



NEWS RELEASE

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ANF JOINS FORCES WITH WILLIAMSON POUNDERS ARCHITECTS

Memphis, TN - Askew Nixon Ferguson Architects is pleased to announce that James F. Williamson, FAIA and Louis R. Pounders, FAIA of Williamson Pounders Architects will join forces with ANF Architects. Celebrating its 30th year in 2005, Askew Nixon Ferguson is nationally known for design excellence in education, hospitality, commercial and industrial design. Lee Askew III, FAIA, partner and founder of Askew Nixon Ferguson sees this transition as extremely positive. "The addition of Louis and Jim to our design team will infuse new energy into our office and allow us to take on new and challenging building types. We are especially excited about the depth of experience and strong client base that they bring to our firm."

James Williamson, a Memphis native, obtained two Master of Architecture degrees from the University of Pennsylvania, where he was a student of architect Louis Kahn. Williamson was elected to the AIA College of Fellows for his accomplishments in design and contributions to the profession of architecture at the national level. He is known for the award-winning designs of Ballet Memphis, restoration of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception and the Orpheum Theatre, as well as a number of religious projects across the country. Williamson has taught at Yale, the University of Pennsylvania, and Rhodes College, and currently serves as adjunct professor in the architecture program of the University of Memphis.

Louis Pounders, also a native of Memphis, attended the Harvard Graduate School of Design where he received the Master of Architecture degree. Pounders' work includes the Tunica River Park, Lichterman Nature Center, and Metropolitan Interfaith Association (MIFA) Headquarters. He was the designer for the first seven WONDERS Exhibitions and recently completed the new Cotton Exchange Museum in downtown Memphis. Pounders serves on the National AIA Committee on Design and chairs the Nominating Committee for the prestigious AIA Twenty-Five Year Award. In 2004, Louis was elected to the AIA College of Fellows for his contributions to design and was named to the GSA's National Register of Peer Professionals.

Pounders sees the transition as an opportunity to expand his design focus in collaboration with the talented staff of Askew Nixon Ferguson. "I look forward to this new working relationship and the opportunities it will offer."

Williamson welcomes the opportunity to practice architecture while increasing his commitment to teaching at the University of Memphis. This transition will allow Jim more time to interact with the academic world and to do one of the things he enjoys most - teaching and mentoring students. "I've always had the greatest respect for ANF and am delighted that we'll be collaborating. In addition, I welcome the idea of spending more time with the exceptionally bright students at the U of M and helping them develop their full potential as future architects."



Wm. Bert "Bill" Ferguson, senior partner at Askew Nixon Ferguson, sums it up like this, "Jim, Louis, and ANF have always emphasized outstanding solutions for their clients and have received national recognition for this work. Our workplace cultures are similar, and it makes sense to come together. We believe excellent design is the bedrock of architecture and by joining forces we will continue to strengthen our talents."

This alliance is an opportunity to share knowledge, resources, and design talents. The extensive design knowledge of Williamson and Pounders will augment the ANF strengths of functional and creative design and hands on collaborative service. The partners at Askew Nixon Ferguson are Lee Askew FAIA, Bill Ferguson AIA, Rebecca Conrad AIA LEED AP, Scott Dicus AIA, Dan Garrigan AIA, and Joe Wieronski AIA LEED AP.

For additional information, contact Megan Murdock 901.278.6868 (megan@anfa.com)