

LA ROCHE UNIVERSITY 2020 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI CIRCLE AWARD RECIPIENT



Gary Hammer '79
Co-Founder and Senior Principal
Hammer Design Associates/HDA-Pacific

Gary Hammer '79 is the co-founder and senior principal of Hammer Design Associates/HDA-Pacific. This award-winning, professional food facility planning and design firm has studios in California and Pennsylvania, and provides specialized services for projects with commercial food service applications.

HDA/HDA-Pacific has been featured in national and international media, including The New York Times, Nation's Restaurant News and Restaurants & Institutions Magazine, and also has won several national awards.

With over 40 years of experience in food facility planning and design, Mr. Hammer previously held design team leadership roles with Cini-Little International, Burt Hill Kosar Rittleman Architects and McFarland Associates.

Mr. Hammer has participated in local meet and greets for Greyhound Friends for Life, a nonprofit organization focused on greyhound rescue, adoption and advocacy organization. He has worked to find homes for retired racing greyhounds and has rescued two greyhounds. Additionally he supports Horses for Healing, which serves 450 individuals with special needs each year. The riding center, located in Northwest Arkansas, provides services to area school children, private therapy lessons and a sports riding program.

Graduating from La Roche University with a degree in administration, management and design, Mr. Hammer watched the field change quickly after he entered the workforce.

"We were drawing and drafting by hand when I graduated, and started using computers for design shortly after," he said.

A member of the La Roche Interior Design Advisory Board, Mr. Hammer said he credits La Roche with broadening his reach in design with other disciplines.

"The interior design faculty at La Roche taught me to focus. They brought out the best in everybody," Mr. Hammer said. "I thank Wendy Beckwith and Dev Nagar who were particularly influential in my development."

