

# THE CHARENTE



edition 5 \_ summer 2023

a **studio+** quarterly

*Summer*





## charette noun

cha·rette

**variants:** charrette \ she'ret \

**definition:** the intense final effort made by architects to complete their solutions to a given architectural problem in an allotted time.



# THE CHARENTE

## contents

<b>1</b>	damon's desk: a letter from the ceo	4
<b>2</b>	hello michigan	8
<b>3</b>	part i: the essential elements of senior living design: space, place, experience	14
<b>4</b>	aging nation, thriving seniors	22
<b>5</b>	projects on the rise	28
<b>6</b>	product parade	30
<b>7</b>	culture	38

damon's desk:

# A letter from the CEO

## Design, Growth, and Summer

As we dive into the heart of the summer season, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on the exciting developments and milestones we've achieved together as a team.

In this issue, we focus on one of our primary markets: The Essential Elements of Senior Living Design. Our dedicated team of experts has been hard at work, tirelessly crafting senior living spaces that foster a sense of community, well-being, and vitality for our cherished residents. From vibrant common areas to thoughtfully designed private spaces, our commitment to creating an environment that feels like home remains unwavering.

I'm thrilled to announce the successful acquisition of a firm in Michigan, leading to the opening of our new office in Traverse City. This exciting venture brings us closer to our mission of positively impacting lives through design across the nation. We extend a warm welcome to our new colleagues and look forward to the incredible opportunities that lie ahead.

In addition to our expansion, we've had the pleasure of welcoming several talented individuals to our team - extending our reach and ensuring our commitment to excellence knows no bounds.



As the sun shines brighter and the days grow longer, embracing the spirit of summer is essential. It's a time of rejuvenation, relaxation, and cherished memories. So, whether you're enjoying a sandy beach vacation, exploring the great outdoors, or simply savoring in solitude, take a moment to embrace the joy this season brings.

Thank you for your unwavering support and dedication to our mission. Studio+ wishes you all a sensational summer.

Damon Romanello  
CEO | Founder  
Studio+



We create design  
solutions that  
nurture & revitalize



# THE CHARETTE

summer edition 5

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## studio+

Studio+ provides a wide array of services within architecture and interior design across numerous markets including education, healthcare, senior living, and corporate. We unite these services to bring a unique product to our clients - seamless services that deliver results beyond typical expectations.

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## about the cover.

### **Amavida Senior Living**

Amavida is a resort style community that aims to address the growing demand for senior living solutions by disrupting commonly held beliefs about senior living facilities. The lifestyle that Amavida encourages through its vast on-site amenities, luxury resort atmosphere, and multitude of recreational activities has resulted in a fundamental shift in senior living. The 32-acre community includes 460 units divided among independent living, assisted living and memory care making it one of the largest 55-plus rental communities in the region.

## the editors.



BRIANNA QUIGGLE

communications & content strategist  
studio+

From internship to senior associate, Brianna is a Studio+ veteran of eight years. We like to call her a jack-of-all-trades since she has had a hand in everything from public relations and marketing to finance and operations. She is a graduate of Florida Gulf Coast University with a BS in Marketing and currently guides strategic content messaging and proposal pursuits at Studio+. A Florida girl, despite her New England origins, Brianna resides in Naples, FL. When she is not seeking out information for the next content piece, she puts on her mom jeans and becomes CEO of the Quiggles.



JOY BROWNWORTH

creative director  
studio+

Joy is an award-winning designer with a proven track-record of developing brand identities and strategic marketing campaigns. Today you'll find her as the Creative Director at Studio+, where she is dedicated to company marketing and branding. Born in Texas, raised in Georgia, Joy graduated from the Savannah College of Art and Design with a BFA in Visual Effects. Outside the office, you can find her making plans to visit a new country or trying to lower her handicap on the golf course.

# HELLO MICHIGAN

**Studio+ Traverse City is open for business, and we've added retail and hospitality to our market line-up.**

Studio+ has recently acquired Assemble Design, a full-service design firm based in Northern Michigan. The strategic move allows Studio+ to enhance its design-oriented approach and expand its talent pool. Assemble Design, now operating as Studio+, brings a wealth of experience in retail, hospitality, and workspace design, bolstering Studio+'s capabilities in these sectors.



