

GRADS

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tect was what I really wanted to do, to suffer for a while in tough labor markets [and] remember that careers last 45 years," he said. "So just because the first few years might be bumpy, it doesn't absolutely prohibit your becoming an architect, if it's really what you want to do."

Several architects agreed that the current job market was tough.

Cromwell Architects Engineers of Little Rock in the past has employed students for summer internships and then hired them once they graduated.

"But we sure were not able to do that the last couple of years," said Greg Cockmon, president of the firm.

"And that is a shame, because the talent level that's out there is unbelievable. And they know the new technology and all of that stuff. It's just very tough that you can't get that incorporated into your company."

New Ventures

Being without a job in the architecture field hasn't stopped some grads from moving forward with their lives.

Josh Clemence's lifelong dream was to become an architect. But he ditched that plan after he graduated from the School of Architecture at Fayetteville in 2009.

Clemence had a job with a Dallas firm and was laid off because of the economy. He then spent the next several months sending out hundreds of resumes and sitting through countless interviews.

"Nobody was hiring," he said.

After five months without a job, Clemence used his design and technology skills to start Internet companies, including Style-by.me.

Clemence's work caught the eye of Dr. John James, who founded the e-commerce company Acumen Brands of Fayetteville. James offered Clemence a job. In January, Clemence started working for Acumen as the director of social marketing.

Since then, Acumen has taken off. Last week, Dillard's Inc. of Little Rock announced a \$4 million investment in Acumen. Dillard's said in a news release it will work with Acumen to enhance both Dillard's.com and Acumen's 12 online sites.

Clemence said he doesn't regret the decision to major in architecture.

"I get to apply everything that I learned in architecture school to everything I do today as a designer in the Internet world," he said.

Other Students

Ben Emanuelson, 31, of Siloam Springs suffered through two rounds of layoffs after he graduated from UA's School of Architecture in 2006.

He got a job right out of college at Miller Boskus Lack Architects of Fayetteville, but was laid off in November 2008.

Emanuelson bounced back with a job at his father's architecture firm, JKJ Architects PLLC of Rogers, but was let go in the middle of 2009, again because of the economy, he said.

"As far as finding work, it's been pretty tough," Emanuelson said. He has tried to get jobs in Europe, Asia and New York, but to no avail.

Emanuelson also started a design firm with a friend in 2010.

"We had some differences," he said, causing him to leave Moran-Emanuelson Design Services of Rogers in early 2011.

Emanuelson said these days he's a property manager for his family's investments while trying to get his architecture license, which typically is a three-year process.

He said he doesn't regret going into architecture because the study has "enriched every part of my life. I love architecture and I love designing," Emanuelson said.

He said he wants to buy some land and build a house.

"I decided one good way to get projects built is to build them yourself," he said.

Meanwhile, Verser, 25, who graduated from the UA in 2010, said he'd been able to find a secure job in the planning department of the University of Arkansas. As a paid intern, Verser is using his architectural skills to create 3-D models of campus building for planning purposes.

"Eventually I do want to be a licensed architect," he said. "It's just the road to that has been somewhat obscured." ▀

Jan Cottingham contributed to this report.

THE LIST

Largest Architectural & Engineering Firms

Ranked by number of local employees.

