

Craig W. Hansen

Class of 1972

Inducted: 2019



After graduating from Iowa State University, Craig worked in construction management, including in Chicago. He returned to Des Moines and, at age 25, founded The Hansen Company in 1979, where today he serves as CEO of the construction contractor, developer, and property management company. In 1989, The Hansen Company was named one of Inc Magazine's 500 Fastest Growing Companies. During its 40-year history, the

company consistently has ranked in the Top 10 of contractors as profiled in the Des Moines Business Record's Book of Lists.

Craig has been involved with Master Builders of Iowa and other industry organizations where he works with his colleagues and peers to advance issues that affect the construction industry.

A drive around Des Moines and central Iowa will show how Craig has changed the landscape and enhanced the community. Start at Second and Grand Avenues, where the Hansen Triangle Park serves as a public gathering space that was developed and donated by The Hansen Company. It is home to public art, including the acclaimed piece "A Monumental Journal," dedicated in July 2018 to honor the National Bar Association founders, described by the

Greater Des Moines Public Art Foundation as "12 courageous African-American attorneys who--in Des Moines, Iowa--changed the course of American history in 1925." Many of the newly constructed buildings in the East Village of Des Moines were developed and/or built by The Hansen Company, including City Square and Staybridge Hotel. Craig Hansen's companies developed and manage notable housing projects including the Ballpark Lofts and Eagle Point, both near Principal Park. His companies have completed projects for Grand View University, Drake University, and Waukee schools, to name a few. Projects extend to Pella, Indianola, Waukee, and Ames,--indeed, over the course of operating the company, Craig and his team have done work in 16 states. They have built or renovated numerous places of worship, including for Lutheran, Assembly of God, Roman Catholic, and Presbyterian congregations. Through this success, Craig has modeled his conduct based on a simple premise learned from his father. "Carl Hansen was a bricklayer in Des Moines for over 50 years. He not only taught Craig how to build a straight wall and the value of a hard day's work but more importantly he opened his eyes to the world of construction," is how The Hansen Company's website describes it.