# O

# GAN



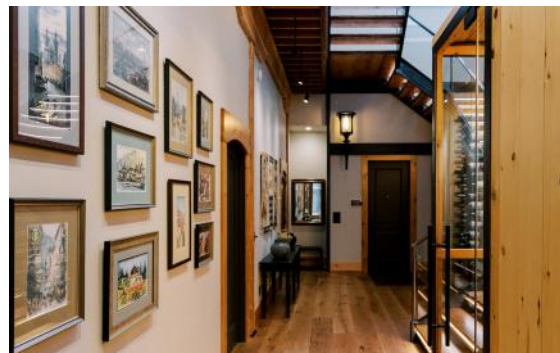


## REBRANDING & LEADERSHIP CHANGES

Founded in 2021 by Meghan Frederick, Assemble Design has rebranded as Studio+ following the acquisition. Meghan Frederick, a seasoned professional in the retail and hospitality design industry, now assumes the role of principal at Studio+ and leads two new national studios within the firm: retail and hospitality. Joining Frederick is Jessica King, an interior designer from Assemble Design, who will work alongside her at Studio+.

Damon Romanello, CEO of Studio+, expressed his excitement about the acquisition, stating, "Assemble Design is a market expert in the retail and hospitality design industry, and we are honored to welcome them to the Studio+

family." Romanello emphasized that the acquisition positions Studio+ to attract new talent and expand its design-focused portfolio. He noted the overlap between hospitality and healthcare design, highlighting the potential for leveraging Meghan Frederick's expertise to enhance and broaden Studio+'s work.



“Assemble Design is a market expert in the retail and hospitality design industry, and we are honored to welcome them to the Studio+ family.”

- Damon Romanello  
CEO, Studio+

## IMPRESSIVE CLIENT PORTFOLIO

Assemble Design boasts an impressive client portfolio that includes renowned brands such as Altar'd State, a women's fashion retailer, and Britten's BoxPop, a company specializing in transforming shipping containers into unique offices, brewpubs, wineries, and restaurants across the nation. Notable collaborative projects between Assemble Design and Britten's BoxPop include Nolo's Rooftop Bar in Minneapolis, Naples Zoo in Florida, and Toledo Zoo in Ohio.





## SHARED VALUES & CULTURAL ALIGNMENT

The decision to merge Assemble Design with Studio+ was based not only on their shared values and culture but also on their client-centric approach. Meghan Frederick highlighted the benefits of joining forces with Studio+, stating, “Studio+ brings all the operational and back-office support that we have needed to help us grow.” She also praised the ability of the Studio+ team to identify exceptional talent, which will contribute to expanding the depth of their collective experience and enable the delivery of projects of all sizes while maintaining a strong focus on design, quality, and service—the foundation of both firms.

## CONTINUED GROWTH & EXPANSION

Studio+ has evolved from a single office to a national practice with six offices across the country. The addition of the Assemble Design team will strengthen Studio+’s presence in Traverse City, Michigan, where they will continue serving clients under the Studio+ name. With this expansion, Studio+ is better positioned to provide transformative design solutions that positively impact people’s lives.



Studio+ brings all the operational and back-office support that we have needed to help us grow.

- Meghan Frederick  
Principal, Studio+



## ALL-IN-ALL

The acquisition of Assemble Design by Studio+ marks an exciting chapter for both firms. The integration of Assemble Design’s expertise in retail, hospitality, and workspace design enhances Studio+’s capabilities and expands their talent pool. As Studio+ continues to grow and strengthen its design-oriented approach, clients can expect innovative and transformative design solutions delivered with a focus on quality and service. +

**SPACE**  
**PLACE**  
**EXPERIENCE**



Written by Taylor Dupree Brewington  
In collaboration with subject expert, Sandy Troffer

# INNOVATION ISN'T ALWAYS THE ANSWER

The past few years have been challenging for the nation as a whole—but a demographic particularly affected by recent trials have been American seniors. A great deal has been studied, researched, and written on the experience of our seniors in a post-COVID, post-recession, and hyper-technologized age. There is very little “new” research we can add to this ongoing conversation that does not simply echo what senior living experts already know.

There are still problems to be solved in this sector though—continuous improvement does not always demand a moonshot idea. Design is more than identifying trends. It is more than innovation for innovations sake. Design is a complex practice—equal parts art and science, data and intuition, analytics and creativity.

“When you look through the lens of simplicity at a complicated problem, you can begin to draw up some interesting solutions.” Sandy Troffer, Studio+ principal and one of our leading experts on design thinkers regarding senior living, spurred on an effort to begin thinking about mastering the basics when it comes to senior living design.

**“WHEN YOU LOOK THROUGH THE LENS OF SIMPLICITY AT A COMPLICATED PROBLEM, YOU CAN BEGIN TO DRAW UP SOME INTERESTING SOLUTIONS.”**

**- Sandy Troffer**



"In practice, we start by identifying the essential elements of a built space," she adds. "We have to understand what the clients and their residents are looking for. Then, when you understand what is important to them, you have to lead your design team to make that vision a reality."

