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RIDDICK FIEDLER STERN

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with not only excellence, but also perseverance.

Riddick Fiedler Stern PC, a certified Small Business, was founded by Don Riddick in the summer of 1982 in Norfolk, Virginia under the banner of Riddick & Associates PC. While the early start-up months were laced with residential and commercial additions, Don was turning out 30,000 SF office buildings and other commercial projects within two years, and by the fall of 1984 the firm had grown from one individual to a staff of 8. In 1984, Bob Stern became a partner, followed by Bob Fiedler in 1993. Experiencing strong growth in both project size and personnel, Riddick Fiedler Stern PC has developed into a mid-size firm maintaining a staff from 15 to 20 highly qualified design professionals. Completing over 2,500 proj-

ects ranging up to \$40 million, they have quite a diverse portfolio including hotels, grocery stores, medical, retail, office, industrial, kennels, churches, educational facilities, multi-family, hospital, laboratory, food courts, manufacturing, banks, automotive, amusement centers and others in their 39-year history. Currently consisting of 5 registered architects, 1 certified interior designer, and support staff, their work spans 10 states along the mid-Atlantic region. The main services provided by Riddick Fiedler Stern include Architectural and Interior Design, Space Planning, Master Planning, Project Management, Studies, and Construction Administrative Services.

While Riddick Fiedler Stern PC already has an amazing history of success, perhaps their greatest story is still unfolding. "Our firm went through tremendous changes over the past few years," explains Pete Dykema, President. "Our founder, Don Riddick, retired in mid-March 2020 and we were immediately hit with the Covid-19 pandemic." Upon Don's retirement, three associates became partners together with the remaining two long standing partners

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PROJECT PROFILE

Food Lion #2230

Location: Newark, DE
Client: Retail Business Services
Size: 35,300 SF
Started: February 2017
Completed: May 2018

Description: Build-out of an abandoned supermarket and annex of adjacent tenant space. Project included the addition of an enclosed loading dock and truck pad, new slab and roof, and replacement of plumbing, mechanical, electrical, refrigeration, and fire suppression systems in their entirety.

Challenges: The dilapidated existing structure had been sitting vacant for several years, and we had no access to the as-built drawings of the building. The demising wall between the empty supermarket and the adjacent tenant space was a bearing wall which was removed and replaced with a beam and columns that supported the roof structure on both sides.



Photos: RFS Architects



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PROJECT PROFILE

Severn Peanut Processing Plant

Location: Severn, NC

Client & Contractor: CW Brinkley, Inc.

Size: Phase 1: Warehouse – 71,000 SF
Phase 2: Peanut In-shell Roasting Facility and Office Wing – 60,000 SF

Started: 2012

Completed: 2014

Description: In-shell peanut roasting facility, office wing and warehouse. The warehouse is a pre-engineered metal building with tilt-up concrete wall panels and two loading dock areas. The state-of-the-art roasting facility features 3 roasting lines and a packaging area constructed of precast concrete wall and roof structure. The office wing provides support operations, including training and conference rooms, a quality control laboratory, employee locker rooms, and a break room.

Challenges: RFS Architects provided complete design and construction administration services for this project on an accelerated schedule. The project was built in two phases beginning with the warehouse attached to the existing building. The second phase included the in-shell roasting facility and office wing which is separated from the warehouse with a 3-hour rated firewall. The design required detailed coordination between construction phases and the specialized processing equipment.



Photo: C.W. Brinkley

PROJECT PROFILE

Madison Building

Location: Suffolk, VA

Client & Contractor: C.W. Brinkley Inc.

Size: 25,000 SF

Started: August 2013

Completed: March 2015

Description: A new 25,000 SF Class A medical office building. The building is comprised of reinforced tilt-up concrete wall panels with an interior steel structure. Embedded thin-brick in the concrete wall panels, aluminum composite metal canopy panels, and elastomeric coated concrete were used as exterior finishes. A simple steel frame was used to support the rear translucent Kalwall canopy. RFS Architects provided complete design and construction administration services for this project under a design-build contract.

Challenges: The exterior design had to incorporate several tenant layout parameters for separate entries and life safety egress requirements while also maintaining a common core/lobby area and the structural integrity of the 19' wide tilt-up wall modular components.



