. Schwarz Architects:

**Where did you study architecture and what was the most important thing you learned there?** Ecole d'Architecture de Bordeaux, France. Although the name sounds relaxing, it was not. It's a tough selection process and curriculum. I was taught to master the tools (with a great emphasis on architectural and artistic expression) and necessary skills to be a successful architect. I learned how to juggle school requirements with one mandatory year in the French army, marriage to my lovely wife and fatherhood — with all this I managed to win The Prix de Rome in 1985!

**What's your favorite thing about being an architect?** Besides the reps' free luncheons, I really enjoy seeing a building I helped design go up... and stay that way.

**What distinguishes you in the firm?** Besides being raised and educated "on the other side of the pond," I have been involved in most of architectural illustration at DMSAS, watercolor and other media.

**How would your colleagues describe you?** A general architectural practitioner, or when my colleagues need me they call me "Maestro."

**What's your favorite part of your job?** Keeping it.

**What was your favorite firm project?** Firewheel Town Center was a great DMSAS design team effort. We designed seventy façades in record time. The variety of façades and styles makes the project unique in my opinion.

**What are your "must have" office supplies?** A set of big fat pencils (2b or softer), a roll of trace paper, watercolor paints and brushes, and if absolutely necessary, a computer.

**What's your favorite building of all time and why? (anywhere)** Falling Water. I have been there three times already. It is a building you can experience outside and inside. It has everything, composition, details, great spaces and a great site.

**Words you live by or favorite quote.** "I feel coming on a strange disease — humility" (from Frank Lloyd Wright, strangely enough!)

**What do you do when you're not working?** Staring at the black line and counting the tiles at the bottom of my local pool, six hours a week. Great therapy.

**If we were casting: DMSAS the movie, who would play you?** Alain Delon, sacrebleu!



## PROJECT UPDATES

### Saratoga Racetrack

David M. Schwarz Architects has been hired to do planning and conceptual design work for the Saratoga Racetrack in Saratoga Springs, New York. The project will entail historic preservation, contextual design, public assembly and sports venue planning and design. For the project, David Schwarz and Craig Williams just completed a visit to historic racing venues in the United Kingdom. Founded in 1863, the Saratoga Racetrack is the oldest sporting venue in the United States. Since 1864 it has hosted the oldest major thoroughbred horse race in the United States, the Travers Stakes.

### The Schermerhorn Symphony

The Schermerhorn Symphony (Nashville, TN) was one of 25 **finalists for the Urban Land Institute's (ULI) Award for Excellence for 2009**. The award defines the standard for real estate development practice worldwide and recognizes the full development process of a project — construction, economic viability, marketing, and management — as well as design. The ULI Awards for Excellence honor development projects in three regions (the Americas, Europe and Asia Pacific). As a finalist, Schermerhorn will be profiled in a book, *Best Practices in Development: 2009 Award Winning Projects*. The book will be released at the ULI fall meeting November 3-6 in San Francisco. This year, 146 projects applied to the ULI Awards for Excellence — the second-highest number of entries in the program's 30 year history.

### Cook Children's Medical Center

A groundbreaking ceremony for the North Patient Tower on the Cook Children's Medical Center campus in Fort Worth, Texas was held on May 13th. Construction will now commence. David M. Schwarz Architects has a long and rich history with the institution and continues to work with them on expansion efforts that allow the Medical Center to offer the best care and patient experience available.



The groundbreaking ceremony at Cook Children's Medical Center (Fort Worth, TX).

### Smith Center for the Performing Arts

On May 26th, there was an official groundbreaking ceremony for the Smith Center for the Performing Arts in Las Vegas, Nevada. At the Smith Center, several new structures will form a cultural epicenter for the city. To celebrate the beginning of construction, the Smith Center has been working with the Verdin Company and Mobile Bell Foundry to cast a commemorative bell on-site. The first ringing of the bell during the official groundbreaking ceremony rang in a new era for downtown Las Vegas. The Smith Center will house three performance spaces and educational facilities. It will be LEED certified.



L-R: Don Snyder, Chairman of The Smith Center for the Performing Arts talking with Mayor Oscar Goodman and Fred W. Smith at groundbreaking.

Geri Kodey, Photographer.

## PROJECT UPDATES

### 2009 Prism Award of Merit — Institutional

David M. Schwarz Architects has won the 2009 Prism Award of Merit — Institutional for their work on the Schermerhorn Symphony Center (Nashville, TN). The Prism Stone in Architecture Awards competition celebrates creativity and achievement in the use of Natural Stone in residential, institutional and commercial architecture projects. It is presented by Coverings, the leading trade event for natural stone, ceramic tile, flooring and related projects. Steve Knight accepted the award on behalf of the firm and the prize money (\$1,000) was donated to the Nashville Symphony Orchestra.