The question that anchored our study was a simple one: what are those essential architectural elements that define the senior living experience?

# ELEMENT ONE: SPACE

The first element of any architectural project is space. We design order into a blank space, and program that order to best fit the needs of all end users. So when it comes to space in senior living environments, what are the basics?

## FLEXIBILITY

“Anything good comes down to the basics—so we ask: what are people going to do in this space?” Sandy’s communication with clients draws out the needs of not only the senior residents of today, but what clients foresee residents in future decades desiring. “We’ve worked on projects in the past that started with smaller units. As residents moved in and aged, they began providing feedback that they’d feel empowered if they had a larger residence. These clients have adapted the built space to meet those demands, by combining existing units and by planning for larger units, or more easily modifiable units in future communities.”

People change, so spaces need to be flexible to accommodate those changes. One generation may prefer a certain type of amenity—a large relaxing sunroom and respite with access to outdoor, maintained gardens. But in several years’ time maybe the community desires some more active use, and the space needs to be subdivided into a garden room with access to the outdoor community gardens, and an indoor brewing area utilizing hops they grow on site. It is vital to retain a layer of flexibility in order to shift for these changes and remain marketable and functional.



THE DIMENSION OF HEIGHT, DEPTH, AND WIDTH WITHIN WHICH ALL THINGS EXIST

## CHOICE

But beyond generational change—people change from day to day. For this reason, another key factor of designing space is the integration of choice. “You have to realize that in many of these facilities, assisted and independent living populations are integrated. Beyond that, people come from a variety of backgrounds.” Choice fosters a level of independence and control in residents that helps mitigate feelings of institutionalization.

“Multiple dining options are a great example of this. I’ve worked on projects where we introduced multiple spots for residents to eat. It seems so simple, but it is vital. ‘Do I want to dress up and go to the fine dining place, or do I want something more casual? Do I want to go to the more social spot, or would I prefer to eat somewhere quiet tonight?’”

Decisions like these are made throughout our lives, and allowing residents in senior living spaces to continue to make decisions fosters an independence that leads to improved mental and physical wellbeing.







## ELEMENT TWO: PLACE

A DESIGNATED SPACE WITHIN A PARTICULAR REGION OR LOCATION

Transitioning from one's own home into a senior living environment can be an alienating experience. What was once familiar is now foreign. There are new people, new routines, a new room—an overwhelming amount of “new” can make residents feel utterly lost. Shaping a space into a “place” is the essential element of senior living design that helps residents navigate this alienation and find “home” in a new location.



## COMMUNITY

Residents may come from near or far, and can be lost in the cultural changes. Distinct design decisions should be made that make clear the community aesthetics and culture. Spaces are instilled with a sense of place when they resonate with the community's location in the nation (the state or city the location is in), the community's location in the overall neighborhood (the street my unit is on), or even the location in the building (the floor I live on and my neighbors around me).



Amenities then become extensions of the community. Instead of having a designated corner of the property for amenities, many clients are finding it better to disperse amenities throughout the communities. This functionally translates what may have been simply a meeting room or a garden into a community center. Residents grow proud of the amenities within their own neighborhoods, and experience a sense of communal ownership.

## TRANSITION

Senior living has been trending toward a fully integrated transitional model of care for some time. This means most residents enter into an Independent Living Facility (ILF). As the resident ages and requires additional care, they can transition into

an Assisted Living Facility (ALF). If a memory disorder arises, such as dementia or Alzheimer's, an additional level of care can be provided in a Memory Care Unit (MCU).

Already having discussed how alienating it can be for a new resident to uproot from their own home, now imagine the stress and anxiety of becoming settled in independent living, only to learn that due to a decline in health you must transition out of familiarity again and into a new way of life. The industry has rapidly adapted to accommodate aging-in-place, which allows a resident to remain in the same environment for the remainder of their life—even if their health declines.

The element of place is essential to ensure a seamless transition. Even if a resident must change apartments or units to accommodate a change in care, measures can be designed into the program of the building to maintain that sense of home. Sandy stands by the importance of consistent design language: "Change is hard, and transitioning between units may happen, but if there is a consistent design language, it can mitigate some of that difficulty. Architectural details, interiors, wayfinding—keeping this consistent alleviates the confusion."