Photos: RFS Architects

PROJECT PROFILE

Energy Modernization of the Huntington Federal Building

Location: Huntington, WV
Client: General Services Administration, Region 3 Mid-Atlantic
Contractor: Mascaro Construction Company, Pittsburgh, PA
Size: 7 stories, 90,000 sf
Cost: \$45 million.
Duration: Design 2009-2015. Construction 2011-2016.

The Huntington Federal Building was built in 1960 and is located in Huntington, WV. The building is owned by the U.S. General Services Administration and is leased to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which serves as their Huntington District Headquarters. The building includes approximately 90,000 SF of usable office space distributed over 7 stories and a basement. The ARRA project involved upgrades intended to improve the building's energy efficiency and safety, including HVAC system replacement, window replacement, asbestos abatement, and new photovoltaics. Early in the design stage the project expanded into a major modernization with a scope that included complete façade removal and replacement, as well as significant structural upgrades to the existing structure. RFS, the structural engineer, and blast protection consultant worked closely together to provide GSA with multiple options for meeting the complex performance requirements. Due to limitations on the availability of suitable temporary lease space in Huntington, the tenant was unable to move out and remained in the building during construction. To minimize disruption to tenant operations RFS designed a plan that required all construction to be performed during non-occupied hours and phased two floors at a time starting with the 7th floor and working down. Construction started in the fall of 2011 and was completed in the winter of 2016.

INTERIOR DESIGN: 90,000 sf usable office space with 23 agencies redistributed within eight floors. Preliminary work included site surveys, a furniture inventory and agency interviews to develop tenant space programming requirements. Adjacencies to other agencies was revised to promote efficiency within their building; therefore, floor level locations were reassigned. Space planning of all seven floors, workstation selection and construction documents/administration followed. Swing space in another building was utilized to allow phased construction while the tenant occupied the building.

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who have been with him for over 37 years. Currently the firm's principals are Pete Dykema, President; Bob Stern, Vice President and Treasurer; Bob Fiedler, Vice President and Secretary; Jeremy Jones, Vice President and Trish Galonsky,

Vice President. "Having five partners has brought a wider range of ideas dealing with growth, client base, the challenges of employees working remotely, etc.," continues Pete. "It has also brought a renewed feeling of excitement for the new challenges. While this pandemic has seen a rebirth of sorts for us, it is also an opportunity to build on our past by utilizing our talents and passion."

Of course, moving forward and continuing growth during such challenging conditions is certainly a testament to the experience and leadership of the firm, as well as staff second to none. "We have

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Huntington Federal Building — Rendering



Manassas DMV — Photo: RFS Architects

PROJECT PROFILE

DMV Manassas Customer Service Center

Location: Parkridge Center, 11270 Bulloch Drive, Chantilly, VA 20109
Client: Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles, Facilities, Services and Planning Admin.
Size: 14,208 SF,
Duration: Design: 9 months
Completion: August 12, 2019
GC: PBS Contracting, Inc., Paul Schmidt (Pres.)

Description: Our 2017 feasibility study & estimate became a tenant fit-out for a 14,208 SF shell space within a shopping center complex in 2018. It is currently one of the largest Customer Service Centers in Virginia. Work included extensive programming, space planning, over 200 lineal feet of custom casework (25 teller stations), and a full set of plans and specs along with full construction administration.

Design work included exterior and interior finishing related to exterior and interior doors, interior partitions and finishes, custom casework, public and employee restrooms, exterior signage, plumbing, HVAC, electrical and fire protection work. Bid Documents included 3D sketches of crucial custom casework details.

The project began as a feasibility study to convert two-thirds of an existing tenant space originally constructed in 1998 as a bookstore for use as a DMV. A cost estimate was provided in order to give the client an estimated budget for the renovation. We were allocated a 3 ½ week schedule to provide a proposed floor plan, ceiling plan, and finish schedule along with an itemized cost estimate.

Challenges: The truncated construction schedule required accelerated shop drawing review and fabrication shop visits to monitor progress. The life-safety egress space planning was challenging due to the high occupancy count in the assembly use areas such as the waiting area, employee training room, conference room & lounge while ensuring full visual and physical access to all 25 tellers in the public service area.

