



Career Designs

Rob Orme scales new heights with Humphreys and Partners.

By his own testimony, Rob Orme started at the bottom of the multifamily industry—cleaning toilets as an apartment community maintenance man. Ah, but how far he's come: Today, Orme is the regional director for the new Phoenix office of Humphreys and Partners Architects. Previously a principal architect at Mark-Taylor, Orme has a bachelor's degree

in architecture from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona and did some graduate work at Arizona State University.

**Q
&
A**

Q: What appealed to you about this job?

A: Thus far in my career, I have been a regional guy working with regional firms. I am excited to join a national firm with experience in such a vast array of multifamily project types.

Q: What do you hope to accomplish in your new role?

A: It is my goal to provide innovative and practical design solutions along with responsive and competent service to the development community. Working with a national firm offers the immense resources and expertise that local offices often lack. I expect to bring that expertise and those resources to every project we do.

Q: What do you see as a big challenge for the industry in the coming year?

A: I think it will continue to be a challenge to, one, adjust rents to compensate for the ballooning cost of construction at new properties, and two, control the resulting ripple of rent increases at existing properties to prevent a shortage of decent affordable housing.

Q: What was your first job in the multifamily industry?

A: I started my multifamily career as the maintenance man for an apartment community while I was in college. In general, the flexibility worked well with my schedule, but I was often found plunging toilets between classes. ...so I guess you could say I literally started at the bottom.

Q: What's the best advice anyone ever gave you about your career?

A: One of my college professors repeatedly taught that competence in your profession will provide longevity in your career. As an architect, it doesn't matter how well you speak, how pretty your drawings are, or how much you produce—if you aren't competent in all your responsibilities, you won't last very long.

Q: How would you describe the multifamily industry's career opportunities?

A: Vast. It is a continually evolving industry with still-untapped opportunities. **[M]**

► **Julie Mahnick** has joined Summit Design + Build as a project manager. She will be responsible for coordinating and supervising various projects'

design and construction processes, including maintaining building standards. Prior to Summit, she was a project manager with Clayco.