

1987-2023

END OF AN ERA: LOCAL ARCHITECT RETIRES

An interview with Glenn Werner on retiring after 36 years.



WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO BECOME AN ARCHITECT?

Chicago in the 60s was an exciting time for architecture as some of the world's tallest buildings created that famous skyline. But I was a kid then and didn't land on architecture as a career until college. As I kid, I would play with construction debris at neighboring sites in our subdivision. I knew then and there that playing with construction debris isn't going to pay the bills.

WHAT LED YOU TO WORK AT JKRP?

When Jerry Roller began his own firm, he was more savvy about market diversification and employee retention than his former boss, for whom I worked when I met Jerry. I also enjoy working in Center City.

WHAT ARE THE BIGGEST CHANGES YOU HAVE SEEN IN THE INDUSTRY SINCE BEGINNING YOUR CAREER?

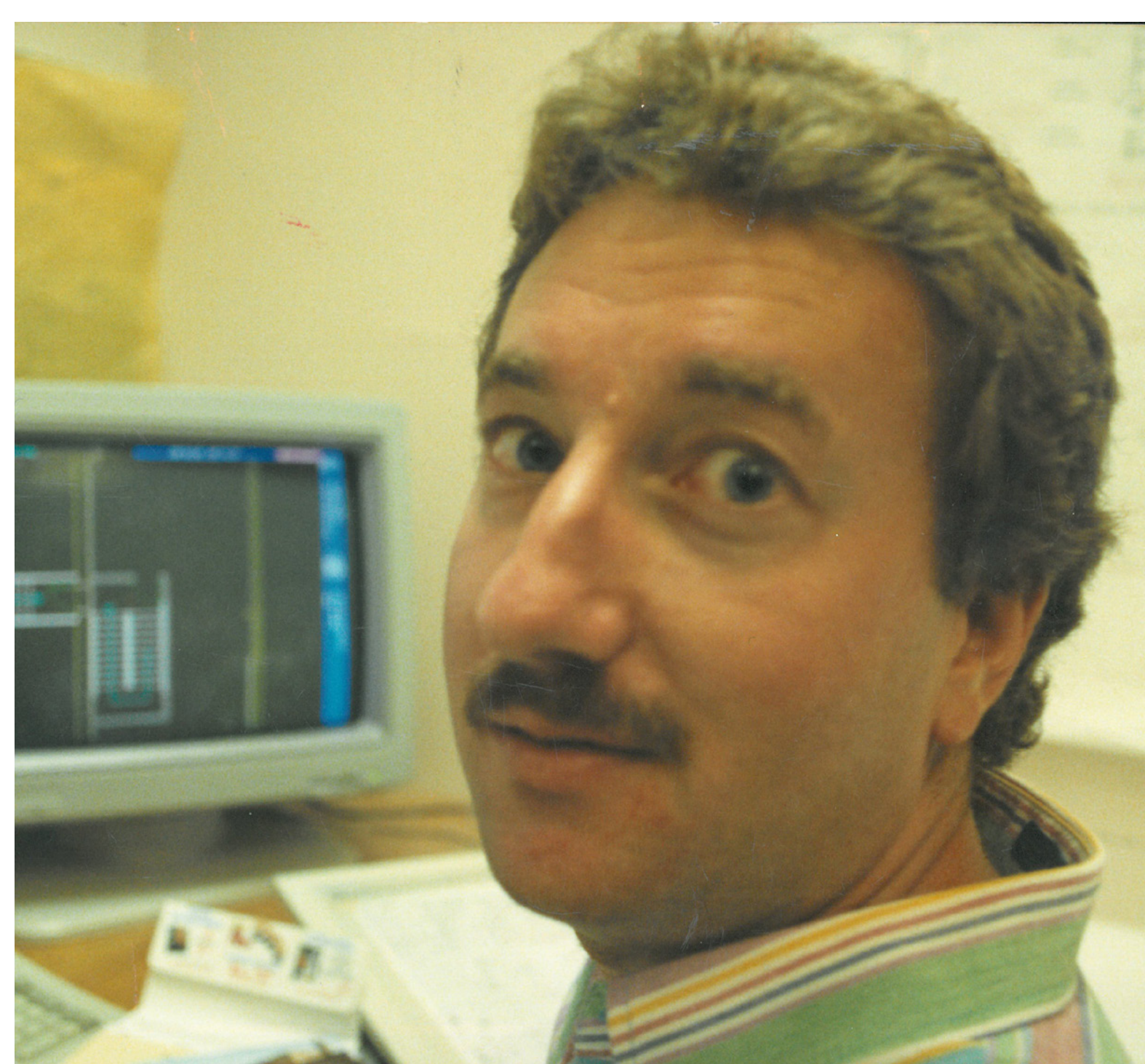
Rubber erasers were an office staple. The fax machine was the vital mode of IT. The building code in use at the time was BOCA, a single volume, relatively compact and lightweight. Incidentally, at the time, if you were in line for a cup of coffee at Starbucks, you were in Seattle.

