

Collaborations

**CULTIVATING
FRIENDSHIP
AT WICHITA BOTANICA**



CHINESE GARDEN OF FRIENDSHIP RICH WITH HISTORY AND SYMBOLISM

Legendary Foo Dogs stand guard at the entrance. Tranquil waters meander alongside the replicate Qingming scroll and underneath the symbolic Thousand Foot Bridge. An 87-foot Treasure Dragon reigns overhead, beckoning rain from the heavens.

The Chinese Garden of Friendship at Botanica, unveiled to the public on June 5, has been a rare opportunity for the Simpson team to deliver on much more than brick and mortar.

“This is our first Sister Cities garden,” said Botanica Executive Director Marty Miller. “This garden is a representation of the Chinese culture and our connection with the people of Kaifeng,” (pronounced kye-FONG). Miller – whose mission with the gardens is to enlighten people using educational, artistic and cultural experiences – has watched his vision come to life through the work of Simpson Construction Services and GLMV Architects.


Wichita’s relationship with Kaifeng dates back to 1985 when city leaders declared it a Sister City, but the garden’s inspiration bloomed for Miller on a 2013 trip to China with then-Mayor Carl Brewer. (Visit www.wichitaareasistercities.org) Since then, he has enlisted members of Wichita’s Chinese community and organizations to ensure an authentic experience for visitors.

While cultivated in Chinese culture, the bulk of the materials were sourced and fabricated locally, such as the limestone rocks used in the waterfall. “In China, the rocks are harvested from the lakes,” said Miller. “Ours are harvested from the Flint Hills to ensure they will withstand the challenges of our habitat.”

Chris Baalman, Simpson project manager, talked about the unique challenges and rewards. “When we started, I was naïve to all the symbolism,” said Baalman. “As we progressed, I learned the reasons behind the methods, why it’s important to build it this way. It became personal.” Baalman and his team learned that an emperor’s dragon has five claws instead of the traditional four, and how to build the authentic Chinese roofs which flare up at the corners.

“It’s been great working with Bob, Gregg, Chris and Howard (Thome). Those guys are geniuses at design-build,” said Miller. “The Chinese Garden of Friendship gives our community the opportunity to experience Chinese culture. It also represents a link to our Sister City of Kaifeng, China.”





JUMP REACH GROW SMILE WITH CHILDREN'S DENTAL PROFESSIONALS

Not many dental practices have video monitors for patient entertainment mounted on the ceiling above dental chairs, not to mention a faux tree in the lobby, and a No Sugar Bug Club.

The compassionate care and education offered by Drs. Crystal Walker and Mariah Frazier are evident when you visit their website: www.JumpReachGrowSmile.com. Walker and Frazier have a unique pediatric dentistry practice, Children's Dental Professionals, and now they are building a new one-of-a-kind environment for their young patients at 6943 East 37th Street North.

As young mothers juggling family commitments with their busy practice, the two have made it their goal to make going to the dentist fun. And as dentists and business owners, they understand the need for efficiency. Their new expanded offices will feature the comfort and safety of their current practice with streamlined patient care set-up.

"The overall design is tailored to efficiency in the workplace," said Simpson Senior Project Manager Josh Vogel. "The owners' attention to detail has been phenomenal in terms of assuring the comfort of both patients and families." The 8,300 sq.-ft. interior will feature eight hygiene chairs, four operator chairs and one sedation chair, with an on-site lab that's centrally located for immediate access by staff and dentists. Faux trees will be installed in the main waiting area as well as the hygiene bay area to promote an environment of relaxation and play.

Frazier noted that the Simpson team helped make the endeavor less daunting. "Simpson Construction has made this big project very manageable. Josh and Jason (Lien) have been fantastic leaders and have always been competent professionals. They know each detail about the project and want everything right. I have ultimate confidence in their work."

Working with the team at Sheldon Architecture, Simpson has been able to focus on exceeding the client's needs through creative solutions. For example, seating is being installed outside of each hygiene bay where family members can remain close by. Interactive activities will be available throughout the waiting areas.

"Dr. Walker and I want every patient to feel welcome and loved in our practice and then we can build trust with them," said Frazier. "If they feel safe, we can educate them on great oral health and complete necessary dental procedures. We wanted the design to create a warm and inviting space for our young patients and our special needs patients."

The new Children's Dental Professionals office is slated for completion in Fall 2015.

DANIEL HERMAN PROJECT COORDINATOR

Simpson Project Coordinator Daniel Herman knows who he is and what he wants out of life.

