

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Ocean Springs Gazette

50 CENTS • VOLUME 8, NO. 20

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2016

Thursday, December 24, 2016

Ocean Springs Gazette

Page 3

Business In The Bag

TALLstudio fosters ideas outside architectural box

By VALERIE WINN
Gazette Staff Writer

Mark and Madison Talley are more than full-time architects.

Even when they leave their office at the end of the day, the co-owners of TALLstudio Architecture, PLLC, continue to find the unexpected in the commonplace.

"We work a lot, but we love what we do," said Mark, who alongside his wife, design what they describe as pragmatic and insightful buildings and atmospheres.

"We like to make the extraordinary out of the ordinary," said Madison.

Much of their enthusiasm has been ignited by their coastal environs and the opportunities they offer in helping them to impact the community. "We wanted to create outside of the architectural box," said Madison. "We like contemporary architecture. We've had a great reception."

Since opening their studio more than two years ago, the Talleys have worked with families and companies of all shapes and sizes. Both



Photo by Valerie Winn

Mark and Madison Talley, owners of TALLstudio Architecture, PLLC, enjoy working inside their Government Street office.

earned bachelor degrees from Mississippi State University School of Architecture and both worked for several firms in major cities on large-scale projects. Together, in their combined careers, they have more than 20 years of experience.

"We'd been working for big companies," said Mark. "We went from corporate-slash-stuff to residential projects."

It's a change they find personal and refreshing.

"Before we started our own firm, I had never designed a house," said Mark. "There's a different relationship with clients when working on residential projects. It's a whole different approach."

In addition to his residential projects, Mark's background includes designs in

educational, institutional, medical, retail, restaurant, agricultural, recreational, governmental, and large-scale master planning design.

Madison's forte lies in hand-on design. Along with working with several firms, as well as Habitat for Humanity, she was a visual artist for Anthropologie, a clothing and lifestyle brand, and created large-scale art installations while honing her construction techniques.

The couple, married just more than three years, have found they make a splendid team.

"Working together has been great for our relationship," said Madison. "We balance each other out. I love texture, detail, color, cozy spaces. Mark loves open spaces. He likes big-scale things while I look at patterns."

Traveling plays profoundly into their profession.

"We travel constantly," said Madison, adding that they recently returned from a trip abroad that included stops in the cities of Amsterdam, Copenhagen, Dublin, and London, as well as a stop in Sweden. "It was wonderful. Very diverse. It was our best trip yet."

Dedicated to experiencing architecture in other locations, the Talleys hope to see their ideas and designs take shape both nearby and in far-away places. "Our goal is to have projects in multiple states and countries," said Madison.

Together in their studio they build cardboard models by hand for their clients. Each model takes from eight-to-10 hours to construct. "We love building models," said Madison. "We use them to talk to clients

and contractors."

"Contractors love them," said Mark. "They understand them. We learn so much more working by hand."

Both contribute to the community in myriad ways and are frequently invited to be guest critics at the MSU School of Architecture. They were both featured in the recent Mississippi Museum of Art's "Mapping a Modern Mississippi" documentary series, and they also serve on several boards, including those of the Gulf Coast Symphony Orchestra, the American Institute of Architects, Mississippi Chapter, Biloxi Bay Chamber, and the Bethesda Free



TALLstudio Architecture, PLLC, is open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Friday, other times by appointment; telephone: 902-404-0644

That Government Street office provides them with yet another unique perspective. With its large storage front windows, the Talleys can watch the world, and the world can watch them.

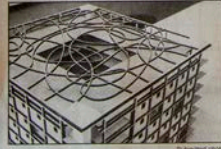
"We love being in this office," said Madison. "It's great for visibility."

It's also intriguing for shoppers and passersby.

"We like working in a fishbowl," said Mark. "People like watching us work. We want to be transparent." And they want to be available. "Our official office hours are 9 a.m.-6 p.m.," said Mark. "However, we work all the time and never say we're 'closed.'"



An interior addition TALLstudio designed in Ocean Springs.



A presentation model of a design concept TALLstudio submitted to an international architecture competition focused on revolutionizing housing for people with autism.

back

of the City of Ocean Springs water system.

Jack Hughes was named coach of the softball field at the University of South Florida. Hughes coached many games on the field from hearing his name.

Appel

Admission hiked at the opening of the former Talleys school as commercial from residential, even though did not open the door for the Mary C. O'Keefe Cultural Center to obtain a liquor license.

Ward II Alderman Matt McDermott said the zoning change would make the site eligible for a variety of commercial uses incompatible with the adjacent residential area should a future board of Aldermen opt to sell or convey property for private party. McDermott said, it would be a big step in the direction of a new use.