

Diversified: Kinslow, Keith & Todd

# Kinslow, Keith & Todd's architectural firm evolves with added skills



Architects Andrew Kinslow (left), Patrick Keith and Whit Todd (right) gather outside the former Mathews Warehouse in downtown Tulsa's Brady Arts District on Wednesday, December 3, 2014. The building is one of the firm's more notable projects.

MATT BARNARD/Tulsa World

Architectural firm has in-house mix of skills

You've probably seen some of the many projects Tulsa-based architectural firm Kinslow, Keith & Todd have designed over the years. Yet they range widely and include shopping centers, medical facilities, educational centers, apartments and more.

Whit Todd, one of the three co-founders of the company, said there's not many common visual elements among their 15 years of work. But that's the point.

"We call it egoless design," he said. "We want to find out what the client wants, not what we want the owner to do."

The firm, which now employs 50, has evolved over the years to add new capabilities and shape designs for an increasingly diverse array of clients and projects.

In fact, what would eventually become Kinslow, Keith & Todd didn't even work in traditional architecture.

Andy Kinslow founded Integrated Space Design 25 years ago as a company that provided space

planning and interior design for offices.

“If a tenant was moving into a building downtown, we’d do the planning work for the space they’d be moving into,” Kinslow said.

Notable Kinslow, Keith & Todd projects:

- Eastgate Metroplex
- University of Oklahoma's Schusterman campus
- Hardesty and Charles Page libraries
- Various medical buildings for St. John, St. Francis and OSU Physicians
- Many public schools in Tulsa, Jenks, Broken Arrow and Sand Springs,
- Kings Landing
- KingsPointe Village
- The Mathews Building conversion, which now houses the Woodie Guthrie Museum, the Henry Zarrow Center for Art and Education and other Brady District features

That changed when he was approached by Todd and Pat Keith to collaborate on the design of the Union Pines office building now occupied by U.S. Cellular on the southeast intersection of U.S. 169 and the Broken Arrow expressway, Todd said.

“We saw growth over there, with a solid client base that was asking for more services,” he said. “It was a good fit. Each of us brought our own talents to the table.”

Kinslow, Keith & Todd added structural engineering in 2007 and civil engineering in 2012. All of their skills are coming together for the new Unit Corp. headquarters, now under construction in the southwest corner of 81st Street and U.S. 75.

The \$50 million project will include a six-story, 196,400-square-foot headquarters, a 259,000-square-foot parking garage and carefully-landscaped grounds. Todd said the building’s design is “prairie architecture,” with a mix of stone

skin and bands of glass, as well as a stone floor in the central lobby. Todd said it’s unusual for such a tall building to have stone features.

“Stone is what Unit deals with all the time,” he said.

Keith said the company’s new mix of skills has allowed Kinslow, Keith & Todd to develop all aspects of the new headquarters without the need for outside assistance.

“Having those entities in-house has allowed us to better serve our clients,” he said. “Those resources are immediately available to them.”

Part of the company’s success has come through the diversity of the projects it undertakes, which has kept the company from struggling when any one sector slows down, Todd said. That same strategy has caused the co-founders to bring on five new principals and a new director of architectural interiors to keep things going in the future.

“Bringing in the new principals is a result of the diversification we’ve had,” he said. “We’ve got leadership that will keep the firm going.”