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**2020 Ones to Watch: Jason Wagner, AIA, LEED AP BD+C,  
Senior Architect at Gale Associates, Inc.**

May 29, 2020 - Spotlights



Jason Wagner, AIA, LEED AP BD+C  
Gale Associates, Inc.

Who or what inspires you? I have always enjoyed hiking and I am inspired by the experience it offers me. Although many elements of hiking are attractive, the element that defines the hiking experience most intensely is the element of the unknown and the enticement of potential discoveries. What will I discover around the next bend or over the next hill? The anticipation of hiking along a new trail is akin to the inspiration I find in the opportunities and challenges that often arise in architectural design, making each new journey or experience enticing and a memorable experience.

What advice can you offer to someone who is interested in a career in your industry? Although good design is essential, developing good relationships with clients for whom you are designing is the key to your future career in the industry. Clients are not only looking for good and effective design, they are looking for relationships with design professionals who can lead them and help them navigate the waters of design. Being a leader and being proactive in developing trusting relationships with clients is the best way to succeed in the design and construction industry.

What led you to your current profession? My career path was a bit of a circuitous route which began with my passion for art, specifically drawing, from a very early age. My passion for design was a guiding force throughout my life, whether it be a sketching and drawing in my free time, or in the many design studios throughout my college career. I also enjoy creative problem solving. My choice to pursue architecture allows me to tap into my design background to help me create design solutions that solve the many complex, interesting and unique problems often encountered in architectural design.