



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DS Architecture founder David L. Sommers reflects on legacy

KENT, Ohio, Jan. 28, 2019 – David L. Sommers, founder of Kent architecture firm DS Architecture, is set to retire February 19th. A graduate of Kent State University, David founded architecture firm David L. Sommers, AIA Architects in 1983. The firm has grown to become DS Architecture, employing nearly 30 people and acquiring a second, Cleveland office in 2018. DS Architecture is currently the largest architecture firm in Portage County history and the thirteenth largest with a presence in Cleveland.

“My vision of architecture always included having my own business,” David said. He admits, however, that he never envisioned the extent of his firm’s growth when he started out. Much of that lofty ambition came from Jeffrey Meyers, now full owner of DS Architecture, who joined David as an intern in 2002.

In 2010 David and Jeff established a partnership plan which saw Jeff gradually own more of the company over subsequent years. This year marks Jeff’s full ownership and David’s coinciding retirement. The two possess a remarkably balanced relationship strengthened by alignment in priorities and mutual respect. David’s foresight and steady practicality provided a firm foundation for Jeff’s growth-oriented enterprise.

“[David] has never ceased to surprise and impress me with his generosity and commitment to the Kent community,” Jeff said. “I am honored to call him my mentor.”

David wears the title of mentor proudly, almost more so than the label architect.

“I briefly considered teaching when I was in high school,” he said. “If you think about it, as architects, we teach. We teach each other, we teach interns, and we teach our clients. We teach interns and they become architects and teach their interns. The profession is structured to teach. So, by default, I am both.”

David has always emphasized community-based architecture - the concept of offering a community not only the buildings you build, but also your time, expertise, and volunteer service. Besides contributing iconic architecture like the revitalized LN Gross Building, Hometown Bank, Ray’s Place, and the new Kent Police Station, and serving as a past president of AIA Akron, David has provided pro bono architectural services for Coleman Professional Services and Kent Social Services. Over his lifetime he has been an active member of the Kent Junior Chamber of Commerce, has held positions on the Townhall II Board, the Hometown Bank Board, the Coleman Apartments Professional Housing Board, and the Kent Board of Zoning Appeals, and has served as Chair of the Franklin Township Board of Zoning Appeals and President of Kent Rotary.

Reflecting on his career, David explained that he always valued people and community above all else.

“I am most proud of the atmosphere and working environment that we have developed at DS Architecture,” he said. “Without the employees who are my work family, we would have nothing.”

Contact:
Bailey Mulholland
DS Architecture
bmulholland@dsarchitecture.com
(330) 678-6144