# 03

## ELEMENT THREE: EXPERIENCE

### ALL THE EVENTS AND SENSORY EXPERIENCES THAT MAKE UP A LIFE

With the space planned and programmed, and summarily converted into a welcoming place, it is now time to introduce the most important element: the person. Our people-centered approach as a firm has centered on the personal experience, and while we've learned quite a bit on this subject, we also realize how it is important to remind ourselves of the basics of an individual's experience of a facility.

#### WELLNESS

It is important to thoroughly consider the ways architectural design impacts mental and physical wellness, particularly in senior living environments. We take into consideration the fact that some residents are mobile while others are sedentary, and aim to provide some essential elements that lead to improved wellness to all residents regardless of mobility. Things to consider when it comes to wellness:

**Thermal comfort**—temperature, humidity, and light are crucial for the comfort of residents. But temperature isn't a one-size-fits-all condition. The more control an individual resident has over their thermal comfort has multiple benefits (including giving them another area to exercise control)

**Psychological experience**—the mental experience of a resident experiencing loss of mobility can be dire, but measures can be made to improve their experience. "On some projects, we designed a faux-balcony in the residential room with a Juliet sliding door as opposed to a standard window. This helped residents engage with the outdoors even if they were limited in their mobility, while balancing total construction cost."



## DIGNITY

Aging is a humbling experience, but shouldn't be a humiliating one. "We have to take into consideration the varying degrees of care all of these people may experience and make accommodations accordingly." Sandy is particularly focused on maintaining dignity of residents within memory care, as well as the families coming to visit them.

"Memory care works best when they have their own special entry. Let families drive up and enter the unit directly, rather than having to enter the front of a facility and travel all the way to a back corner. Nobody should have to find their loved one through a back door somewhere."

Her passion for aging residents translates well into the spaces and places she designs. "Even though someone may begin struggling with their memory, their physiological and psychological needs remain. Memory care residents need places to safely walk, they need secured areas outdoors to get sunshine. Donut loops, secured courtyards—these are essential in providing top notch care for our seniors."



**"MEMORY CARE WORKS BEST WHEN THEY HAVE THEIR OWN SPECIAL ENTRY... NOBODY SHOULD HAVE TO FIND THEIR LOVED ONE THROUGH A BACK DOOR."**

- Sandy Troffer

These three elements—space, place, and experience—are the building blocks that are easy to discuss, simple to practice, but difficult to master. Further pieces on space, place, and experience in senior living design will be published to include additional focuses on owner needs, technology, and more.



## AUTHOR

**Taylor Dupree Brewington** is a writer and researcher focused primarily on subjects that express creativity and promote wellness. He frequently collaborates with industry experts to create compelling, publishable work in a variety of fields.

# Aging Nation, Thriving Seniors

We examined the growth of the senior population in three states: Florida, Michigan, and California.

The United States is experiencing a significant demographic shift with a steady rise in the population of senior citizens. As the Baby Boomer generation ages, this trend is becoming increasingly evident, leading to various challenges and opportunities for individuals, families, communities, and policymakers.

As of 2020, there were approximately 56.4 million people aged 65 and older in the US, accounting for 17% of the total population. By 2060, the number of seniors in the US is projected to reach around 94.7 million, comprising 23% of the population.



There are several reasons why there are more senior citizens in the United States and globally. Here are some key factors contributing to the increase in the senior population:

# Why?

## 1 Aging Baby Boomer Generation

The Baby Boomer generation, born between 1946 and 1964, is one of the largest demographic cohorts in history. As this generation reaches retirement age, there is a natural increase in the number of seniors.

## 2 Increased Life Expectancy

Advances in healthcare, medical technology, and overall living conditions have resulted in increased life expectancy. People are living longer, leading to a larger population of older adults.

## 3 Declining Fertility Rates

Many countries, including the United States, have experienced declining fertility rates. As a result, the proportion of younger individuals in the population decreases, while the proportion of older individuals increases.

## 4 Improvements in Healthcare

Advances in healthcare have contributed to reduced mortality rates and better management of chronic diseases. This has enabled people to live longer, resulting in a larger senior population.

## 5 Social and Economic Factors

Changing social norms, improved economic conditions, and better access to education and healthcare have contributed to healthier and longer lives. These factors have a cumulative effect on the growth of the senior population.

It's important to note that the increase in the senior population brings both opportunities and challenges. It underscores the need for adequate healthcare, social support systems, and policies that address the unique needs of older adults.

# Florida

## The Sunshine State

The Retirement Haven, Florida has long been synonymous with retirement, attracting a substantial number of seniors seeking warmer climates and a relaxed lifestyle. The state's population of senior citizens has been steadily increasing for years, partly due to its favorable tax policies and excellent healthcare infrastructure.

