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Jamie, President of Brewster McLeod Architects Inc., specialises in creating luxury residences in Aspen, Telluride, San Francisco and Montana. Awarded a Masters in Architecture from Montana State University-Bozeman in 1999, Jamie has attained a LEED Certification in the design of energy savings and renewable resources; incorporating the most effective green techniques, materials and strategies within the design phase.

Brewster McLeod Architects is an award-winning boutique Architecture firm with a focus on creating Architecture as living art forms designed perfectly within their natural environments. The result is Architecture set perfectly within the landscape creating the setting for your custom creation.

The goal of each design is to ensure all elements of the clients desires are expressed with stylistic insight and thoughtful design, thus creating a relationship with the client that transforms their dreams into reality.



What initially inspired you to study architecture and become an architect?

Growing up in the United States in a National Park, Glacier National Park in Montana, I was always inspired by architecture integrated in nature.

Looking through the Brewster McLeod Architects' portfolio there appears to be a recurring trend for rural and mountain properties with a contemporary twist. Has your background, growing up in the Glacier National Park in Montana, influenced the way in which you work? Perhaps shaping your design principles and philosophies?

Glacier Park has definitely shaped my architecture but I believe it has had more of an influence in combining art in nature than as architecture with a contemporary twist. I believe my architectural style is influenced more by my clients and designing in modern times.

*Left: BMA-Smith-Exterior
Bottom Left: BMA-Sunnyside
Bottom Right: BMA-River Residence
Next Page Bottom: BMA-Sunnyside
Next Page Right: BMA-River Residence*

From the point of initial contact, can you talk us through how you help visualise and implement the client's dreams, desires and aspirations?

The key element in any client interaction is listening. I try to get to know my clients by talking with them and letting them tell me their dreams and desires for the home we will design together.

Are there any compliance issues or pitfalls you need to be cautious about?

We always design above the Code, not to the Code. Thus we do not find ourselves with compliance issues.

Has the increased awareness of environmental impacts of construction affected the way you work?

Yes, we strive to make our homes extremely efficient and environmentally friendly. People may not believe it but we can make a 10,000 SF house just as efficient as a 5,000 SF house with the right materials! Focus on the building shell and mechanical systems, make the house automatic for the clients.



What is the most challenging aspect when working on a project?

We are only limited by our imagination, thus keeping fresh and remaining inspired is always a key element to our design process.

Is there a specific project, or type of project, which has given you the most satisfaction?

The projects where the clients are heavily involved are always the best, the more a client can be a part of the process the more the home will reflect their true values.

Do you follow what other architects are doing? Are there any specific individuals who have directly influenced your work?

I'm also reading and looking through magazines to see what other architects are doing in the residential and commercial markets. I found Zaha Hadid very inspirational as an architect.

I think this is more pertinent given the death of Zaha Hadid, possibly the most renowned female architecture of all time, earlier this year. Do you feel that gender bias is an issue in the architecture industry?

Gender bias is an issue in any professional industry, not just Architecture. I find my clients decide to work with us because we are a breath of fresh air and want to explore new possibilities with our clients. Male or female, amazing design and high standards will always get the project!

Brewster McLeod Architects is unique in that the team entirely consists of females. Was this a conscious decision? And is there a particular skill set that females generally excel in?

BMA has not always consisted of only female Architects, but currently we are 3.5 strong. We are always looking for talented individuals that can keep up with our fast pace perfectionist business style.

What advice would you give to females looking to enter the industry?

For any architect looking to enter the industry, I would recommend absorbing as much knowledge as you can to grow and expand your knowledge, then be amazing at what you do. Remember, nobody cares as much about your career as you do, so go after your dreams!

What key trends do you expect to see over the coming year and in an ideal world what would you like to see implemented or changed?

I would like to see commercial & government buildings be more energy conservative – building 100 year buildings rather than 20 year buildings.

Do you have any exciting projects in the pipeline or other news you would like to share?

We have some amazing homes being designed and built at the moment. I look forward to realising all the new work we are designing.



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