

EAGA Business Builder

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July 08, 2025

Today's speaker was Erik Mease—SMPC Architects



Mr. Mease is an Albuquerque native. He received a Bachelor of Arts in Architecture degree from the University of New Mexico, then traveled to the mid-west where he earned a Master of Architecture degree from Washington University in St. Louis, MO. After Grad School, Erik stayed in St. Louis for awhile to work for CannonDesigns. One of his first big projects was helping design the renovation, remodel and building addition work at the St. Louis Public Library . It is an historical building (founded in 1912) so the design project involved various concepts and requirements needed to incorporate the new with the old. Mr. Mease credits that job with introducing him to many of the techniques, processes and styles that he likes to use in his current work. The project at CannonDesign exposed him to the positives and negatives of a variety of construction materials. It also gave him an opportunity to learn about the tremendous benefits achieved from working in a team based environment. It wasn't too long before Erik decided to return to his roots. In 2014, he and his wife, Sharon, moved back to New Mexico. (The Mease family now includes two sons as well: 12 year old Owen and 8 year old Asher). It was also in 2014 that Erik began working at SMPC Architects. SMPC's roots actually go back to 1944 when it was the design firm of Ferguson, Stevens, Mallory & Pearl. The company renamed to SMPC in 1994. They currently have 25 employees and try very hard to maintain a quality staff via selective hiring and a robust employee benefits program. In a short time, Mr. Mease had proven his architectural knowledge and skills so, in 2019, became a principal of SMPC. Erik is still quite involved in the design work, but also considers himself to be sort of the "Editor-in-Chief" overseeing various aspects of the teams' projects. SMPC is primarily involved with commercial clients, however they will occasionally do residential projects too. The types of commercial entities vary. This morning the visual part of his presentation included many samples of SMPC's work. There were car dealerships; high schools in Roswell and in Carlsbad; the CNM Film and New Mexico Media Arts Collective (at the Boiler Shop in the ABQ Rail Yards); the CNM Art Department renovation; the new Covenant School facility; the One Central building (in downtown Albuquerque with lower floors dedicated to commercial activities and upper floors that accommodate residential living); sound stages designed for the film industry; and the New Mexico School for the Arts Expansion which included cafeteria and dormitory projects. (This is a charter school that accommodates students from various NM communities. It is located within walking distance of the Rail Runner train station in Santa Fe so many students commute to class via that transportation. The school has even established a class schedule around the train's arrival and departure times). Although he has been involved in design projects for a variety of clients, Mr. Mease considers his area of concentration to be schools and 'places of formal learning'. To provide insight to the process, Erik noted that the primary 'players' in any project are the owner, the General Contractor and the Architect. And he told us that there are basically three scenarios for project setup: 1-Owner communicates directly with the architect and with the general contractor (this method can be faster because of fewer change-orders, usually has more upfront costs and less competitive bidding). 2-Owner coordinates with the General Contractor who then coordinates with the architect (usually this is a more expensive method). 3-Owner communicates with a representative who then communicates with the contractor and with the architect - who also coordinate with each other to a degree (this method usually allows for most of the project responsibilities to be more clearly defined). Owners, however, need to be aware that no matter which scenario is used, environmental testing, surveys, Geo-technical soils reports, utilities requests, furniture, fixture and equipment, third-party testing (like soil compaction and LEED inspections), low voltage systems (technology; AV; fire alarm; access controls) are specifically the responsibility of the owner. To see many examples of their amazing design work (both historical and recent projects) visit the SMPC. If you would like to discuss architectural design work for your current (or potentially future) construction, renovation, remodel or expansion projects, you should contact Erik at 505-280-7846. He will be glad to discuss any of that with you. And you may even be able to talk him into designing that new 'man cave' you are thinking about putting in your garage-particularly if you can convince him that it will definitely be a 'place of formal learning' for you. Please remember though that there are certain items (as noted above) which are specifically the owner's responsibility.

- ◆ President Brian began his term this morning and he noted some goals that he wants to accomplish during his tenure: Among other things, Brian wants to maintain a ‘business focused’ mindset for EAGA’s operation; he wants to continue adding quality new members to the group; and he would like to reserve 2 of our Tuesday morning meetings for the round table discussion format.
- ◆ This morning, President Walden presented Past President, Jerry Patton with an award from the membership, noting our appreciation for Jerry’s dedication to excellence and his many valuable contributions to the success of our organization over the past 6 months. THANK YOU Mr. Patton!
- ◆ We also thank the three members that are retiring from the Board of Directors: Tim Baca, John Mead and Andrew Sanchez. Over the past couple of years, they have served our group in a variety of positions and have done a great job of steering EAGA to its current state of excellence. THANK YOU! to each of you. Your efforts and dedication are greatly appreciated.
- ◆ Welcome Klint Hall, Pat Maloy and Mike Krepfl to the Board of Directors. These gentlemen have agreed to replace the retiring members of our Board and will serve our organization for the next couple of years. Thank you for volunteering to guide EAGA into the future.
- ◆ First announcement of a new member application:
 - BG Physical Therapy
 - Representative: Benjamin Gonzalez
 - Category: Healthcare - Physical Therapy
 - Sponsor: J.W. Biava

If you have an objection to this company becoming a member, or if you have information that you feel should be considered during the review process, please contact our Membership Committee Chairman John Menicucci (Email: jam@bergerbriggs.com or Phone: 505-379-7083) as soon as possible.

Badge Board Greeters

- July 15th Tim Stewart—Impact Nations
- July 22nd Rick Shubert—Lifetime Green Coatings
- July 29th Kevin Lorenzen—Aflac
- Aug 5th
- Aug 12th
- Aug 19th

Scheduled Speakers

- July 15th Todd LeCesne—Althera Alternative Care
- July 22nd Guest Speaker—Rio Rancho Mayor Greg Hull
- July 29th Paul Losey—Covenant Schools of America
- Aug 5th
- Aug 12th Kit Turper—Berger Briggs Insurance
- Aug 19th
- Aug 26th J.W. Biava –Airwell

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