

## Sense of Place

Jedd Heap, Carlson Studio Architecture by LEXY KHELIA photo by NICOLE GELETKA



Every building tells a story and Jedd Heap is one of our storytellers. Inspired by community and architecture, he began studying this field at the University of Florida and has yet to stop pursuing his passion. Having found inspiration in the perfect pair of creative design and local interaction that Carlson Studio Architecture offers, Heap now serves as the firm's architect, in addition to acting as a member and leader within many levels of the American Institute of Architects (AIA).

What paved your route to this type of work and your interest in the American Institute of Architects [AIA]? Architecture is a great blend of art and science; it satisfies

both halves of the brain. When deciding on a major in college it fit my skills and interests perfectly. The AIA is my way of giving back to those that helped (and continue to help) me

over the years. Through the AIA, I can enhance the public's perception of the profession while mentoring the next generation of architects. I've been involved with the AIA since 2002. Locally, I have served at all levels of the board and served as president this year. I have also had the pleasure to serve on the Florida AIA's state board and began my term this year as a National AIA Young Architect Regional Director representing the Florida/Caribbean region.

• What inspires you about architecture? Our contribution to the community, while

rarely realized, is extensive. Architects have a tremendous influence on people's lives. From the street to an office desk, an architect makes thousands of decisions that make for a better experience, a healthier environment and overall greater quality life. Each project is different. The greatest part of being in a small design firm like Carlson Studio Architecture is that I have the ability to touch every part of the project. From the moment the client walks through the door to the ribbon cutting, I'm involved. My primary role in the company is to work with my associates, the owner and consultants to design a beautiful and functional building. We always look at the site and the local environment to help inform the building's design. Also, we are lucky to have such a rich architectural history in Sarasota. You can't help but be inspired by such great work.

What projects on the horizon have you the most excited? We've just submitted the Glasser Schoenbaum Human Services Center's new Children's Clinic for permitting. It's one of those projects that makes you feel great working on because you know it's going to help so many people. We managed to bring a great aesthetic to the building while staying on budget. We have also had the pleasure to work with some real leaders in the community who generously donate their time to the non-profit organization.