

- THIS WEEK'S FEATURED EMPLOYER -



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LEADERSHIP AT ARCHITECTURE, DESIGN & PLANNING FIRM, BELIEVES ITS ASSOCIATES ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT, PASSION FOR DESIGN AND SUPPORTIVE LEADERSHIP ARE AMONG THE QUALITIES FOR ITS SUCCESS.

By BILL QUINNAN
FOR O.C. REGISTER
SPECIAL SECTIONS

an entrepreneurial spirit, passion for design and supportive leadership are among the qualities for which Orange County employees of architecture, design and planning firm Gensler have praised the company.

San Francisco-based Gensler was recently named the top architecture firm in the nation for the third consecutive year by Architectural Record based on architectural revenues of more than \$883 million in 2013.

In January, Gensler was ranked No. 1 among Interior Design magazine's 2014 Top 100 Giants, earning \$453 in design fees, more than triple that of the No. 2-ranked firm. Gensler also ranked No. 1 among Most Admired Firm by industry peers, as voted by Interior Design's 2014 Rising Giants, the second 100-largest firms ranked by 2013 interior-design fees.

With more than 3,000 active clients across virtually all industries and a global staff exceeding 3,500, Gensler has 46 offices throughout the world.

The firm has had an Orange County presence for 30 years and was named to the Orange County Register's Top Workplaces for 2013. The office ranked No. 1 in the large-company category on the Orange County Business Journal's inaugural Best Places to Work list in 2009.

"Our people are passionate about what we do, want to share with each other and are excited about the prospects each new day brings," said Kim Graham, principal and managing director at Gensler Newport Beach. "At Gensler, there is endless opportunity for advancement,

and everyone has a voice."

Last year, the firm celebrated its 30th anniversary in Orange County by opening the doors to a new office in Newport Beach.

"When we began to design our new creative workspace in Newport Beach, our goal was to accelerate connectivity, creativity and productivity. We've embraced innovation through every component of our new home and our employees were fully engaged in the design strategy," Graham said.

Graham described Gensler as a "constellation of many stars," with each of its team members representing the best talent within their discipline. Positions found within its Newport Beach office include interior designers, architects, graphic designers, master planners, brand strategists, real-estate consultants and information-management experts, among others.

"We thrive on the results of an integrated approach to design and making a difference," Graham said.

The firm strives to attract bright, dynamic and innovative designers and self-starters who have a desire to grow. According to Graham, Gensler's portfolio provides depth and diversity to match an individual's passions and curiosity.

"Our corporate culture is centered on aligning personal passions with professional development goals," she said. "Across the firm, we offer over 3,500 internal learning programs each year. The range of opportunities is infinite, allowing our team members to explore design opportunities locally and globally."

Graham noted that longevity is a trademark of Gensler employees. Currently, 28 percent

of the Newport Beach office's employees have been with the firm at least 10 years, and another 10 staff members are considered "boomerangs" who left the firm but returned.

"Supporting the staff is an important part of Gensler culture," Graham said. "Flexible schedules, career advancement opportunities and training, and regular bonuses are all incentives that help attract and retain employees."

Recent project awards received by the firm include a 2014 IIDA Calibre Award for the design of its new office, two Best of Year finalist awards from Interior Design, an Active Design Excellence Award- Honorable Mention and two GE Edison awards – one Award of Merit and one for Environmental Design.

Gensler is committed to creating positive change within its local communities, enabling its team members to give back to the cities and regions in which they live and work. Gensler has regularly participated in events supporting the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, Working Wardrobes, United Way, Habitat for Humanity, and Construction. As a firm, Gensler has donated more than \$1 million to community causes through efforts led by Gensler staff with company support.

As for the firm's current projects, "Gensler is redefining Shanghai's skyline with the Shanghai Tower, China's tallest building; challenging the conventional office with our workplace research; reshaping the future of retail; and envisioning a better urban future with our Reimagining Cities initiative," Graham said.

Bill Quinnan is a freelance writer who lives in Orange County. Readers can send e-mail to him at bquinnan@sbcglobal.net. Bill cannot provide job leads.



TOP 100
COMPANY
STATS

Gensler

- Industry: Architectural, design and planning
- Employees in region: 70
- Headquarters: San Francisco
- Founded: 1965
- Website: gensler.com

AWARDS:

- Top Workplaces – Orange County Register, 2013
- Top 300 Architectural Firms, No. 1 – Architectural Record, 2011, 2012, 2013
- Most Admired Firms – Interior Design, 2014
- Best Places to Work, No. 1 – OC Business Journal, 2009

WHAT DO EMPLOYEES SAY ABOUT THE COMPANY:

Gensler is a place to create your own future. We are entrepreneurial in spirit, and passionate about design.

Gensler is such a good and well-run company. Gensler cares about its employees and the quality of the work/service we give to our clients.

Gensler provides the opportunities, resources and support structure I need to succeed professionally.

The support from senior leadership and always striving to be the best in the industry.