“Since I was young, I always had an affinity for the details of the environment, which was often a built structure,” said Daniel.

“As I grew older, I found that anything I could do to manipulate an environment to make it better was an extremely gratifying experience.” This interest eventually translated itself into Construction Engineering degree from Pittsburg State University.

During his internship with Simpson, Daniel was tasked with finishing up a project. It was then that he really caught the attention of Chad Buresh, Director of Field Operations. “When he was left in charge those last few weeks of summer, Daniel stepped up to the plate and really excelled,” said Chad. “That’s when I knew we wanted to bring him on board.”

Daniel eventually joined the team in the newly minted role of Project Coordinator, a position he feels gives him the opportunity to support both the superintendent and project manager, while garnering experience. It’s not unusual for colleagues to seek out Daniel’s thoughts on trends and breaking technology.

When he’s not onsite or in the office, Daniel is working through his own “mile long” to-do list which includes home improvement and automobile projects, with an eye on conservation. “I like to recycle, reuse and salvage things when possible,” admits Daniel. And he likes to do things himself; but confesses to sometimes recruiting his girlfriend Kelsey to help. To unwind, Daniel likes to play snooker at a local pool hall his dad has taken him to since he was 12.

Chalklines

A PARTIAL LIST OF CURRENT PROJECTS

Wichita Art Museum
Confluence
Construction Management
<http://wichitaartgarden.simpsonconst.com/>

USD 375 Circle High School
DLR Group & Gravity Works Architecture
Construction Management
<http://circleusd375.simpsonconst.com/>

Northwest High School
Schaefer Johnson Cox Frey Architecture

Children’s Dental Professionals
Shelden Architecture
Construction Management
<http://jumpreachgrowsmile.simpsonconst.com/>

USD 379 Clay County
SPT Architecture
Construction Management
<http://claycountyusd379.simpsonconst.com>

**American AgCredit,
Wichita Headquarters**
SPT Architecture
Design Build

Emprise Bank Renovations
Schaefer Johnson Cox Frey Architecture
Construction Management

**Wichita Collegiate School Early
Childhood Play Environment**
Didier Design Studio
Construction Management

Shepherd’s Crossing, Independent Living
GLMV Architecture
Construction Management

Building Controls & Services Expansion
SPT Architecture
Construction Management

**To see more projects, visit
www.simpsonconst.com**

SIMPSON CONSTRUCTION ANNIVERSARIES *Happy anniversary to our dedicated employees!*

30 years Robert Simpson

15 years Jerry Allen

5 years Jason Lien

24 years Chad Buresh

8 years Chris Baalman

2 years Rodney Claassen

21 years Gregg Oblinger

7 years Gary Lubbers

2 years Rick Talbott

18 years Devin Carter

5 years Brooks Dohrman

THE CORNER OFFICE - BOB SIMPSON

THOUGH TECHNOLOGY EVOLVES, PERSONAL TOUCH PREVAILS

I don't have to tell you there have been significant changes in technology since I joined the family business in 1985, even if you aren't old enough to remember back that far.

We have exchanged paper blue prints and hand tallied bids for Smart TVs, Total Stations and iSqFt. We still meet clients face to face, but it's supplemented by emails, video conferencing and texting. Satellites aid surveying and our clients keep close tabs on construction through our project blogs and social media.

Technology changes and information is shared at the speed of light; it's a literal race to keep up.

So has this changed the way we do business? Yes and no. While we aren't rushing out to buy the latest and greatest electronic toys, we constantly consider which tools work best for us and our clients. The addition of more millennials into our work force raises our collective tech IQ as we utilize their skills and learn from them.

New software collects and analyzes data, a drone shows us a different point of view, but it takes the fifty plus years of experience we have to know what to do with this new onslaught of information. There are dozens of ways to get a message to someone: text, tweet, call and email; video conferencing puts stakeholders who are physically across the country in the same room. However, these aren't a substitute for knowing how to actually communicate ideas and build relationships.

So while I'm excited to see us work smarter with technology, we remain committed to the attention to detail and personal touch that machines cannot provide.

Bob Simpson

SIMPSON 
CONSTRUCTION SERVICES



PRST STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
WICHITA KS
PERMIT #431



SIMPSON
CONSTRUCTION SERVICES

P.O. BOX 771088 · WICHITA, KS 67277-1088
www.simpsonconst.com · 316.942.3206

Storage can be both functional and attractive, like this Building Controls and Services, Inc. warehouse expansion. Visit www.simpsonconst.com to learn more.