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- NEWS
- SPORTS
- BUSINESS
- FYI/LIVING
- ENTERTAINMENT
- OPINION
- JOB
- CARS
- REAL ESTATE
- RENTALS
- CLASSIFIEDS
- SHOPPING

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Career ladder: John Funk of Hollis + Miller Architects

John Funk

Title: Associate, structural engineer.

Organization: Hollis + Miller Architects, 8205 W 108th Terrace, Overland Park, 913-451-8886.

Education: Funk has a bachelor's degree from the University of Tulsa and a master's from the University of Kansas.

Details: Funk is leading the firm's structural engineering department as he collaborates with architects to improve coordination and construction considerations. He manages a team of five engineers and two CADD technicians as they design the structural pieces of buildings in coordination with the architects.

Focus: He uses software for architectural and structural documentation but says, "Nothing can improve on face-to-face conversation."

Funk's professional projects include the University of Kansas Hall of Athletics at Allen Fieldhouse, the Pfizer Distribution Center, the Stowers Institute and Olathe Northwest High School.

Thoughts: Since joining Hollis + Miller he has worked on seven new elementary schools. Each one is unique and holds special meaning to him.

"You get the sense you are improving the future," he said. "The ultimate end users are the kids going to school. What better way to improve on the future is there than building an opportunity for kids to learn?"

| Margaret Schmitz Rizzo, special to The Star



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