

# CPOutlook

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## PROFILES



The UW has an interest in increasing the use of MBE, WBE, small and new firms, and we will be regularly profiling a firm so that CPO can become more familiar with them. "Profiles" features an A/E firm that wishes to do work for the University, either as a prime consultant or a sub consultant.

This month's featured firm is



**o-r-b architects**

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The featured firms are either MWBR firms, small firms or firms who have not worked for the UW before, but wish to. Feel free to contact the firms directly or call Doug Jennings for more information.

ORB designed the building they occupy (and members of the firm also own the majority of it). It is a great example of their work (see photos) - they occupy one quarter of this 26,000 sq. ft. building. The building enjoys a woody setting at the end of a tree lined cul-de-sac in Renton (just a 30 minutes drive from the UW campus) along Panther Creek. When I met with Binh Nguyen (President) and Geoff Anderson (Principal) our meeting room opened up to a wooded wetland view that included a nest of Red Tailed Hawks and (according to Geoff) at least 20 different bird types. Although the firm is 45 years old, it went thru major metamorphosis about 6 years ago when Binh and Geoff purchased the business and began expending it. It has grown steadily from 8 employees in 2004 to 16 during the height of their expansion, and now has a staff of 14 (4 are LEED Accredited Professionals).

ORB does a lot of Design/Build projects and they are comfortable working in various partnerships with construction contractors and owners. They have had numerous (almost continuous) "on-call" contracts with the Army for over 30 years so they are very experienced with the down-and-dirty remodel and repair projects we do so often. About 50% of their work is new construction and 50% is remodel/repair/renovation. They have specialties in: housing (including major housing in Alaska for the Army, and some unique component style designs); parks and recreation (including expertise in highly specialized swimming and wading pools); and adaptive reuse. They also have an interior design department. Their client list includes: Seattle Housing Authority, Seattle Parks and Recreation, the Army; the Air Force, the City of Tacoma, and King County.

Although ORB's work at UW is not extensive (they wrote our Design/Build RFPs for Sevens Court and Publications Services in the 90s), their staff is quite familiar with our UW/CPO policies and procedures from previous employment. Geoff managed many of our Sand Point projects while at Bumgardner Architects and Yong Sun Lee (ORB's lead on Building Information Modeling - BIM) worked on BIM and design studies of our UWMC Expansion Project while at NBBJ including coordinating with our FDI manual, Attachment B, standardizing BIM modeling and CAD standards, additional services requests, etc.

Geoff has been very active in the AIA Seattle, serving on the board of directors for 4 years. He also set up and now manages his own mentoring program for young architects: "[The Laddership Program](#)". He strongly encourages the rest of ORB's staff to participate in community services (Yong Co-Chaired AIA Seattle's Diversity Roundtable 2006-2008).

ORB is very interested in working for UW/CPO. They are ready for any work from a small repair project to a term contract or a building design. They are certified by OMWBE as an MBE firm so can help us in meeting our MWBE participation goals. For more information, visit their website at: [www.orbarchitects.com](http://www.orbarchitects.com), see their qualifications in the Shared Procurement Portal, or call Geoff direct at (425) 226-3522.



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