

Ward + Blake Architects Adds Valerie Church and Agnes Kardasz

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Jackson Hole firm welcomes two talented new members to award-winning design team



Ward + Blake Architects' newest additions LEED Green Associate Valerie Church (left) and Intern Architect, Agnes Kardasz (right).

Jackson Hole, Wyoming – July 2, 2014 – Award-winning Jackson Hole architectural firm Ward + Blake Architects just got a little bigger and better with the addition of two new members to their skilled team of design professionals, announced principal Tom Ward. Valerie Church and Agnes Kardasz both offer diverse backgrounds that incorporate an array of design experience, along with the kind of fresh, innovative thinking that the firm looks for.

LEED Green Associate Valerie Church grew up in Western Idaho where she developed an interest in design at a very young age. Church earned a Bachelor in Interior Design degree from Utah State University. Having never visited Jackson before her first meeting with Ward + Blake, says she's "awed daily by the beauty of the surrounding mountains." Church especially loves the variety of design projects to work on at Ward + Blake due to the custom work they create for clients. "I love seeing an idea become a reality and become applied in the built environment," says Church, who plans to become a certified interior designer through NCIDQ. She is currently working on the design of a new Jackson Hole private residence.

Intern Architect, Agnes Kardasz was on an international search for the architecture firm of her dreams when she came across the work of Jackson Hole-based Ward + Blake Architects. Ward + Blake was equally impressed with the Polish-born Kardasz, who brings international education and experience to the table, hiring her as an intern architect. Kardasz moved to Jackson Hole from Florida where she earned a Master of Arts in architecture from Florida International University. Before Florida, she received her Bachelor of Arts in interior architecture from the University of Applied Sciences in Rosenheim, Germany.

"Both Valerie and Agnes bring design experience – including a passion for high-end residential design – that will be a great asset to our group," says Ward. "And with more women graduating from architectural programs than ever before, we are excited to be on the leading edge of that trend with our two newest additions to the team as well."

Valerie hopes to one day share her love for the built environment and her strong desire to learn with the next generation of designers as a college professor. Agnes's long term goal is to become licensed and to grow among the Ward + Blake team, all while simply doing her part "to make the world a better place to live."

Ward + Blake Architects was built on a distinctive vision: to be provocative in thought, flexible in nature and disciplined in execution. Since 1996, the firm has earned recognition for architecture that is sensitive to its environment and successfully integrated with its surroundings, including being named 2013 Firm of the Year by the six-state AIA Western Mountain Region. Ward + Blake creates buildings that are tactile, modern, bio-climatically responsible, honestly expressed, technologically sound and artfully crafted. A recent monograph, *In the Shadows of the Tetons: Selected Works of Ward + Blake Architects*, provides an overview of the firm's award-winning work. For additional information, visit Ward + Blake online at www.wardblakearchitects.com or call 307.733.6867.

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