

# NEWS

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Architecture  
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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **ABA Architects Recognized as Architect of the Year**

Tucson, Ariz., Feb. 26, 2009—At its fifteenth annual awards banquet held February 24, Cornerstone Building Foundation honored ABA Architects as Architect of the Year. The award recognizes the firm's commitment to teamwork and collaboration, responsiveness to schedule and budget, quality craftsmanship, and contributions to the development of community. ABA Architects' principals, Roger Brooks, RA, and Kim Fernández, AIA, LEED AP, accepted the award.

In thanking the Foundation for the recognition, Brooks acknowledged that in its 32 years the firm has worked with almost everyone in the room at one time or another.

ABA Architects, founded by Charles Albanese and Brooks in 1977 as Albanese-Brooks Associates, has served clients throughout Arizona. Fernández joined Brooks as owner and principal in 1997, after Albanese left the firm to teach full time at the University of Arizona, where he later become Dean of Architecture. Area residents will recognize ABA's work in numerous schools, churches, recreation facilities and buildings such as San Miguel High School, Sycamore Elementary, Catalina American Baptist Church, Udall and Clements Recreation Centers, Quincie Douglas pool, Ronald McDonald House of Southern Arizona, and Pima County Juvenile Courts.

ABA's experience includes projects requiring innovative, sustainable design, LEED certification, working with a construction manager at risk, and expertise in Building Information Modeling (BIM). Commenting about the firm's use of BIM, Fernández said, "Our firm made the switch two years ago to doing all of our projects in BIM. It is not only a wonderful tool that helps clients, engineers and contractors visualize and walk through the buildings but the powerful database helps with quality control, tracking information, and managing cost. Some of our Federal work requires the use of BIM."

Regarding sustainable design and LEED certification, she added, "ABA recently started developing a master plan for a new K-8 private school for Tucson Waldorf School. They have set lofty goals for themselves and us, both in design and sustainability—perhaps even a zero carbon footprint! It's been exciting to push the limits in both areas."

Principals:  
Roger W. Brooks, RA  
Kim Fernández, AIA, LEED AP

Senior Architects:  
Roel Krabbendam, AIA, LEED AP  
Preston Godfrey, AIA

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**More about ABA Architects**—ABA Architects is an architectural, planning and interiors services firm with more than 30 years of experience in Arizona. What makes ABA unique is its use of Integrated Project Delivery and BIM. The firm can be reached at (520) 881-4512 or by email: [SLinson@aba-architects.com](mailto:SLinson@aba-architects.com). Visit online at [www.aba-architects.com](http://www.aba-architects.com).

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