Additionally, Florida's abundance of recreational activities and senior-friendly communities make it an appealing destination for retirees. As a result, the state's senior population is flourishing, presenting unique challenges related to healthcare, housing, and social services.

Florida is the third-most-populated state in the US, with a population of more than 22.3 million and a growth rate of 1.24% per year. In 2020, Florida had the highest percentage of seniors among all states, with 4.7 million individuals aged 65 and older, making up 21.6% of the state's population.

The senior population in Florida is projected to reach 7.4 million by 2040 (the total population in Arizona was 7,359,197 according to the 2022 census.)



# Michigan

## The Great Lakes State

Often associated with its manufacturing legacy, Michigan is grappling with the implications of a growing senior population. Older adults' healthcare needs become more complex as they age, requiring specialized services and long-term care options. Michigan's healthcare system is evolving to meet these demands, emphasizing geriatric care and the development of age-friendly com-

munities. The state is also implementing innovative programs to support seniors in maintaining an active and fulfilling lifestyle. However, Michigan faces challenges such as providing adequate transportation options, ensuring affordable healthcare, and enhancing social connectivity for seniors residing in rural areas.

In 2020, Michigan had over 1.8 million residents aged 65 and older, accounting for 18.3% of the state's population. The senior population in Michigan is projected to increase to 2.6 million by 2040.



# California

## The Golden State

California, known for its diverse population and beautiful landscapes, is also experiencing rapid growth in its senior population. Although the state has traditionally been seen as a desirable location for young professionals and families, it is now witnessing an increasing number of seniors choosing to age in place. California's

large and diverse population, coupled with its high cost of living and access to world-class medical facilities, creates both opportunities and challenges for its aging population. Issues such as affordable housing, healthcare accessibility, and long-term care resources are becoming crucial concerns for California's seniors.



The most heavily populated state in the United States is California, which has more than 40 million residents and comprises nearly 12% of the country's total population. If California were a country, it would have the fourth- or fifth-largest economy in the world and the 38th-highest population, ahead of countries including Canada, Australia, Peru, and Greece.

In 2020, California had the largest population of seniors among all states, with approximately 6.4 million individuals aged 65 and older, constituting 16.1% of the state's total population. By 2030, it is estimated that the senior population in California will grow to around 8.8 million.

The growing population of senior citizens in states like Florida, California, and Michigan presents both implications and opportunities. Policymakers must prioritize initiatives such as affordable housing, healthcare access, and social engagement programs to meet the unique needs of aging residents. It is crucial for communities to create age-friendly environments that foster inclusivity and support seniors in maintaining their independence. Additionally, innovative approaches to long-term care and support services are vital for ensuring a high quality of life for the expanding senior population. Recognizing the challenges and opportunities associated with this demographic shift, we can work together to create a society that values and supports seniors, enabling them to lead fulfilling lives in their golden years. Through collaborative efforts between governments, communities, and individuals, we can ensure the continued contribution and well-being of the growing population of senior citizens in our nation.✦



# PROJECTS ON THE RISE

recently awarded projects.



## NCH HEALTHCARE SYSTEM **Heart Institute**

A new five-story 180,000 SF heart, vascular, and stroke center attached to the current downtown campus hospital system. Design work completed in conjunction with Cannon Design.



## SAN ANTONIO SPURS **Shipping Container Bar**

Studio+ will design a fully customized shipping container built out as a kitchen, and retail/bar kiosk to be located at the San Antonio Spurs' new Practice facility called The Rock.



## COLLIER COUNTY **Domestic Animal Shelter**

Studio+ will redesign of the animal shelter's lobby, and break room area and creation of a small pets/multi-use room. This initiative is geared towards improving the working conditions of the staff and enhancing the living conditions for the shelter's animals.



## COLLIER COUNTY MARCO ISLAND **Sub Station Rebuild**

Due to the effects of SWFL'S Hurricane Ian, this project entails rebuilding and replacing the existing Marco Island Marine Bureau Sub Station. A temporary Sub Station will be established and made operational throughout the construction of the new facility.

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## FINGERS CROSSED

### BBQ and Bar Eats

Studio+ completed design of a Northport Michigan barbecue and bar garage doors & a dog-friendly patio. Renovations included a new bar, pergola, patio area, interior finishes, furnishings, and lighting.

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## CAMILLE'S LOFT

### HIGH-END RENTAL

Studio+ completed a complete renovation to the second floor of a historic building in Downtown Traverse City that has been transitioned from a women's fashion retail shop to a high-end short-term rental with three bedrooms, two full baths, and a custom spiral stair to a rooftop deck with spectacular views of West Grand Traverse Bay.

