



**Curtis Reed; AIA.**  
 DIRECTOR OF VISUAL DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION  
 – BEAR GENERAL CONTRACTORS

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

### FAVORITE HOBBY:



I've played guitar for about 20 years, but within the past few started getting into oil painting – mostly just wedding gifts for friends.



**LIVES IN:**  
 Pensacola, FL

### FUN FACT:



Passed all 6 ARE exams in 6 months after graduation.

### ALMA MATER:



Mississippi State University,  
 2019

### FAVORITE PART OF THE ARCHITECTURAL PROCESS:



The initial site visit and brainstorming on a new project – but the drone work and finish photography recently has been a lot of fun as well.

## 1 WHAT WORDS WOULD YOU USE TO DESCRIBE ARCHITECTURE?

Relatable – something that everyone interacts with on a daily basis, so it gives a lot of common ground for conversation between someone you might otherwise have nothing in common with.

## 2 WHO WAS OR IS AN IMPORTANT MENTOR AMONG YOUR COLLEAGUES?

Mike Blaes (MO), Mick Weber (MO), Jimmy Seay (AL), and Frank Litchfield (AL) for giving me the employment opportunities so far to get where I am.

## 3 WHAT WOULD BE THE ONE ADVICE YOU WILL GIVE TO EMERGING PROFESSIONALS?

Rip the band-aid off and take the tests. Don't be afraid to fail if you can afford to, but life only gets more hectic the longer you wait.

### MOST INTERESTING JOB YOU HAVE EVER HAD:



Self-appointed Sideline Reporter and Social Media Correspondent for ESPN.



# James E. Wells III ; P.E.

ALLIED MEMBER  
W3 ENGINEERING INC.

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



ALMA MATER:  
Florida State University.  
Go NOLES!

### FAVORITE HOBBY:



A tie between playing guitar and bow hunting out west in the mountains.

### LIVES IN:



Pensacola, FL.

### FAVORITE PART OF THE BEING AN ALLIED MEMBER:

I attend events where I get to network with the vast majority of my clients.

### 1 WHAT IS THE BEST AND MOST CHALLENGING PART OF WORKING WITH ARCHITECTS/ DESIGNERS?

Watching architects gracefully manage challenging clients and being grateful I'm (somewhat) insulated from those discussions. Executing everything that came out of the discussion to deliver a code compliant, functional, and attractive building that meets the owner's needs and expectations.

### 2 WHO WAS OR IS AN IMPORTANT MENTOR AMONG YOUR COLLEAGUES?

Kelly Wieczorek. When I was a young engineer, she taught me exactly what architects "do" and how valuable that was to both building design and the development of our communities.

### 3 WHAT WOULD BE THE ONE ADVICE YOU WILL GIVE TO EMERGING PROFESSIONALS?

The only way to learn this business is to jump in, screw it up, and let someone explain where you went wrong.

### FUN FACT:



I'm the Cubmaster of my 4 kids' Cub Scout Pack. Pack 477 at the Montessori School of Pensacola.

### MOST INTERESTING JOB YOU HAVE EVER HAD:



Force Recon Marine USMC