

DID YOU HEAR? ARCHITECT SMALLWOOD RETURNS TO MVE TO EXPAND INSTITUTIONAL BUSINESS IN CALIFORNIA

A Daily Look at the Movers and Shakers in Commercial Real Estate

By [Tony Wilbert](#) | CoStar News | April 13, 2020 | 8:45 A.M.



Architect Timothy Smallwood returned to Irvine, California-based firm MVE + Partners. (Courtesy of MVE)

Timothy Smallwood, who left MVE + Partners about a dozen years ago, has returned to the firm to lead and grow its institutional architecture and design groups across Southern California and eventually into the northern part of the state as well.

Smallwood served as an associate and project director at MVE from 2000 to 2006, when he left to delve deeper into architecture and beyond the residential and office projects he helped the firm design and complete. During his time away, Smallwood served in managerial roles at LPA and Robert Hidey Architects and branched into civic and institutional architectural assignments while gaining greater technical capacity, he said.

Early this year, Smallwood got the chance to return to [Irvine, California-based MVE](#) in an enhanced and managerial role as a senior associate partner and director of institutional services.

Smallwood said he decided to return to MVE for the chance to leverage his recent experience to help the firm expand its institutional practice that works with groups such as public and private school systems and universities.



"There was an opportunity to come back to MVE with the new skill set and to grow their institutional side," Smallwood said in an interview.

MVE President **Matt McLarand** said the firm will benefit by adding Smallwood to its leadership team. "Not only does he bring over two decades of design expertise, but he truly embodies our culture and has a deep understanding of our business philosophy, allowing him to successfully lead and elevate our institutional architecture practice," McLarand said in a corporate statement announcing the move.

MVE is known for [designing high-profile projects in Southern California](#) such as residential high-rises The Griffin on Spring at [755 S. Spring St.](#) and The Grace on Spring at [732 S. Spring St.](#) in downtown Los Angeles' historic core.

Smallwood said he is focused on sourcing new relationships with developers, consultants, contractors and institutions and growing MVE's existing business with clients such as the Los Angeles Unified School District.

"Right now, it's pretty small," Smallwood said of MVE's institutional studio. "We are starting pretty much from the ground level." But the architect said he sees opportunity to do more design work on elementary, middle and high school buildings.

"Districts have well-aged facilities they want to upgrade," Smallwood said, and historic buildings they want to preserve and be renovated. Also, the construction of new school buildings offers the chance to integrate the latest advanced technology to help students learn, he added.

In the higher-education realm, Smallwood said the growth and changes in student housing provide a chance to win new assignments. "We're seeing more units with more shared arrangements and getting more beds into the units than we had seen in the past," he said.

The social distancing adopted to help slow the spread of the new coronavirus could impact student housing plans, though Smallwood said the effects will likely be more noticeable on an individual level than an institutional one.

"I would expect the institutions are going to be sitting down and discussing this from a social distancing standpoint," he said.

For now, the creation of communal spaces, wider corridors that encourage interaction and areas where groups can study together remain some of the top trends in student housing design, Smallwood said. The addition of new amenities such as fitness centers and multiple dining areas also is popular in student housing, he said.

"This generation definitely demands more in terms of the quality and choices they have," Smallwood said.

A Southern California native who went to college in Los Angeles, Smallwood said his dorms weren't quite as luxurious as some of today's top student housing developments. "I feel a little bit left behind," he said.

Still, he has an affinity for higher education. If he hadn't become an architect, Smallwood said he'd probably be a teacher. "I like to mentor and see people grow," he said. "I like to share knowledge."

MARCUS & MILLICHAP RAISES GLASS TO SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT



Michael Glass

Marcus & Millichap has promoted **Michael Glass** to senior vice president in Independence, Ohio.

The former first vice president serves as the firm's Midwest division manager and national director of Marcus & Millichap's national manufactured housing division.

Glass began his career with Marcus & Millichap as a sales intern in 2001 and by 2006 was sales manager of the firm's Chicago O'Hare office. He became regional manager of the Cleveland office in 2007, the Columbus office in 2009 and was promoted to district manager in 2016. During his tenure with the firm, Glass has been involved in more than 2,500 transactions valued at over \$9 billion.

NAI Heritage Hires Broker as New Senior Director



Beau Broker

NAI Heritage, a commercial real estate firm located in Ocala, Florida, appointed **Beau Broker** as a senior director for the firm.

In his new role, Broker will focus on landlord representation, property sales, development services, asset resolution and capital markets.

The former senior vice president for Avison Young previously served as director of the Ocala and Jacksonville offices for Front Street Commercial Real Estate Group.

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