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## LOS ANGELES WHITTIER HIGH

### Culinary Art Classroom

Studio+ created a design renovation and upgrade to the Culinary Arts Classroom for Whittier High School in Los Angeles, California. The project consisted of providing updated flooring, cabinetry, equipment, and appliances.

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## NCH HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

### Critical Care Unit

New critical care unit at the NCH Baker Downtown Hospital in Naples, FL. Studio+ converted the existing 3rd Floor ICU Suites into a newly upgraded ICU/CCU stepdown suite. During which the existing units will be combined into one new patient care unit providing better efficiency and flow.

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## SAGE AT OAK CREEK

### Active Adult Community

This new 200,000 square foot facility is an active adult community for ages 55+, providing a carefree lifestyle to seniors. Sage is the only rental community in the Southwest Florida region with 184 one-story homes.

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## CONFIDENTIAL CLIENT

### Media Productions Studio

A world-class media production facility providing a unique educational opportunity for surgeon visitors from around the world. The building will highlight the latest technology in an interactive setting for visitors to experience tools and techniques at the moment of innovation.

TOPPING OFF

projects approaching completion.

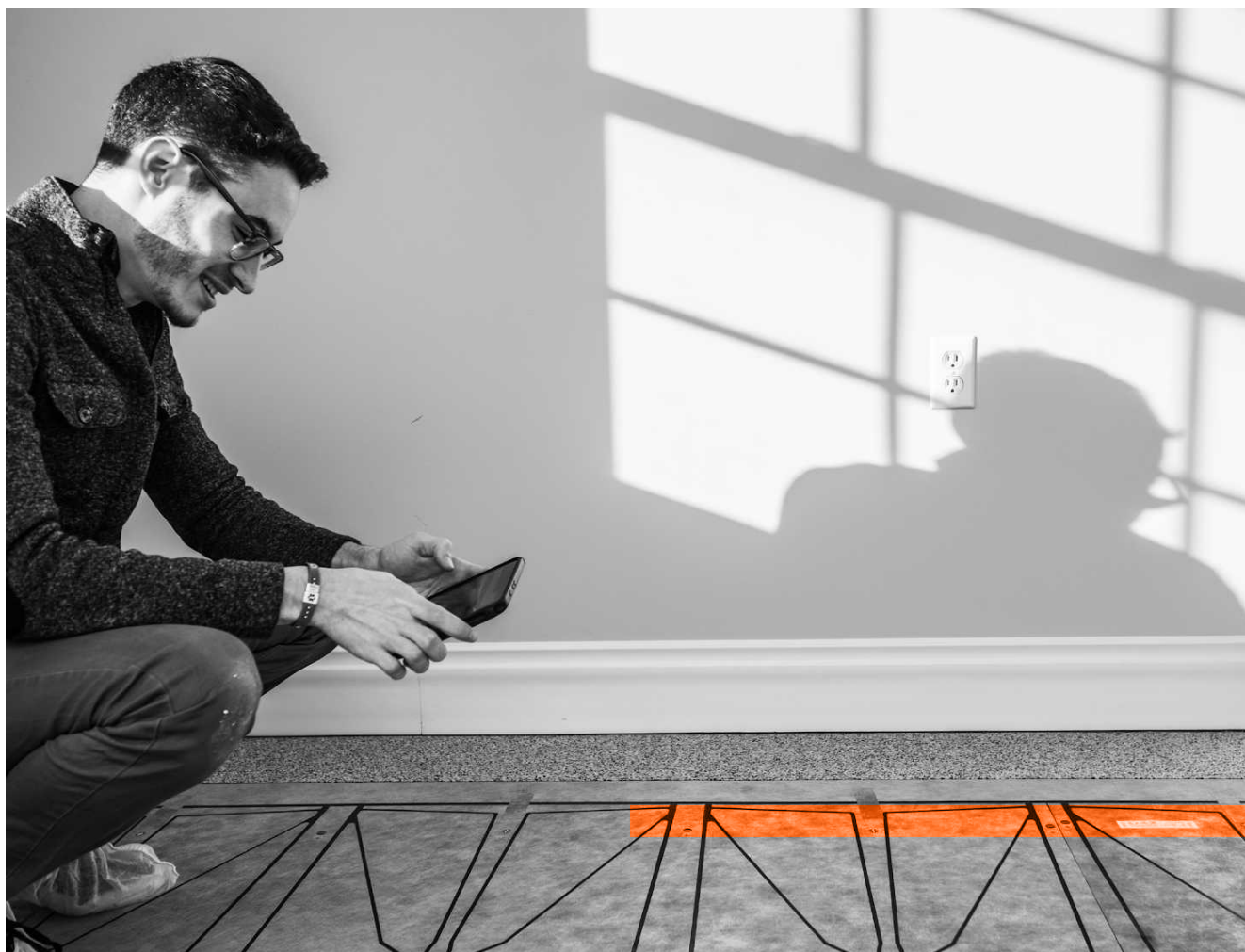
# product parade

innovative products, from brands we love





## Sole™ with SensFloor®



Shaw Contract uses market-leading expertise to bring a thoughtful approach to flooring solutions, including those that rethink what a floor can do.





