

Tom Loew: Design / Build, Inc.  
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## **Thomas A. Loew**

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### **Profile: *The Design and Creation of Meaningful Form and Space***

Since 1988, Tom has owned and developed a Design/Build firm in Champaign, Illinois specializing in custom designed homes, remodels, and the “art of making.” Tom’s capacity to guide and instruct others through the creative process of home design and actual project implementation is a trademark of his professional practice. This endeavor has proven to be a fulfilling life’s work, which draws from a rich architectural education from the University of Illinois. Over the course of 30 years, Tom has demonstrated an unmistakable ability to synthesize concepts and programming requirements and to translate these objectives into built works. With well over 100 custom built projects, Tom’s work embodies both an aptitude for the process of creative architectural design as well as a refined skill of hands-on craftsmanship with respect to numerous building trades. In an effort to make a broader impact on the profession of architecture Tom has, over the course of the past 10 years, provided his unique perspective of the design process within the realm of academia. While Tom’s passion comes from a desire to see the creation of architectural form and space, his professionalism and propensity to connect with others continually emerges as a noteworthy attribute of his work.

### **Teaching Philosophy: *Assess and Inspire Excellence in the Process***

In order for creative design ideas to become successfully realized projects, students must not only be aware of, but also become competent in the many facets of their field of study. While Tom’s professional insights provide this knowledge and perspective, it is his experience with and approach to the “creative process” itself which affords students a formidable learning environment characterized by integrated design thinking. Through a discourse of engagement, assessment, and collaboration Tom has found a role in helping students elevate their understanding of architecture; and moreover, he promotes a systematic process by which they can experience high levels of academic and professional achievement. Tom’s professional experience has afforded him an additional perspective of value for the scholastic environment in understanding that success of any creative design requires more than the knowledge of the design process or a project’s component parts, as it additionally requires an ability to synthesize and convey project objectives throughout the design/build process. With each opportunity Tom promotes care in the overall process of design and collaboration, allowing for the realization of architecture which embodies, and at times surpasses, the original design objectives.

### **Practice, Professional Registration, and Education:**

- Adjunct Lecturer, School of Architecture, University of Illinois (2015 to Current)
- Owner, Tom Loew Design / Build, Inc. (1988 to Current)
- Lead Renovator Certification, E.P.A Training for Lead Safety for Remodeling, Repair & Painting (2010)
- Catastrophe Damage Assessor, sub contractor to State Farm Insurance (2005)
- National Certification, Wind and Hail Damage Assessment (2005)
- Licensed Roofing Contractor, State of Illinois (1988-2008)
- Master of Architecture, University of Illinois (1991)
- Bachelor of Science in Architectural Studies, University of Illinois (1985)

### **Collegiate Contributions:**

- Adjunct Lecturer, Arch 571, Detail and Fabrication, “Custom Home Design in 2018,” UIUC, Fall 2018
- Adjunct Lecturer, Arch 476, Architectural Design & Exploration, “Residential Design/Build Studio,” UIUC, Spring 2018
- Invited Lecturer, Arch 475 Barcelona, Capstone Studio, “Structural System Design and Integrated Design Thinking,” UIUC Spring 2018
- Adjunct Lecturer, Arch 373, Architectural Design and the Landscape. UIUC, Fall 2017
- Invited Lecturer, Arch 475 Barcelona, Capstone Studio, “Structural System Design and Integrated Design Thinking,” UIUC Spring 2017
- Adjunct Lecturer, Arch 475 Capstone Studio, UIUC, Fall 2016
- Adjunct Lecturer, Arch 373, Architectural Design and the Landscape, UIUC, Fall 2015
- Invited Speaker, Arch 101, Introduction to Architecture, (Prof. Michael Andrejasich, UIUC, Fall 2015)
- Invited Studio Project Critic, Arch 571 (Prof. John Stallmeyer), Make Series2 Competition (Visiting Lecturer, David Emmons, UIUC, 2015)
- Jury Review Critic, Arch 572 (Prof. Jim Warfield) & Arch 475 (Amir Amirzadeh, UIUC, 2015)
- Guest: Lecture/Seminar for Entrepreneurship in Design, Arch 576 (Dr. Kathryn Anthony, UIUC, 2009, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015)
- Guest: Design Studio collaboration for Archon Prize: The Essential Dwelling, Arch 571 (Professor Mark Taylor, UIUC, Spring 2015)
- Visiting Critic for Mid Term and Final Design Reviews Arch 571 (Spring 2015, Spring 2014)
- Visiting Critic for Final Design Reviews, Arch 374 (Dr. Thérèse F Tierney, UIUC, Spring 2015)
- Guest: Design Studio participation for Archon Prize: “Design: Detail and Architectonics”, Arch 571 (Professor Jeffery Poss, UIUC, Spring 2014)
- Guest: Lecture/Seminar for “Construction Cost Analysis for Pokagon Indian Tribe Grant Project” (Dr. Lynne Dearborn, Graduate Design Studio, UIUC, 2006)