PROJECT PROFILE

Cottage Bridge Midrise

Location: Norfolk, VA
Client: Norfolk Redevelopment Housing Authority
Contractor: KBS, Inc.
Started: March 2013
Completed: March 2016

A new 42,000 SF mid-rise housing facility designed to be occupied by tenants with disabilities. The three story, 47-unit building has 43 one-bedroom units and 4 two-bedroom units. All units were designed to meet ADA, Title 504 accessibility, and VHDA Universal Design standards. The scope of the project included compliance with requirements to obtain VHDA low-income housing tax credit financing and to achieve EarthCraft Multifamily certification for energy savings and sustainable design. The building plan was designed to conform to tight site limitations due to required wetlands setbacks.



Photos: NRHA

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several staff members who have been with our firm for over 37 years and several over 25 years," states Susan Spears, Office Administrator. "The total years of our firm's staff experience is currently 277 with the average of our principals being 27 years. Our project managers average is 22 years with the remaining staff average being 13 years. We pride ourselves in not hiring additional staff when busy and then laying-off when the workload slows down." This longevity of staff is not by accident, rather the direct product of a work environment that fosters fulfilled and produc-

tive employees in a family atmosphere. "We strive to ensure that we provide a fun place to work," says Jeremy Jones, Principal. "In the summer, we have weekly cook-outs where the firm provides the food and cooking is shared by the staff. We also enjoy summer hours and flexible vacations."

Boasting a number of strengths that set them apart, perhaps the greatest is their ability to build and nurture relationships with their clients. "The people we serve have grown to trust our knowledge, integrity, and drive to always do right by them and their projects," says Bob Stern, Principal. "Our clients expect that we will be available, resourceful, learn their ways, and be as invested in their success as they are." Having a diverse and well-rounded client base, Riddick Fiedler Stern has enjoyed seeing a vast majority of their work come from repeat clients. "We have built and maintained trusted relationships over decades," adds Bob Fiedler, Principal. "The result has been mostly repeat customers because we try and go above and beyond what they were expecting. We never take repeat clients for granted and treat every job as if it were a test for future work."

An integral part of this process is the hands-on approach taken by the Principals on each project. "We have direct principal involve-

ment with every project from start to finish, no matter how big or small," explains Trish Galonsky, Principal. "Our customers see us as an integral part of their team. This requires a "client-first" mentality, focusing on their needs and satisfaction above all things. This often means putting ourselves in our client's shoes, and listening to them from the earliest stage of a project to find out exactly what their needs are." In fact, this dedication to client and project goes beyond the built product. "We engage with our clients after the project is complete to ensure that they are happy with it and that the project functions as they expected," adds Pete Dykema. "We are always striving to be better, asking what it is we can improve upon. Our clients appreciate this communication and it shows how much we care and value their input."

Taking complete ownership of the design from the broadest visions to the smallest details, Riddick Fiedler Stern's process is focused on addressing potential challenges before they become problems. Perhaps the greatest example is the level of details in their drawings. "Our designs are constructible, within budget, and delivered on-time," states Bob Stern. "We frequently have accelerated schedules to meet our client's expectations, and it is cru-

cial that the documents are as complete and detailed as possible. In fact, we are known for having minimal change orders." This level of attention to detail has certainly been noticed and appreciated by the clientele of Riddick Fiedler Stern PC. "We have one large multi-state client with multiple retail locations who actually grades the work of their architects," continues Bob Fiedler. "We are always the top scored architect and that client uses our drawings as an example of the level of work required for all of their architects."

Striving to give their clients the best value for their projects, Riddick Fiedler Stern PC understands the real measurement of success is the complete satisfaction of each client. "We measure our services by our clients' success, whether the end result is a health care facility that effectively helps those that need it, a DMV customer service center that efficiently serves a densely populated region, or a rural peanut processing plant that produces millions of dollars of food products daily," explains Jeremy Jones. The following quotes are only a handful of many that give testimony to Riddick Fiedler Stern's dedication to every client and every project.