## Rethinking what a floor can do

What if flooring could impact the safety and well-being of residents? An alternative to wearables or cameras, Sole™ technology can be utilized to support independent living, assisted living, and memory care environments. It seamlessly integrates into the majority of existing commercial nurse call systems or can be monitored through other mobile or static technologies. Using capacitive sensing rather than pressure sensing, the system is able to differentiate between a person and an object. Sole™ system features include time programming, fall alerts, and presence alerts. **The floor detects motion or programmed alert activity** and notifies medical staff, allowing them to inform and improve care.

# ShawContract®

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## Unleashing memories through art

Memory care art products are specifically designed to engage and stimulate individuals with cognitive impairments, such as dementia or Alzheimer's disease. These innovative products recognize the power of art in evoking emotions and memories, providing a therapeutic outlet for those experiencing memory loss. From vibrant and textured paintings to shadowbox sets featuring nostalgic items, memory care art products cater to the unique needs of individuals by promoting creativity, relaxation, and mental stimulation. These products not only offer an avenue for self-expression but also serve as valuable tools for caregivers, enabling them to connect with their loved ones on a deeper level and create meaningful moments of joy and reminiscence. With their thoughtful designs and focus on sensory experiences, memory care art products have become an essential resource in enhancing the quality of life for individuals living with memory-related challenges.

CREATIVE A

representative contact

-

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# Creative A



Creative A is a complete art resource, consultation and in-house fabrication firm for Corporate, Hospitality, Multi-Family, Healthcare, Senior Living, and Veterans' Homes facilities.

# Madison Chair



Samuelson's collection of unique furniture transforms a senior living space with upscale design elements while addressing the needs of a community seeking durable, well designed products to enhance lifestyle experiences.



### Senior seating solutions

Architectural contours define this distinctive chair. The upper upholstered section accentuates the form as its back and arms create interesting angles. A perfect way to either dine or lounge comfortably. The Madison contains two innovative features that differentiate from the rest:

**CATCH** by Samuelson provides a thoughtful solution to clutter in dining, public areas, and hallways. Their patented hardware suspends a folded walker, or any personal item, on the back of the chair, creating more space and less confusion in common areas of the community.

**TILT** by Samuelson is their solution to a common cleaning problem. Their discreet system allows the seat of the chair to tilt forward, exposing a drop-through frame. Samuelson has thoughtfully engineered this hygienic system to facilitate a simple, single-step service.



[samuelsonfurniture.com](http://samuelsonfurniture.com)



**culture  
breeds**

**GROWTH**





**NEW FACES AT THE FIRM**



“The addition of Amy in our L.A. office has already made us a much stronger team overall in California, thanks to her professional rigor, easy problem-solving attitude and exceptional REVIT know-how.”

- Wendy Gilmartin  
Managing Principal  
Studio+ LA



**AMY TABER**  
Los Angeles, CA

I graduated from USC and moved to Brooklyn, then San Jose, CA then Petaluma, CA, and finally Van Nuys, CA. While living in Brooklyn, I worked on hospitality projects and explored the city until 4 am. When I relocated to San Jose, I became involved in school renovations and have since then continued to work in education. I worked with districts in San Jose all the way up to Clearlake. One challenge I had on education projects are the meetings held with the community and stakeholders to address their concerns and goals for the project. By taking the comments and synthesizing them into a project, my team was able to create a project that works for everyone and a beautiful space for the next generation.

Prior to family, I enjoyed traveling. I like wandering the city and finding unique shops like Maille mustard shop in Paris to get a Fig Coriander mustard or a small courtyard with a calming water feature between the towering buildings in New York City. I plan to continue to explore the globe once my children are older and the world is healthier.

My family unit consists of two children, a dog, and a husband. I am an avid gamer (board and video) and can be often found deep in thought on how to beat a 3-year-old in Connect4. While I love to eat good food, I also love cooking! I make bread, pizza, and tasty Japanese curry.

