

Builder of the Week: Tina Timm

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(Photo: Submitted Photo)

Tina Timm, director of marketing and client relations for Gabor Design Build, has designed a career tailor made for the building industry. Earning an interior design degree, Timm sought out a work that would fit her education. "I wanted to be an interior designer, but found out that my interests went beyond that," she said.

Timm found kitchen and bath design was an interesting path and was a custom kitchen and bath designer for 18 years in Madison. "I like the space planning of it. It is technical and precise." So precise, Timm said, that when she worked with custom-home builders, she would design the kitchen and have the builders design and build the home around it. "My design work was featured in the Madison Area Builders Association (MABA) Parade of Homes and Madison Magazine."

In 2010, Timm moved to Milwaukee and her reputation preceded her. Having substantial experience working with the MABA, Nathan Gabor hired her as a temp to run public relations for a Lake Drive remodel that was being featured in the MBA Fall Tour of Remodeled Homes. After six weeks, Gabor offered her a permanent, full time position as his assistant. "I've worn several hats for Gabor Design Build through the years and am currently director of marketing and client relations." Timm has a broad spectrum of skills including design, sales, working with clients, organizing the job process and accounting functions. "I now work in client relations, managing events, client concerns and doing in-house communications" Timm took time to talk about her career and Gabor Design Build.

What kind of design work does Gabor do?

We are a design, build, residential remodel firm. This means we can handle a remodel or new construction project of any size from concept to completion - all in-house. Whether you are a current homeowner looking to remodel any space in your home, build an addition, remodel a lower level or build a new home, we have a team ready to help you. Nathan specializes in high-end, large scale remodels on historic homes; Scott Riemer specializes in lower level and additions and we have staff that just does kitchens and baths. Many of our team members have architecture degrees. Our retail sales team has degrees in interior design. Due to our broad skill set we can build a custom home or simply remodel your existing bathroom. The design possibilities are truly endless.

How is Gabor different than from other design firms?

No more shopping from location to location all over Milwaukee for cabinets, tile or plumbing. We have a 5,000 square foot remodeling showroom in Germantown, making us a true one-stop shop. Our autocad technicians, project managers, sales and design team all operate under one roof streamlining our communication. In addition to exceptional design, we supply virtually every product for your home remodel from both stock and custom cabinets, every type of countertop, all plumbing fixtures, hard surface flooring, decorative lighting and even custom framing for bath mirrors. All of this is executed from concept to completion by our seasoned in house team of professionals.

How has being a member of the Metropolitan Builders Association helped your business?

As a company, being a member of the MBA has helped in several ways. Our team has benefited from MBA continuing education courses. By attending MBA events, I personally have made several beneficial networking connections that lead to us finding subcontractors in various skilled trades, client referrals and even team members we have welcomed to our staff.

What activities do you participate in at the Metropolitan Builders Association?

I attend the Lunch and Learn events, golf outings, banquets and fundraising events through the Community Council like the annual trap shoot. I am the current vice president of the MBA Community Council, so as Community Council president I will also be attending regular board meetings in 2017.

What advice would you give someone looking for a career in the building industry?

Although I am a strong believer of 'do one thing and do it well' you really need to wear a lot of hats to succeed in this industry. Get as much hands on experience in all aspects of the industry as you can. For example, the field experience I gained on jobsites measuring for cabinetry and countertops has been an invaluable tool I've used to help market Gabor Design Build.

What is the best advice you were ever given?

Nathan Gabor told me 'See the forest through the trees'. This to me means to look beyond what is right in front of you, take in the whole view, the sounds, the smells and focus on the magnificence of the big picture and not just the obstacles in your way. In my business life, Nathan Gabor has been my biggest influence.

What charitable groups is Gabor involved with?

We have worked with Habitat for Humanity, Revitalize Milwaukee, The Elmbrook Humane Society; and we support several local youth sports organizations. We also support events that benefit charities the MBA Community Council raises funds for such as Operation Finally Home and Blessings in a Backpack.

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