

Clayton Adkisson

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△ Openworks, LLC | 2610 Westwood Drive | Nashville, TN, USA 37204

PERSONAL HISTORY

For over a decade, Clay has been practicing professionally at the intersection of architecture, masterplanning, and real estate development. Today, you can find him working to transform many of Nashville's changing urban neighborhoods into more inclusive, more affordable, and more accessible places to be enjoyed by all.

A native Nashvillian, Clay began working commercial construction there at the age of sixteen and has spent every day since making buildings. Today, Clay's work has expanded in scale to include masterplanning for transformative urban districts, delivering award-winning housing designs, and overseeing real estate development for large scale mixed-income, mixed-use projects. Prior to co-founding design+development practice, Openworks in 2015, Clay worked for award-winning Nashville-area architecture firm, Dryden Studio.

Outside of his professional practice, Clay serves as an Assistant Professor of Practice at the University of Tennessee, where he co-leads the Summer Urban Design Studio. Prior to that appointment, he served as an Adjunct Lecturer at The University of Tennessee and as a Teaching Assistant at Harvard University.

EDUCATION

Harvard University

Cambridge, Massachusetts

Master of Architecture in Urban Design, 2016

University of Tennessee

Knoxville, Tennessee

Bachelor of Architecture, 2011

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Openworks Nashville, TN

Position: Managing Partner

Duration: 2015 - present

Duties: Financial Modeling, Real Estate Analytics, Programming, Urban Design, and Masterplanning

Clients: Major universities, city and municipal governments, non-profit institutions, and private sector real estate development companies

Adkisson & Associates Architects Nashville, TN

Position: Project Manager

Duration: 2017 - present

Duties: Pre-Design, Schematic Design, Design Development, Construction Documents, Project Management

Clients: City and municipal governments, private institutions, and corporations

Dryden Studio Nashville, TN

Position: Intern Architect

Duration: Summer 2010; 2011 - 2014

Duties: Schematic Design, Design Development, Construction Documents, Construction Administration

Clients: Internationally-recognized musicians, nationally-recognized fashion and lifestyle brands, and locally-recognized non-profit real estate developers

***TEACHING
EXPERIENCE***

University of Tennessee, School of Architecture Knoxville, TN

Position: Assistant Professor of Practice
Duration: 2022 - present
Duties: Lead the summer Urban Design program for undergraduate architecture students; Teach three courses in Urban Design

University of Tennessee, School of Architecture Knoxville, TN

Position: Adjunct Lecturer
Duration: 2021 - 2022
Duties: Created and administered course materials, lectured, served as design critic for urban design studios

University of Tennessee, School of Architecture Knoxville, TN

Position: Invited Critic, Arc 572
Duration: Spring 2021
Duties: Invited by Professors Tricia Stuth & Ted Shelton to co-teach the Arc 572 studio focused on mixed-income housing development; Created supplemental course materials, lectured, participated in design reviews

University of Tennessee, School of Architecture Knoxville, TN

Position: Invited Lecturer, Arc 462/562
Duration: Spring 2018 - 2020
Duties: Invited to lecture to the undergraduate and graduate professional practice class on project delivery methods and alternative modes of practice

Harvard University, Graduate School of Design Cambridge, MA

Position: Research Assistant to Professor Felipe Correa, MAUD Director
Duration: Summer 2015
Duties: Edited student work and created new design content for international publication of housing typologies in Mexico

Harvard University, Graduate School of Design Cambridge, MA

Position: Teaching Assistant to Professor Joan Busquets
Duration: Spring 2015
Duties: Administrative work, course scheduling and lectures, edited and organized student work for international publication on city grids and urban morphologies

Invited Architecture Critic

2012 - Present University of Tennessee
2016 Summer Harvard University
2015 Fall Wesleyan University
2013 Spring Georgia Tech

***PROFESSIONAL
AWARDS***

2023 ULI Excellence in Development Award, Winner
Winner of the 2023 ULI Nashville Excellence in Development Award for work with Adkisson & Associates Architects on the masterplanning and architectural design of the Fairgrounds Nashville Campus -- a 117 acre mixed use, public/private partnership with Metro Nashville, Nashville FC & Major League Soccer, and the private development community

- 2022** Metro Nashville Mixed-Income PILOT Program, Inaugural Recipient
One of four recipients to receive Metro Nashville's first ever payment in lieu of taxes (PILOT) program for mixed-income housing development. Received ~\$1.5MM (over its duration) property tax abatement to support the creation of mixed-income housing for units renting less than 75% AMI in Metro Nashville
- 2021** Barnes Fund for Affordable Housing, Winner
Recipient of \$2.5MM grant for development of 80 units of affordable housing and 8,000 SF of supporting educational resource space for a non-profit institution near downtown Nashville
- 2020** Westside District Chattanooga, Finalist
Comprehensive masterplan for 110 acre site near downtown Chattanooga, including +1,500 units of elderly and affordable housing
- 2017** Envision Edgehill, Finalist
Masterplan and redevelopment for 42 acre affordable and mixed-income housing campus including over 3,000 units of mixed-income housing near downtown Nashville
- 2017** Greer Stadium Rehabilitation, Winner
\$120M masterplan for converting a disused baseball stadium into a 21 acre, 500,000 SqFt mixed-income, mixed-use arts district near downtown Nashville

***TEACHING
AWARDS***

- 2023** AIA / ACSA Housing Design Education Award, Winner
Recipient of national teaching award for mixed-income housing design; Collaboration with Professors Tricia Stuth and Ted Shelton on their Arc 572 graduate housing studio, *Housing America: Architecture's Social Agenda at the Center of Pedagogy*

***COMMUNITY
INVOLVEMENT***

- 2022 - Present** Urban Housing Solutions, Operations & Development Board Member
- 2021 - Present** ULI Nashville Civic Leadership Forum, Co-Chairman
- 2021 - Present** ULI Attainable Housing Action Council, Member
- 2020 - Present** ULI Housing Action Council, Member
- 2018 - 2020** ULI Building Healthy Places Action Council, Member
- 2016 - Present** Nashville Civic Design Center, Member