### **Professional Expertise:**

- Design: Residential home design, collegiate design studio instruction, & consulting in the home design and building processes
- Entrepreneurship: Executed 3 decades of residential designs and completed construction projects
- Program Development: Project research and project programming, versed in creative thinking, problem solving, and innovation
- Mentorship: guiding homeowners, collegiate students, and contractors through the process of design/build
- 3-D Modeling: BIM (Building Information Modeling) Chief Architect CAD programming, 20yrs plus
- Residential project estimating, detailed project accounting, and bid proposals
- “GREEN” building technologies: research & project incorporation
- National and local building codes: compliance and incorporation
- Construction contract writing, Homeowner/Contractor agreements, HUD 203k loan procedures
- Documentation: Construction drawings, projects specifications, and written documentation.
- Architectonics: Construction materials, structural properties, connections, moisture barriers, and thermal integration
- Interdisciplinary interaction: developers, structural/mechanical engineers, and architectural firms
- Leadership: Project management & scheduling: sub contractors, labor, vendors, distributors, and manufacturers

- Collaboration: Project administration involving financial lenders, title companies, insurance, and real estate agencies
- Integration: Systems analysis & integration: structural, mechanical, electric, and plumbing
- Education: Trained & prepared over a dozen employees who now own successful businesses of their own
- Craftsman: Skilled in framing, woodworking, and the application of all forms exterior & interior finishes
- Ethics of practice: Eponymous firm which is characterized by repeat clientele and word of mouth references for 30yrs

### **Projects of Particular Focus/Discipline:**

- An Essential Dwelling (Musumeci Residence, 2017)
- Timber frame / Log cabin. Adaptive material production, renewables, and reuse (Hatch Residence, 2015)
- ADA Integration. Accessibility design and standards in new construction (Mullen Residence, 2012)
- Health & Well-Being. Specialized details, mechanical systems, accessibility, integration of “at home life care criteria.” Home remodel (Shannon Residence, 2010)
- Mid-century modern restoration. Champaign, IL. (K.E. Unteed Residence 2010)
- Performance. Green building/net “zero energy” home. Solar technology, geo-thermal systems, radiant flooring, thermal massing, specialized mechanical and construction details (Insana Residence, 2008-2009)
- Adaptive reuse. Redevelopment of historic Leiper Furniture Store into a private school facility, Monticello, Illinois, (Monticello Christian Academy, 2008)
- Hurricane damage assessment (Beaumont, Texas, 2005; Dade County, Florida, 2006)
- Blackberry Schoolhouse conversion into private residence (Rapp Residence, 2006)
- ICF: Insulating concrete form construction (Chambers & Uphoff Residences, 2003-2004)
- Preservation. Piatt County Mansion/Georgian restoration, Monticello, IL. (Kratz Residence, 2001)
- Preservation. Colonial estate remodel & restoration, Champaign, IL. (Price Paints Mansion, 1996)
- Midwest vernacular adaptation. Farming corn crib conversion into residence (Hawk Residence, 1999)
- Performance/Research. Thermal Massing Techniques. Zero air flow infiltration attic system, Approved and adopted by Urban Building Safety Division (Wilkins Residence, 1990)
- Colonia & Urbanization Research. Monterrey. Nuevo Leon, Mexico (1986)
- International Fabrication. Carpentry assistance, geo-thermal installation, & construction drawing documentation for the Precious Seed Ministry/Casa Hogar Douglas Orphanage. Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas, Mexico (1985)

### **Community Recognitions and Publications:**

- Mark Taylor, “The Essential Dwelling: The 2015 Archon Prize.” Author of Publication Foreword, Prestophotocom/bookstore/193968 (2015)
- Kathryn Anthony, DesignIntelligence, “Entrepreneurship in Design.” Recognition of academic contributions (2012)
- “Champaign News Gazette features.” Anthony Residence (historic preservation) 2009; Hawk Residence (adaptive reuse); Insana Residence (green build technology) 2009
- PACA (Preservation and Conservation Association) Achievement award for Remodeling Excellence and Preservation in an Historic Neighborhood, Anthony Residence, 2009
- Tom Loew, “A Comprehensive Approach to Mexico’s housing Problem,” University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, (1991)

### **Educational & Community Contributions:**

- School Board President, Monticello Christian Academy, 2005-2011
- Monticello High School “Career Days”, Career awareness in architecture
- Head Coach and Assistant Coach Pony League and Youth Baseball, 2008-2012
- Lay Pastor, Young Adult Ministry, Vineyard Church, Urbana, Illinois, 1996 to 2000