

Areas of specialty:

Residential, commercial, community housing

Describe your studio space or culture in three words or less:

Collaborative, organized, passionate

If you had \$5,000 for office improvements, what changes would you make? We'd install a shower for bike commuting.

\$500,000? A retractable glass atrium above our workspace that opens to a green roof with a patio and barbecue. Our current windows don't even open!

How does your location reflect or reinforce your values or interests as a firm? The atmosphere and diversity in Northeast complements the variety

and personality of our work. The people are down-to-earth and foster a vibrant, artistic energy.

Favorite hangout in walking distance: SiP Coffeebar, hands down! What would we do without good food and coffee?

Employee with the most interesting or unusual extracurricular: Nick is an avid (and accomplished) bicycle polo player. Lindy trains and competes in canine agility with her two dogs.

What efforts has your firm made to work with underserved individuals or communities? We work with a variety of nonprofit housing and community

development organizations. Staff members serve on the Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board and the Minnesota Design Team executive committee.

Favorite social-media tool or platform: Coffee and conversation

Favorite Minnesota building not designed by your firm: Lakewood Memorial Chapel

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Workspaces say a lot about us. Join us on a tour of architecture offices around the state, and you'll see architects in a whole new light.

STUDIO

The small, award-winning Minneapolis architecture firm led by Rosemary McMonigal, AIA, draws inspiration from its unforgettable Grain Belt Brewery home



McMonigal Architects

Founded: 1984 City and neighborhood: Northeast Minneapolis Arts District Number of employees: 5 www.mcmonigal.com

From left to right: Lindy Luopa, Nick Dellwo, Rosemary McMonigal, AIA, and James Arentson, Assoc. AIA. McMonigal Architects will be showcasing one of its most recent projects on the 2012 Homes by Architects Tour (page 20).

McMonigal Architects

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Least favorite buzzword or phrase: My design style is [fill in the blank].

Which past project taught you the most, and why: We helped Minneapolis' Cedar-Riverside neighborhood relocate its Peace Garden to accommodate the arrival of the Hiawatha light-rail line. Public-housing residents raise much of their food there. The new scheme was the result of a robust collaboration between government, the private sector, residents, and volunteers.

The biggest misconceptions about architects: They're always over budget, they only design in one style, and they wear black all the time, drive expensive cars, and live in immaculate houses. Nothing could be further from the truth.

How is your firm changing? Our office is moving later this year! *AMN*