HOW HAS JKRP CHANGED OVER THE COURSE OF YOUR 36 YEARS HERE?

In 1987 the firm had one registered architect.

WHAT WILL YOU MISS MOST ABOUT THE JKRP TEAM?

The evolution of working from home made me appreciate the fact that I laugh considerably more while at the office.



WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR FAVORITE PROJECT AND WHY?

I'm very grateful for the opportunities to work on a wide range of project types. Particularly in healthcare design, it's gratifying to work closely with caregiving staff, and as a team focused on patient comfort.

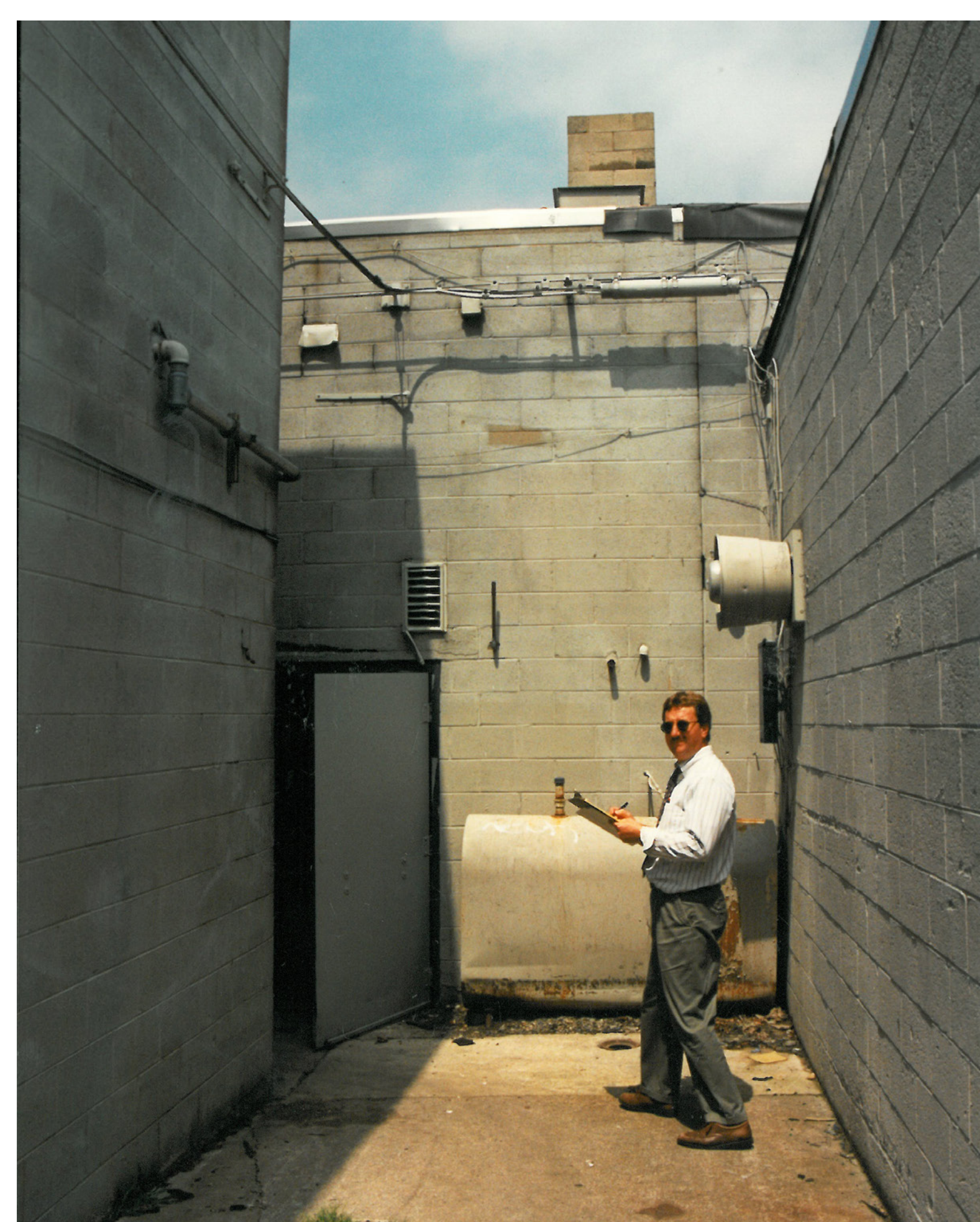
WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FORWARD TO MOST ABOUT RETIREMENT?

Having fewer entries in my weekly planner, and doing my best to be a blessing to everyone.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO YOUNG ARCHITECTS TODAY?

- Two things:
1. Meet as many people as you can.
 2. Expand your world perspective to be as broad as possible.

Doing either one requires doing both.



A BRIEF GLIMPSE AT GLENN'S WORK

