



Frank Karpowicz Architects

Quality and Integrity of Design Each and Every Time

Frank C. Karpowicz discovered his love of architecture at a young age.

He grew up in the Chicago suburbs minutes away from Frank Lloyd Wright's Home and Studio in Oak Park. Frank comments, "Oak Park is filled with many incredible examples of his work including the Gale House, the Cheney House and Unity Temple. Field trips during a drawing class in high school exposed me to these masterworks and sparked my love for architecture."

He took his passion for architecture and made it his profession. Frank earned a graduate degree in Architecture at the University of Illinois before launching into his career. Frank says, "My first jobs were at Chicago's largest architectural firms, Skidmore Owings and Merrill, then the largest firm in the world — where I worked on a large project in the Ludgate district in London, and then Lucien Lagrange and Associates (LLA)."

After LLA, Frank became a Senior Project Manager for a full-service construction company in Chicago where he specialized in high-end restaurants and other custom commercial projects. For the company's real estate development business, he acted as Program Manager and designed and constructed several residential development projects in Chicago's Lincoln Park and Gold Coast neighborhoods.

A change of pace occurred when he and his wife Karen moved to Wakefield in 2000. Their twin girls, Kristin and Jacqueline, were 2 years old. Frank explains, "My wife Karen had accepted a position at URI so I was a full-time dad for about a year. We built a lot of Lego houses that year! Time flies — the girls are now seniors. Kristin attends Middlebury College and Jacqueline attends Brown University."

Little did he know that taking a year off would be foundational for his next step in life: opening his own firm. Frank explains, "Having that year to explore New England with my toddler daughters taught me there was a lot to love about the coastal architecture here. And my experience working on big buildings abroad left me with a desire to create beautiful buildings in the community in which I live, so I decided to combine my architectural and construction knowledge and start my own firm." He opened Frank Karpowicz Architects.

Frank, a Certified Passive House Consultant, and his dedicated team specialize in designing sustainable luxury coastal homes. Frank adds, "We try to make the process of designing a fine custom home transparent and enjoyable. We're passionate about quality and creating a timeless design for our clients to enjoy."

To Frank, the difference is in the details, which starts by listening to his clients. He says, "We believe that a well-designed project is the result of listening. For this reason, we encourage client involvement throughout the design and construction of the project. Our design process is collaborative and begins with understanding a family's story. From there, we interpret that narrative to find out what the home will mean to the family and how it will be used. Then, the design emerges naturally, in response to the family's needs and desires."

What makes Frank Karpowicz Architects different is their unique combination of creativity and construction. Frank explains, "Very few architects combine creativity with construction experience so that allows us to deliver a better set of drawings to the builder — with better drawings, the home is easier to build and takes less time. And, since we know how buildings go together and how the builder buys the project, we're a great resource for the owner throughout the project."

We are honored to feature Frank Karpowicz Architects in our Sponsor Spotlight this month. Frank concludes, "Whether an heirloom property or an everyday home, our job is to create a high-quality, comfortable dream home for making family memories. We suggest building it right the first time so it lasts 100 years, which is really about as 'green' as it gets."

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