"After meeting with three very capable firms, we reviewed the proposals and agreed that Riddick Fiedler Stern was our first choice. Throughout the design process their clear understanding of the vision, their accessibility, and their professionalism in resolving any issues proved them to be the perfect choice." - Arthur A. McPherson III, President, McPherson Investment Company LLC

"C.W. Brinkley, Inc. has worked with Riddick Fiedler Stern for

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Navy Federal Credit Union — Photo: RFS Architects

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over 20 years, and the word I would use to best describe them is Partner.....no matter what occurs on a project with them, they are a True Partner to the team. They are committed to giving their best effort and work through any problem that arises during the life of project, including years down the road when the project is complete. In today's world, this is rare, and it's sorely needed." – Mark Brinkley, C.W. Brinkley, Inc.

"As director of real estate/construction services for a state agency with high public visibility and accountability, we needed to partner with firms that modeled our vision and values. We found all of those qualities in RFS Architects. From simple renovations, refits and replacements to complex architectural/engineering projects, RFS took the time to understand agency program requirements before recommending personnel and potential reso-

lutions. Bottom line... they have the knowledge, expertise and integrity that always made us proud to work with them." – Justin Thomas, former Director of Real Estate/Construction Services

"It was truly refreshing to work with Riddick Fiedler Stern Architects on the DMV Sterling project, a firm that understands the importance of quick responses to project issues and has the knowledge to address the issues with a practical approach. They embrace the essence of a team attempting to accomplish a common goal and without their leadership on the project we would have not been successful with the project's aggressive completion date. A true contractor's architect with a focus on detail and team work." – Jamie Spears, CEO, Alta Vista Construction LLC

"Land & Coates has worked with Riddick Fiedler Stern on projects at 5 of our locations, including building a new store from the ground up. Riddick Fiedler Stern has taken the time to understand our needs and make recommendations that have improved our business and helped our company grow. I feel like they are personally invested in helping our company while seeking out economical, long-term solutions to any of our

issues. They do what they say they are going to do, and they stand behind their work. They have always treated us fairly and looked out for our best interests. I consistently reach out to them for advice with our properties long after they are done. We trust them to help us with all our projects moving forward." – Barden Winstead, President, Land & Coates, Inc.

For almost 40 years, Riddick Fiedler Stern PC has been a name synonymous with design excellence, and although presented with numerous challenges along the way, the firm has emerged stronger and more resilient with each passing year. That is certainly the case as the pandemic and leadership changes all happened within a few weeks in March of 2020, but true to their nature, Riddick Fiedler Stern PC rose to the challenge. As they move forward, they remain poised to serve their diverse clientele with a seasoned staff and multiple services. "Our most important goals are to continue to serve our clients to the best of our abilities every day, grow our existing relationships, and build new ones," states Trish Galonsky. "We value each member of our design team and know that the success of our company is maintained by our collective hard work and integrity." That really boils down to a company philosophy of building on the past by maintaining a team of like-minded individuals whose passion for excellence will overcome any obstacle and challenge. "We liken ourselves to the conductor in an orchestra, where it is our job to make sure every phase of the project is working to meet the goals of the client," adds Pete Dykema. "That would never work unless we had the personnel to consistently implement that in

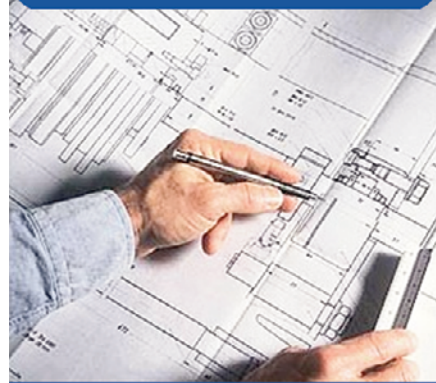
every design challenge we encounter. We are a family here at Riddick Fiedler Stern PC and it's important that we all do right by one another as we work and grow together."

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RFS Architects is a full service design firm where we pride ourselves in completely satisfying our clients' needs. Through our attention to detail, clear communication, and a history of building and maintaining strong relationships with our clients, we address and work through challenges before they become problems. By using our vision, foresight, knowledge and experience, RFS Architects is committed to going above and beyond all expectations.



***Thank you to all who have
helped contribute to our success!***

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