



Amy Baker Architect Relishes Role of “In-Between” — Bridging the Gap Between Design and Construction

Amy Baker Architect, formed in 2018, is an architecture and spec consulting firm focused on working with design and construction professionals. Consulting services include project management, construction documentation, architectural specification writing, code and third-party document reviews and construction administration services. Amy’s experience as an architect and technical specialist enables her to function as an extension of the architectural and design-build teams she supports as a consultant.

Starting a firm focused on offering technical consulting services as the core competency is not what most architects have in mind when starting a business. However, Amy thoroughly enjoys being a resource to the architectural community and has leveraged her extensive experience and vision for the business to collaborate with dozens of firms, locally and across the country, on a wide variety of project types, scopes and complexities in the technical capacities—things to which Amy has always gravitated in her architecture practice.

While the firm just recently joined the MIM, Amy was a member for many years before starting her own consulting business. Amy believes the greatest benefit to MIM membership is the ability to pick up the phone or send an email with a perplexing masonry question and access the MIM’s many resources to arrive at a solution. “Sometimes Google searches, while helpful, can be a bit of a black hole,” says Amy. “Being able to tap into expert resources quickly and easily can save design and construction teams a lot of time.”

Amy’s advice for new members includes “Don’t be afraid to dig into the details,” she says. “Read the technical notes and bulletins. Read the manufacturer’s installation instructions and specs. And understand the importance of coordination between the different trades.” She finds that, when things start to fall apart on projects during construction, it is often because roles and responsibilities are unclear. In addition, not knowing how materials interface with one another as well as each material’s purpose within an assembly and its direct relation to the overall performance requirements can lead to problems that could be avoided. Connecting with other members and taking advantage of the resources the MIM offers its members will help avert potential issues and ensure success.

Possessing a deep appreciation for architects, contractors and trades who create beautiful structures designed to meet their clients’ needs, Amy loves that she gets to practice what she calls “in between”—essentially bridging the gap between design and construction. What she enjoys most about the industry is being able to work closely with design and construction professionals to turn design ideas into reality.