



Professional Profile: Thomas Covell, AIA, 2013

June 24, 2013 - Green Buildings

Name: Thomas Covell, AIA

Title: Architect, Senior Associate, Healthcare Practice Leader

Company: SWBR Architects

Location: Rochester, N.Y.

Birthplace: Syracuse, N.Y.

Education: Bachelor of Science in Art and Design - Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Master of Architecture - Washington University

First job outside of real estate: House painting in college.

First job in real estate or allied field: Summer architectural internship with Sargent Webster Crenshaw and Folley in Syracuse.

What do you do now and what are you planning for the future? I joined SWBR 1.5 years ago to spearhead an expansion of the firm's healthcare practice - hospital and ambulatory. This will be my primary focus into the future.

How do you unwind from a busy day in real estate? Sailing, choral singing, keeping up with my (adult) children.

Favorite book or author: It's the book I just finished: "Team of Rivals" by Doris Kearns Goodwin. Excellent writing - even though I knew how the story ended, she kept me engaged through all 700+ pages.

Favorite movie: "Lawrence of Arabia"

Last song you downloaded? I still like to "own" my music on a CD. The only music I've ever downloaded was Mahler's 2nd Symphony.

One word to describe your work environment: Collaborative

Rules to live by in business: Design and construction projects inevitably face problems and challenges: the best approach is to face them honestly and forthrightly, take responsibility for your own shortcomings and help the client solve the problem.

If you could invite one person to dinner (living or dead) who would it be and where would you go? Doris Kearns Goodwin has convinced me that an evening with Abraham Lincoln in his house in Springfield would be a remarkable experience.

What is your dream job? I'm looking forward to being a grandfather - a great job that will take me right through retirement!