RANK	COMPANY ADDRESS CITY, ZIP DISCIPLINES OR EMPHASIS SAMPLE PROJECTS	PHONE FAX	WEB ADDRESS Email ADDRESS	LOCAL STAFF		ARCHITECTS ENGINEERS	% CHANGE YEAR FOUNDED	PRINCIPAL(S) OTHER PROFESSIONALS
				2012	2011			
1	Benchmark Group 1805 N. 2nd St., Rogers 72756 Architecture, electrical, mechanical, fire protection and interior design, refrigeration design, commissioning and accessibility consulting Walmart Visitor Center, Bentonville; multiple Walmart and Sam's Clubs, Perkins Family Restaurants (various locations)	479-636-5004 479-619-3818	www.bgark.com jrr@bgark.com	305 331	13 22	-7.85% 1978	Paul C. Parks, John R. Roberts 2 AI, 13 CAD, 112 D, 23 EI, 6 ID, 7 JC, 9 PM, 14 SD, 4 FP, 4 MCA, 20 LEED AP	
2	Harrison French & Associates Ltd. 809 S.W. A St., Ste. 201, Bentonville 72712 Commercial, retail, fueling stations University of Arkansas various projects, Fayetteville; Walmart Supercenter and Sam's Club remodels, various national locations; 7-Eleven, various national locations	479-273-7780 479-273-9436	www.hfa-ae.com info@hfa-ae.com	188 160	22 11	17.50% 1990	Harrison French, Larry Lott, Chris Horton 27 AI, 11 CAD, 1 CI, 14 EI, 2 ID, 8 IDI, 1 LA, 21 PM, 2 SW	
3	CEI Engineering Associates Inc. 3108 S.W. Regency Parkway, Ste. 2, Bentonville 72712 Civil engineering, survey, landscape architecture, planning and entitlements, permitting, construction observation Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, SW I Street improvements, Bentonville; Perry Road, Rogers; Kum & Go, various locations	479-273-9472 479-273-0844	www.ceieng.com bmassey@ceieng.com	70 52	0 7	34.61% 1973	Jeffrey Geurian, Mike Shupe, Brent Massey, Richard Rogers, M. Christopher Rogers 5 EI, 7 PLS, 4 LA	
4	Garver 2049 E Joyce Blvd., Suite 400, Fayetteville 72703 Transportation, aviation, water, structural, energy, environmental, electrical, mechanical, surveying, construction management Tyson Parkway Interchange, Springdale; Wastewater Treatment Plant, Highway 12, Bentonville; 161kV and 69kV Substation upgrades, GRDA; Rogers Municipal Airport apron reconstruction, Rogers; Cato Springs Road, Fayetteville	479-527-9100 479-527-9101	www.garverusa.com behoskins@garverusa.com	64 59	0 22	8.47% 1919	Brock Hoskins, Steve Jones 7 CAD, 3 CI, 2 ET, 10 EI, 3 PLS, 1 SIT	
5	Crafton Tull 901 N. 47th St., Ste. 200, Rogers 72756 Engineering, architecture, surveying Olive/28th Street bridge in Rogers and Bentonville; NWACC Health Professions Facility, Bentonville; The Links, Happy Hollow Elementary, UA Science Building renovation, Fayetteville; University of Central Arkansas Bear Hall, Conway; Fort Chaffee Redevelopment Trust Master Plan, Fort Chaffee; JBU performing arts center and arena, Siloam Springs	479-636-4838 479-631-6224	www.craftontull.com matt.crafton@craftontull.com	60 60	4 12	0.00% 1963	Tom Hopper, Matt Crafton, Jim Tull, David Swearingen 12 CAD, 2 CI, 2 AI, 4 PLS, 3 ST	
6	Morrison-Shipleigh Engineers Inc. 2407 S.E. Cottonwood St., Bentonville 72712 Civil engineering, land surveying Fort Smith Regional Airport, City of Fort Smith Water & Sewer rehab, UA Fort Smith parking expansions, Fort Smith; Saline County Regional Airport, Benton; New Bentonville K-6 School; Bentonville Municipal Airport, Bentonville	479-273-2209 479-273-2553	www.morrisonshipleigh.com gshipleigh@morrisonshipleigh.com	43 37	0 6	16.21% 1996	Neal Morrison, Greg Shipley, Brian Maurer, John Wary 6 CAD, 4 PLS, 2 CM, 2 SIT	
7	Engineering Services Inc. 1207 S. Old Missouri Rd., Springdale 72765 Civil engineering, water, sewer, airports Elm Springs Road street widening, Springdale; Centerton water and wastewater projects, Centerton; Harp's Food Stores, Arkansas and Missouri; Madison County Water; Ozark Mountain Regional Public Water Authority, North Central Arkansas; Southeast Washington County water main extensions	479-751-8733 479-751-8746	www.engineeringservices.com info@engineeringservices.com	36 40	0 9	-11.11% 1971	Philip Humbard, Brian Moore, Tim Mays 12 CAD, 1 EI, 1 LA, 3 PLS, 3 PM	
7	McClelland Consulting Engineers Inc. 1810 N. College Ave., Fayetteville 72703 Water, sewer, airports, parks, streets University of Arkansas Nano Technology Building (site, civil), City of Fayetteville Highway 265 Water & Sewer, Fayetteville; City of Cave Springs water improvements, Cave Springs; City of Prairie Grove bridge replacement, Prairie Grove; NWA Razorback Greenway Trail, Benton and Washington counties	479-443-2377 479-443-9241	www.mcclelland-engrs.com dbarnes@mcclelland-engrs.com	36 36	0 7	0.00% 1963	Daniel Barnes, Byron Hicks, Mitch Rose, Dan Beranek, Wayne Jones, Kevin Beaumont 3 CAD, 3 CI, 1 CM, 2 ET, 1 LA, 5 LT, 2 RLS, 1 PM, 2 PLS, 1 SW	
9	McGoodwin Williams and Yates Inc. 302 E. Millsap, Fayetteville 72703 Civil/structural engineering and architecture, emphasizing municipal water/wastewater and infrastructure Batesville Wastewater Treatment Facility improvements, Batesville; Fayetteville Recycling Drop-Off and Education Facility, Fayetteville; Monte Ne Road realignment, Rogers; Prairie Grove Wastewater Facility improvements, Prairie Grove	479-443-3404 479-443-4340	www.mwyusa.com bhammond@mwyusa.com	35 36	1 13	-2.77% 1946	Brad Hammond, Carl Yates, Jim Ulmer, Jeff Richards, Lane Crider 4 CAD, 1 SIT, 1 PLS	