



## QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

with BGR Design + Build Architect, Tyler McLemore

Tyler McLemore is a Registered Architect and is LEED AP BD + C Certified for Green Building Design. Before joining **BGR Design + Build** in 2022, Tyler worked for a variety of architecture firms throughout the United States, including both smaller firms and larger firms which have national/global practices. His professional experience includes a wide range of project types from custom residential and multi-family dwellings to mixed use, healthcare, adaptive-reuse, and commercial projects.

1) What inspired you to become an architect?

From a young age, I've always enjoyed building, making, and creating. I've also always loved art, drawing, and photography. Becoming an Architect seemed like a natural application of my intuitive skill and interests. I love that architecture is a creative outlet that yields a physical artifact that will outlive the designer.

2) Which people(s) or institution(s) had the most influence on your career, and why?

David Allison, FAIA, who was my architecture instructor at Clemson University probably had the most influence on me. His way of teaching instilled a lot of confidence in my design. Additionally, he reinforced careful site-specific, naturally inspired design which remains a priority to me today.

Another major influence for me, more recently, is a famous architect out of San Diego, Jonathan Segal. His firm operates as designer-builder-developer. With this level of control, he has been able to create exceptional architecture.

3) What architectural style(s) would you say most influence your own designs?

The styles that have greatest influence on my designs are those that are responsive to natural conditions and sensitive to the natural environment. I also love the work of Olson Kundig, which is known for expressive use materials and assemblies.

4) In laymen's terms, what does the term "Design-Build" mean?

Design + Build is a model with one entity handling both design and construction. This has many benefits for clients including increased efficiency and a single source of accountability. Reducing handoff between architect and contractor creates a more efficient process resulting in better time management, reduced cost, fewer errors, and reduced 'finger-pointing' between the architect and contractor.

5) When did you officially start work as in-house Architect for **BGR Design + Build**?

When I began work at BGR in July of 2023, I worked with construction project managers assisting with project management, estimating, and the construction process. With that General Contracting experience, I began working as the in-house architect, with new insight in how to create better drawing sets, with the estimation and build process in mind.

6) Describe your work life pre-**BGR Design + Build**; and have you always lived in Athens, Georgia?

I have lived and worked in Athens, Georgia for around four years. Prior to moving to Athens, I resided and practiced architecture in: Atlanta, GA, Columbia and Charleston, SC, Huntsville, AL, and Sacramento, CA.

7) Is there something you would like to do as an architect (in the design of new homes, additions, or remodels) that honors the local “flavor” of Athens? Or do you have a unique style you’d like to add to the mix?

I believe good architecture is always respectful of and reactive to local context. But I also love that architecture offers the opportunity for creative expression. It’s the blending of contextual reaction and creative expression that creates great buildings and great communities.

8) How many homes or structures have you designed?

Having worked at several Architecture firms varying in size, from small firms with just three employees to multi-national companies with thousands of employees, I’ve had the opportunity to work on dozens of projects from multi-family apartments, mixed use, healthcare, commercial tenant buildouts, adaptive re-use, single-family homes, and additions/remodels.

9) Describe, in a few sentences, your design process:

My process begins and ends with listening and understanding. I pride myself on really listening to the client’s desires and creating solutions that solve the client’s needs in the most cost-effective and beautiful way possible, while trying to offer new and creative ideas to enhance the final design. I always strive to create the highest value for clients. I have tremendous respect for each client’s budget. I design in a way that creates the highest value and best product possible for each construction dollar spent.

10) Can you share a few positive interactions you’ve had with clients or any personal stories about a project you enjoyed working on?

We were approached by a client to do a remodel of an existing historic shotgun house in the Boulevard neighborhood in Athens, Georgia. The client had a sketch on a napkin plus a list of needs for the new floor plan. Since they chose to work with **BGR Design + Build** and its new in-house architect (me), we were able to offer alternate floor plan solutions to meet their needs. We ended up creating a design that incorporated each of the client’s needs in a way that is spatially more efficient and more cost effective than the client’s original vision. The client was thrilled. This is the type of high-value design + construction we strive to offer each of our clients.

11) What are some of the tools you use in designing a home or creating an addition or remodel?

Regarding my process, technically, I do all of my designs in 3D modeling software, so the client and builder are able to easily understand their project beyond flat, two-dimensional drawings.

12) If you had to put a ballpark on client savings, by working with a design-build company who has an in-house architect on staff, like **BGR Design + Build**, versus working with a construction company and a separate third-party architect (and doing all the back-and-forth this would require)— what percentage of the total job would you say a client can save by working with **BGR Design + Build** with you as their in-house architect and having that all-in-one-place service?

Through working with our 'one-stop-shop,' design-build model, clients find meaningful cost savings in two key places. The first is by efficiency of process. Since we offer full service from design to construction, we can streamline the process, reducing handoff, reducing errors in communication, and ultimately delivering a finished product faster than our competitors. The second way we can reduce cost for our clients is through design collaboration. During our design process, we consult with our team, internally, constantly searching for the path of least resistance in terms of achieving the client's goals with the most efficient build process in mind. We also work with a trusted and proven roster of subcontractors, material suppliers, and trade partners to influence design decisions resulting in lower construction cost.

13) You built your own home— describe that process:

My wife and I built a pair of tiny treehouses on the wooded lot behind our residence. In designing a project for us, we were able to creatively express the architecture in a way that's sometimes challenging to do when designing with a client's budgetary and stylistic constraints. Interestingly, it was this project that inspired me to want to work as an Architect for a construction company. Through the course of my own personal construction project, the errors, inefficiency, lack of communication, and lack of control with third party builders made me realize that the traditional handoff from architect to builder has plenty of room for improvement. Joining the **BGR Design + Build** team has given me the opportunity to help create a better design and construction process for clients.

14) What are some of your future goals as an architect?

My goal as an architect, today and into the future, is to create exceptional buildings. I want to design dwellings that clients rave about. I want to design high-quality buildings that enhance and elevate the built environment for the communities where they exist.

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## CONTACT INFORMATION

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