**JUAN S. ORDUZ**  
Fort Myers, FL



“ Juan brings a diverse level of experience to the Studio+ team. His technical knowledge and team-first mentality have already positively impacted those around him. He never turns down a challenge and works hard to deliver quality design and services for his projects and clients. ”

- Mike Lendino  
CFO

I am from Colombia and came to the U.S. in 2014. I recently moved to Florida from Nevada, looking to be in a place full of nature and relaxing surroundings, and I think I found that in this paradise called Fort Myers.

I studied Architecture in Colombia and did graduate studies on Green Architecture in Canada, before completing a Master of Architecture at the University of Nevada. During my master's, I focused on Space Architecture, developing concepts for extra-terrestrial architecture.

I am motivated by thinking out of the box and by doing creative work.

## AGUS TIO

Los Angeles, CA

I am an Architectural Designer at Studio+ in the Los Angeles office. I was born and raised in Indonesia, then I moved to California right after my high school graduation to pursue my passion for architecture. Drawing and designing have been my passion since I was little, ultimately leading me to pursue a career in architecture.

Prior to receiving my undergraduate degree, I received my Associate Degree in Architecture from the College of the Desert in Palm Desert. Following that, I transferred to Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and spent three years full of tears of joy of sleepless nights. I ultimately graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Architecture.

In previous work experience, I have worked and engaged in a broad range of project types including education, commercial, residential, mixed-use building, high-rise, interior, and sustainable design projects. These involvements gave me an intensive knowledge of the principles of Architectural and interior design that furthered my career as a designer at Studio+.

I enjoy drawing, reading, listening to music, photography, hiking, and spending fun time with my family.

“Agus brings a smile and an enthusiastic attitude to the L.A. office and wherever he goes. His curiosity about all-things architecture is contagious, and he takes on each new project with gusto. We're lucky to have him!”

- Wendy Gilmartin  
Managing Principal  
Studio+ LA




# Summertime

Get ready to soak up the sun and embrace the good vibes, because summer is here, and our incredible team members are ready to make a

*splash*





As the days get longer and the temperatures rise, our amazing employees are embarking on a whirlwind of exciting adventures, from sipping fruity drinks on tropical beaches to conquering thrill-

ing roller coasters at amusement parks. Let's dive into the vibrant tapestry of our team's summer plans, capturing the essence of fun, laughter, and unforgettable memories.

Giving birth is on the agenda for me this summer!

- *Tara Thompson*



# Natalie Hagobian

Heading to Yosemite Valley the last week of July. We're staying at the Valley Lodge because I'm civilized and

don't want to share the bathroom with nature or strangers. We'll be there with 15 other groups of people made up of colleagues, friends, acquaintances, strangers and family, all of whom will share their shish kabobs and cocktails during our nightly gatherings. Cheers!



# Andrea Gil

We are going to Universal and Hollywood Studios in July!

We are traveling in our RV. We are in Tupelo, Mississippi now and heading west. Plan is to land in Boulder City, Nevada in September and we have tickets to see Van Morrison in concert in Las Vegas!

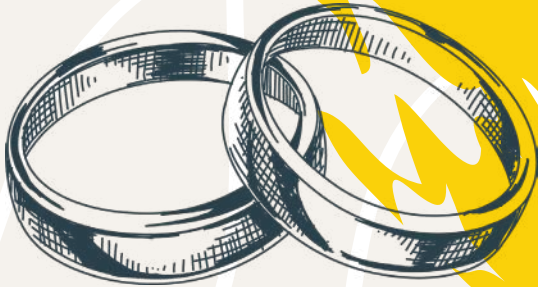
# Stephanie McPherson

We have a SeaWorld family vacation planned. I also own and operate an arcade, and Summers are our busiest, so extending hours, having lots of parties, and a week long summer camp!

- *Mat Nelson*

I guess it's not technically summer, but I'm getting married in September - so lots of wedding planning!

- Chandler Hilton



*Amy*  
**Taber**

I made a fun drink recently that I will continue to make all summer!

Try it for yourself: Spiked Pandan Coconut Soda (if you think of a better name, please let me know). Pandan Simple Syrup (homemade), Gin with floral flavor is best, so Hendricks! Coconut creamer, and top it all off with soda water.



I am attending the AIA Florida Convention in Orlando at the Hyatt Grand Cypress Resort

*Barbara*  
**Hughes**

**Spiked Pandan**  
*Coconut Soda*

- 1.5 oz. Pandan Simple Syrup
- 1.5 oz. Hendricks Gin
- 1.5 oz. Coconut Creamer
- 4 oz. Soda Water



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