

## April K. Magill, Architect

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### Professional Experience:

Root Down Designs, LLC – Principal Architect, Owner (2011 – current)

[www.RootDownDesigns.com](http://www.RootDownDesigns.com)

Full Service Architectural Design Firm specializing in highly sustainable & low-carbon building solutions; diverse portfolio includes a full spectrum of project types from Residential to Commercial, conventional to alternative methods of construction. RDD is pioneering the revival of ancient building methods (Rammed Earth, Compressed Earth Block, Adobe, Cob, Clay-based finishes, & hybrid methods) incorporated with modern-day engineering & building science for superior building methods & performance. RDD has successfully designed fully permitted earthen structures in SC, as well as oversee & assist in the construction. Services include: conceptual design/feasibility studies, soil identification /geotechnical testing, design development, construction/permitting documents, construction administration.

*(see website Portfolio for a complete listing of projects)*

### Educational / Teaching Experience:

- **Adjunct Professor of Sustainable Masonry; The American College of Building Arts (ACBA)**
- ACBA Maymester Intro Into Natural Building Course - Charleston (May 2017)
- ACBA Building Arts Festival – Charleston (April 2016)
- **Root Down Design. Natural Building Workshops & Classes (2011 – current)**
- Light-Straw-Clay, Earthen Plasters, & Cob Workshop – North Charleston (February 2016)
- Intro into Cob & Natural Building – Romney St. Charleston (May 2015)
- 10 day Intro into Cob & Natural Building – Oregon (2014)
- *(April has taught over 20 workshops; see website Portfolio for complete listing of Workshops taught)*

### Speaking Engagements / Writings:

- College of Charleston, Green Building Council – oral presentation (April 2017)
- South Carolina Interior Design Conference – oral presentation (August 2016)
- PECHA KUCHA “All About MUD” – oral presentation (July 2012)
- “The Last Straw Journal” - 'A South Carolina Architect's Journey to Natural Building & Rammed Earth' – cover story (May 2015)
- CHARLIE MAG – Charleston's Most Progressive: April Magill, 'The Dirt Queen'(2013)

### Building Experience:

- Historic & Modern-day ADOBE: building in rural Nicaraguan village, working with local materials and methods, adapting historic Adobe for seismic design – Nicaragua (2012)
- ADOBE, Wattle-N-Daub, Cob, 'Chorizo', 'Maya Cyclone,' Earthen Floors, Earthen & Lime Plasters: building in rural Nicaraguan village Sabana Grande – Nicaragua (2011)
- *(see website Portfolio for complete listing of Building & Plaster Work)*

### Previous Experience:

- LS3P – Architect, Project Manager, Intern (2008–2011)
- Beau Clowney Design – Intern Architect; Residential Design & Historical Renovations (2006–2008)
- Rosenblum Coe Architects – Intern Architect (2004 – 2006)

### Education:

VA Tech – BA of Architecture (5 year degree) (1998–2004) / Study Abroad Europe (2002)