



Company Profile

W h a t W e D o

Services

- Consultation and feasibility studies
- Site analysis and passive solar design
- Full architectural service schematic design to construction documents
- Project management
- Helping client navigate the permitting process
- Bidding and negotiations
- Alternative building methods and natural building consulting
- Education through presentations and classes/workshops
- Project development
- Community building
- Budget analysis



Design Principles

- Highly functional layouts;
- Budget-driven design;
- Energy efficiency; and
- Passive solar and cooling techniques

Core Values

- Focus on high-performance, responsible design;
- Create low-carbon and regenerative building solutions;
- Build holistic architecture systems; and
- Advance natural building and permaculture through architectural design, education and construction

Licensing and honors

- [South Carolina Department of Licensing, Labor and Regulation](#): April Magill, architect #8216; Root Down Designs, LLC, #100879
- April Magill is an adjunct professor with the [American College of Building Arts](#) and an advisory board member for [TERRA Collaborative](#), a 501(c)3.

E m p l o y e e s

APRIL MAGILL: Principal and Architect

Magill graduated with a bachelor's degree from Virginia Tech. During her studies in Europe, she became inspired by the organic architecture of Gaudi and of the ancient world. Her desire to be surrounded by old, well-kept architecture led her to live and create in Charleston, S.C. During the past 13 years, she has worked for three of Charleston's architecture firms and became a licensed architect and project manager. In 2011, she embarked on her adventure by starting Root Down Designs.

Recognizing that an architect can not exist only in the world of theory, she began to explore materials with her hands. As she continued to experiment with building materials in the Carolinas, she also began traveling the world in search of ancient, earthen



worked with multiple building jurisdictions to help clients obtain building permits for alternative materials.

Magill's conventional background allows her to excel in project management, and she has led large teams through the conception of an idea through the end of a project, always with the client's budget at the forefront of her mind. Her diversity of project types extend from backyard yoga huts, small homes, custom residential to large commercial eco-resorts.

Whether the materials are conventional or alternative, Magill helps clients define their true project goals and deliver a project based on their individual needs.



GINA IACOVELLI: Design Associate and Interiors

Iacovelli attended Marywood University, receiving a degree in interior architecture. Afterward, she worked with Amish wood shops to design artisanal furniture and cabinetry. In Charleston, S.C., she worked for local firms on high-end homes and has been featured in Charleston Magazine and Charleston Home + Design. Iacovelli has since joined forces with April Magill to re-introduce natural building to the Lowcountry.



I n t h e n e w s

Local media

The Post and Courier

[“Old building method becoming new again,”](#) May 22, 2015

[“Old is new again: Ancient rammed earth construction gets a modern twist on Johns Island,”](#) April 15, 2016

[“Building from the past to the future: American College of Building Arts students learn ancient techniques,”](#) Nov. 5, 2017

Charleston City Paper

[“Controversy heats up over clay oven in Cross, SC,”](#)
Feb. 29, 2012

[“Charleston’s permaculture movement arrives at the drafting table,”](#) April 12, 2016

[“COAST Brewing announces expansion,”](#) Oct. 30, 2017

Natural Awakenings

[“Putting the Earth back in Earth](#)

[Day,”](#) April

2018, p.

17

Other media

The Last Straw (journal)

[“A South Carolina Architect’s Journey to Natural Building and Rammed Earth,”](#) May 21, 2015

Abundant Edge (podcast)

[“Reviving rammed earth and hybrid natural buildings with April Magill of Root Down Designs,”](#) Oct. 12, 2018

Buildings Are Cool (blog)

[“Architects in a cafe getting beer: April Magill,”](#) Oct. 16, 2016

[“Rammed Earth Architecture with April Magill,”](#) Oct. 16, 2016

Pecha Kucha (video)

[“Charleston Pecha Kucha: 13 - April Magill,”](#) March 2012



Stock plans

Stock plans

We've done the work for you: Affordable building plans

Not everyone can afford the luxury of hiring an architect to design a custom home. Yet good design will affect the quality of your life. Root Down Designs is offering stock plans for homeowners and developers to choose from.

The following plans are the beginning of our Affordable Repurposed Building Plan series. They are:

- architect-designed small and high-performing homes that tread lightly on the planet;
- pre-engineered for wind and non-wind zones;
- customized for the Southeastern climate;
- designed to enhance the health and well-being of the occupant(s); and

- provide affordable building solutions to more people.

In the future, we will expand our stock plan list to include alternative construction methods, such as hempcrete, rammed earth and compressed earth block, complete with building and training courses to guide you.

These repurposed plans allow you to start your permitting and construction process almost immediately. They are the direct result of working with eco-conscious clients to design smaller, efficient, functional designs.

For more information, please visit www.rootdowndesigns.com/repurposed-building-plans/.

Stock plans

The Wren House

The Wren House is an efficient, low-carbon footprint home for those concerned about sustainability. It is 700 square feet, with a 1,000-square-foot wrap-around porch that has been custom-designed for the southeastern U.S. climate zone.

The plan consists of two or three bedrooms, one bathroom and an open living/kitchen design. The 10-foot-high ceilings make this compact space feel roomy and enhances natural cooling. The wrap-around porch adds to the living space, which can be customized by each owner.



This plan is adaptable and easily modified for future additions.

To learn more, visit <https://rootdowndesigns.com/the-wren-house/>

Stock plans



The Studio

The Studio is an efficient, high performing, low-carbon footprint accessory structure for those concerned about sustainability. This little gem is the perfect solution for an artist who needs a studio or office in their backyard, or for those who pine for a yoga

house, a sleeping cabin or a “shed.”

This 200-square-foot floor plan with a covered porch has been designed for the southeastern U.S. climate zones. The plan consists of an open flex space designed with built-in storage, a flip-up “Murphy

bed,” and an option for vaulted ceilings. The high ceilings make this compact space feel roomy and enhances natural cooling. This plan is adaptable and easily modified for future additions.

To learn more, visit: <https://rootdowndesigns.com/the-studio/>.