

**Experience**

MICHAEL WATKINS ARCHITECT, LLC  
*Urban Design & Architecture*

**Designer, Jun 2023 – present.****Car-Free Community, Location Withheld by Request. 2023 – present.**

Near a suburb of a major city, MWA was asked to design a town that is not only pedestrian-friendly but completely car-free. The plan follows the site topography and wetlands and hinges on a double armature, one civic and one commercial. Within the armature and fabric of the community, multiple mixed-use neighborhood centers and a variety of housing types, a farm, community gardens and elementary school were proposed. Sam is involved in the design, planning, and illustration of this groundbreaking project.

Walt Disney Imagineering  
*Theme Parks & Resorts*

**Creative Concept Designer, Jan 2019 – Jul 2021.****Show Set Designer, Jun 2017 – Jan 2019****Mickey & Minnie’s Runaway Railway, Disneyland Resort Anaheim, Ca. 2020 - 2021**

Located at the Disneyland Resort in Anaheim, this state-of-the-art attraction combines the latest in digital projection technology with material set design to create a “2.5 Dimensional” environment. Sam was involved in the design and modeling of the rockwork, media pods, & scenic environments. He worked for and with special effects teams to ensure that set design surfaces could effectively receive projected media content for the show.

**New Space Mountain, Tokyo Disneyland Resort, Japan. 2020 - 2021**

Located at the Tokyo Disneyland Resort in Tokyo, Japan, a new Space Mountain attraction is being envisioned to replace the iconic 40-year-old rollercoaster, while still maintaining the spirit of what guest love about the original attraction. Sam was influential in designing and modeling sets within the new attraction, coordinating those sets with the ride vehicle team, as well as producing creative artwork to pitch ideas and concepts for the new attraction.

**[Undisclosed] Attraction Project, 2019 - 2020**

Planned for a domestic theme park, Sam worked as a concept designer on this undisclosed attraction, designing the scenic environments & coordinating with the ride (safety) envelope.

**[Undisclosed] International Resort Project, 2019 - 2020**

A planned new international Disney Resort property. Sam played a major role in master planning, designing, and illustrating this new kind type of project for high level executives.

**[Undisclosed] International Resort Project, 2019**

A planned expansion for an international Disney Resort property. Sam played a major role in master planning, designing, and illustrating this bold creative project for high level executives.

**[Undisclosed] International Theme Park Project, 2018 - 2019**

A planned expansion for an international Disney Resort property. Sam led the master plan, design, and illustration for an entire “land” of this large-scale project.

**Fantasy Springs, Tokyo Disneyland Resort, JP. 2017-2019**

In the largest expansion to the Tokyo Disney Sea theme park since its opening in 2001, Fantasy Springs will bring three new state-of-the-art “E-Ticket” attractions to the resort, as well as an entirely new “land” to explore with themed shops, waterways, restaurants, a hotel, and smaller attractions. Sam played a design role in the planning, illustrating, and modeling of many scenes across the new Tangled, Peter Pan, and Frozen themed attractions and area development.

**It’s a Small World “Refresh”, Tokyo Disneyland Resort, JP. 2017**

In a refresh of the iconic and popular attraction recreated from the 1964 World’s Fair, Tokyo’s It’s a Small World was improved to include an updated show, an entirely new Load/Unload Area, and improved accommodations for guests with disabilities. Sam played a central role in the planning and design of the new Load/Unload space while coordinating with Ride Operations to ensure safety. Sam also helped to design the new murals for the scene and was part of a team of painters who painted the murals before shipping them overseas.

**Internships**

Michael G. Imber Architects, San Antonio, Texas; 2022  
Walt Disney Imagineering, Glendale, California; 2012, 2015 & 2016  
Sawasy Studio Partners, South Pasadena, California; 2014  
Disneyland Resort, Anaheim California; 2013

**Education**

BArch. Bachelor of Architecture. Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa, 2017  
M.ADU. Master of Architectural Design & Urbanism. University of Notre Dame, South Bend, Indiana, 2023