# NICHOLAS HENNESSEY

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## PROFILE

Design leader and experienced architectural designer passionate about turning vision into reality. Leads teams, shapes design direction, and guides projects from concept through execution across diverse scales and typologies. Builds strong relationships with teams, clients, and developers to create thoughtful design solutions that balance project goals, functionality, and user needs.

## EXPERIENCE

**Senior Architectural Designer | Design Team Lead** **2022-Present**

*Studio M Architecture and Planning*

- Lead design for a team of 14 designers and architects, directing project vision, design development, visualization, coordination, and client-facing presentations across 200+ projects in 25 states, spanning multifamily, mixed-use, and a broad range of development types and scales.
- Shape design direction and oversee production across a multidisciplinary team, guiding projects from concept through execution while maintaining design quality, consistency, and project goals.
- Established and lead an internal mentorship and onboarding program for new staff, creating a structured framework to integrate team members into project workflows, design standards, and firm systems.
- Direct early-stage developer feasibility studies, site planning, and conceptual design, collaborating with developers to evaluate and inform decisions on building configuration, user experience, and financial feasibility.
- Develop design standards and planning strategies for developer partners, creating scalable solutions that balance
- Create 3D models, renderings, presentations, and visualization packages that communicate design concepts, support decision-making, and align project teams and clients around design direction.

**Digital Communications and Marketing Manager** **2021–Present**

- Lead the firm's marketing and brand communications, developing campaigns, visual content, and project storytelling that communicate the firm's design capabilities and support business development.
- Direct the firm's digital presence across its website and social media platforms, growing the firm's audience by more than 300%.
- Represent the firm at career fairs and recruiting events, building relationships with emerging design professionals and supporting talent acquisition and the growth of the firm's design team.

**Architectural and Interior Designer** **2020–2022**

- Led architectural and interior design for multifamily, mixed-use, and commercial projects, translating client and developer goals into thoughtful, cohesive design solutions.
- Shaped project vision and design direction from early concepts through design development, balancing creativity, functionality, and project requirements.
- Designed interior and exterior spaces with a focus on functionality, circulation, and user experience, shaping how people interact with and experience the built environment.
- Managed projects through schematic design, design development, documentation, and municipal review, coordinating architectural design with zoning, building codes, and jurisdictional requirements.
- Collaborated with developers, clients, consultants, and internal teams to solve complex design challenges and maintain clear design intent throughout the project.
- Produced architectural drawings, 3D models, renderings, presentations, and visualization packages to communicate design concepts and support project decision-making.

**Architectural and Interior Design Intern** **2019–2020**

- Supported architectural and interior design for multifamily, mixed-use, and commercial projects, contributing to conceptual studies, design development, and documentation while developing drawings, 3D models, renderings, and presentations and collaborating with designers, architects, and consultants across disciplines.

## EDUCATION

**Masters of Architecture** **2018-2020**

University of Michigan - Ann Arbor, MI

**Bachelors of Science in Architecture, Minor in Interior Design** **2014-2018**

Ball State University - Muncie, IN

## SKILLS

Sketchup, 3D Design and Visualization, Prototyping, Spatial Design, Rhino, Adobe Creative Suite, Digital Fabrication, Design Leadership, Concept Development, Creative Direction, User Experience, Visual Storytelling, Client Relations, Team Development, Brand & Digital Communications