

Experience

MICHAEL WATKINS ARCHITECT, LLC
Urban Design & Architecture

Designer, August 2023 – present.

BB Creek, Taylor, Tex. 2023 – present.

In 2021, the City of Taylor, Texas, a small city about 35 miles Northeast of Austin, hired MWA as their on-call urban design consultant to review development plans submitted to the city with the goal of creating more walkable neighborhoods. One such plan at the north end of town is bounded by a natural creek and future pedestrian and bicycle trail, providing a link to downtown. The 7-acre townhouse infill community considered connections to neighboring parcels as well as constraints set by TxDOT. Roberts played an important role in the revision and completion of the masterplan, project book, and planning and development standards.

Spotswood, Williamsburg, Va. 2023 – present.

In the summer of 2020, MWA was hired by Frye Properties to prepare a Master Plan for Spotswood, an addition to the City of Williamsburg. Located just South of the historic center, the site provides the opportunity to create a seamless extension of an existing neighborhood and take advantage of the views of an existing gulf course. The plan responds to existing topography and mature trees, provides ample civic space in the form of pedestrian promenades and paths, and allows for a diverse mix of housing types, ranging from attached townhomes to alley mews. Roberts played an extensive role in the revision and completion of the masterplan, project book, and planning and development standards.

Silicon Vistas, Taylor, Tx. 2023 – present.

Located within Taylor’s Special Employment District, a zone of anticipated high-intensity development, Silicon Vistas is mixed-use walkable neighborhood providing a wide variety of housing types including multi-family buildings, townhouses, live-works, and mews units. A challenge posed by this design was incorporating neighborhood fabric with large-scale industrial buildings, as providing walkable connections to new employment centers is a central objective of the City. The plan utilizes required stormwater infrastructure as a community amenity, with drainage easements and ponds incorporated into parks as part of a City-wide network of parks and trails. Roberts played an important role participating in the design charrette and was central to the refinement of the masterplan and delivery of the project book and planned development standards.

Internships

DPZ CoDesign, Miami, Florida; Summer 2022

G5 Architecture, Archbold, Ohio; 2019, 2020, & 2021

Education

Bachelor of Architecture, University of Notre Dame, South Bend, Indiana, 2023
 Concentration in Furniture Design
 President of Students for New Urbanism