



Designed-to-Engage...Made-to-Last



Coaching and Its Rewards

I've been coaching ice hockey teams for over 30 years - everything from high-performing athletes to young kids having fun in house league. What I've learned through coaching, they don't teach in architecture school.



Working within teams, be it kids or adults, takes a mindset of encouragement, so others can reach their potential. Even high-performers benefit from coaching. A good coach creates an atmosphere where individual talents and opinions come together into a high achieving team. Coaching is an art and one I think I have become known for and adept at, leading by example and expanding the improbable into the possible. When designing a new building or rehabbing an

historic building, effective coaching helps us achieve our clients' vision and meet community demands. At BELL we have developed a way of doing business where all sides come out satisfied and feeling like winners.

Part of coaching often requires helping others explore new directions. With technology today moving seemingly at light speed, staying informed is only part of our job. Inspiring clients to adapt or invest more money can be a challenge. Especially as major infrastructure, technology, and economic changes evolve. It used to be how can we minimize negative impacts. Today the industry is asking, how can we design and construct to maximize positive impacts? Instead of less bad, we are moving rapidly into how can we do more good for the environment and humankind. How can we take advantage of resources without the waste of the past? How can we make building occupancy healthier with improved fresh air and daylight? I'm especially interested in historic and public buildings where investing in geothermal heat pumps can have a reasonable payback period, long-term savings, and greatly improved quality of life. Just that one thing (storing energy in the ground) enhances outdoor spaces, reduces noise and the heat island effect, while providing savings in operational and maintenance costs. With the recent [DC Energy Net-Zero 2025](#) infrastructure bill and the federal [Inflation Reduction Act](#), we have a mandate and a huge opportunity for positive impact.

With the advent of artificial intelligence, augmented reality, and various new apps coming to market daily, the practice of architecture as we know it is changing. I know the zeitgeist is about net-zero, but in the very near future it will be about making a net-positive impact. Just like technology has changed sport (think Money Ball), coaches need to help their teams adapt. My team is training for it now. Are you ready?

Thank you!



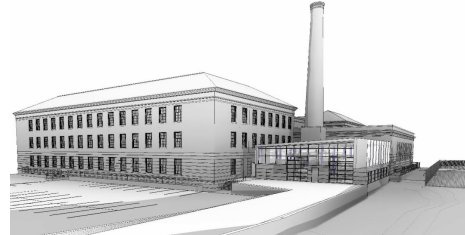
ON THE BOARDS:

DC Infrastructure Academy

Washington, DC

BELL Architects is proud to lead a diverse team of design professionals for the **DC Infrastructure Academy's** occupancy of the historic Spingarn High School in the Kingman Park, Carver/Langston neighborhoods of the District of Columbia's Ward

Five. The A/E team includes VMDO, Nitsch Engineering, Wiles Mensch DC, Landscape Architecture Bureau (MKS), Silman, CMTA, Polysonics, EAC/Archaeology, ECS Mid-Atlantic, and MGAC. Working with the Department of General Services and Brailsford & Dunlavey, the team created a stormwater master plan for the entire education campus and the adaptive reuse of the vacant Spingarn building. In January, the project's preliminary design was unanimously approved by both the Commission of Fine Arts and the Historic Preservation Review Board. Smoot recently joined as the construction manager (CMAR).



Infrastructure is a broad term that encompasses below and above-grade utilities, renewable energy and sustainable transportation. [The DC Infrastructure Academy](#) is a major initiative by Mayor Bowser to meet the growing needs in the construction, energy, telecommunications, road work and utility industries. As a forward-looking organization it has set goals to train District residents for good careers, addressing the city's needs for ongoing and transitioning construction and maintenance. Referring to the requirements that are set to become law in 2025, graduates will be prepared to usher the built environment into a sustainable economy.



Erin Holdenried, AIA, LEED AP BD+C, SEED

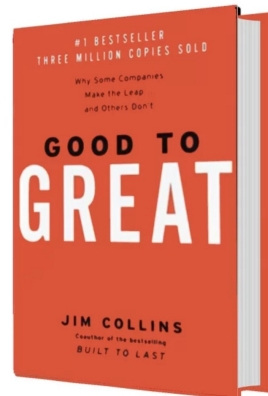
Project Architect | Director of Sustainability

We're thrilled to have Erin as part of our team. Her extensive experience guiding multi-disciplinary teams through sustainable projects and attaining LEED certification for over 50 projects makes her an outstanding expert in the field, as well as an important new member of our firm. Erin views each project as an opportunity to have a positive impact on the planet and encourages and supports clients and our communities to deliver high-performing buildings with low environmental footprints.

As a native of DC and a frequent hiker in Rock Creek Park, Erin combines her love of nature with her passion for sustainability by walking the talk.

Welcome Erin!

University of Texas at Austin, Master of Architecture; Washington University in St Louis, Bachelor of Science in Architecture.



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by Jim Collins

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