**The Schermerhorn Symphony Center**  
(Nashville, TN).

## FAMILY NEWS

The stork is coming! We are thrilled to announce that intern architect Timothy So and his wife Joyce are expecting their first child, a girl, on July 28th. We wish Timothy and Joyce the best as they set out on the new adventure known as parenthood. P.S. Get some sleep now!

Please join us in congratulating DMSAS Associate Ramsay Fairburn. Ramsay recently passed her Architect Registration Exam (ARE). Ramsay celebrates her 14th anniversary with DMSAS this summer.

Rhiannon Porter & Shaun Schroth (with a silent “c” — pronounced as “sh”roth) were married on Friday, May 1st. The ceremony was held at a beautiful chapel in Niles, Michigan, and attended by 150 of their closest family and friends. A reception was held at the Masonic Temple in Elkhart, Indiana, designed by one of Elkhart’s best known architects, and built nearly one century ago. Rhiannon will celebrate her 4th anniversary with DMSAS this summer.



**Rhiannon Porter and Shaun Schroth’s Wedding.**

David M. Schwarz Architects is pleased to announce that Jason Arnold joined the practice on March 3rd. Jason is a graduate of the University of Notre Dame School of Architecture and is originally from Pittsburgh. Welcome to the family Jason!

## FAMILY NEWS

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the firm's **Internship & Traveling Fellowship Award Programs** at Yale University and the University of Notre Dame, and the 3rd anniversary at the University of Maryland. Our summer fellows will each be with us for ten weeks working in our offices. DMSAS will then underwrite travel programs for each fellow which will enable them to study and experience different styles of architecture worldwide. Here are our fellows and their proposed travel study programs: Tereza Schaible, University of Notre Dame (Muslim, Jewish and Christian Architecture and Urbanism in Spain); Stefanie Wahl, University of Notre Dame (Roman Influence on Architecture in the Baltic Region – Poland & Lithuania); Carmel Bonfigli, Yale University (Verifiable Superlatives: Exceptionalism's Outlet Limit in Dubai); and Joseph Kunkel, University of Maryland (Summer Program with the Northern Cheyenne Community in Montana).



The Partal Palace at Alhambra in Granada, Spain taken by DMSAS Fellow Jennifer Heller in 2007 during travels throughout Spain to study Moorish Architecture.

It is also the 10th year that DMSAS has given the **David M. Schwarz Architects Good Times Award** to a graduating student from the Yale School of Architecture. The \$10,000 summer travel stipend was awarded to Isaiah J. King during the commencement ceremonies. Combining the Good Times Award and the firm's Internship & Traveling Fellowship Awards Programs, DMSAS has awarded over \$250,000 in travel stipends and scholarships to architectural students to date.

Best wishes to all in the David M. Schwarz Architects family celebrating a birthday this summer: Ted Houseknecht (Jul. 9th), Steve Knight (Jul.18th), Sean Nohelty (Jul. 20th), Patrick Nelson (Jul. 25th), Mario Dominguez (Jul. 26th), Joe Rapazzo (Aug. 21st), Lisa Tzareff Garcia (Aug. 23rd) and Craig Williams (Aug. 26th).

Congratulations to all in the David M. Schwarz Architects family celebrating anniversaries with the firm this summer. Those with more than ten years of service include: Thomas Greene (31 years), Jeffrey Loman (21 years), Ramsay Fairburn (14 years), Gregory Hoss (12 years), Steve Knight (12 years), Sean Nohelty (12 years), William White (12 years), Monika Dew (10 years) and Robert Dew (10 years).

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Readers,  
We welcome your feedback and comments to our newsletters. Submissions can be sent to [newsletter@dmsas.com](mailto:newsletter@dmsas.com) for potential inclusion in our next edition.

Here is some recent feedback.

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Dear David,

I had such a good time reading your sixth edition of your newsletter. It is so well designed, interesting good photos (saw friends, etc.) and thoroughly enjoyed it. Congratulations on building such a fabulous firm.

**Carolyn Alper**  
Washington, DC

Sent 2/28/09

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Dear David,

...I attended a dinner for the Day School last night and they unveiled your plans for the Upper School. They look very good and timeless. The positioning of the new building in the front will elevate the schools stature on the road and I think it will mentally change some attitudes and perceptions in a positive way. My Emily and Sam will benefit from your design as will our community and I thank you...  
Sincerely,

**Jennifer Evins**  
Spartanburg, SC

Sent 4/27/09