

# L. David Stewart

## Biography

Photographer. Academic. Artist. Architect. Consultant. Entrepreneur. These are just a few words that depict the work and talents of L. David Stewart.

Born and raised in Chicago, Illinois, as the son of a sheriff/preacher and bill collector, education has been one of the cornerstones in the life of L. David Stewart. This foundation early in life, along with being influenced by art, design, and music, would compel him to acquire not just multiple degrees, but also would lead him to quite an eclectic journey.

### *The Architectural Designer*

L. David's passion for architecture came from loving art at a young age. It was a curiosity of how buildings and structures developed and who made them, that not only sparked his interest in architecture, but also led him to begin pursuing it at the age of 12. He enrolled at Lane Technical High school and began to hone his skills in architectural drafting.

L. David wanted to learn about the business of architecture, so he went through a phonebook and got a chance with Landon Architects (now Landon, Bone, Baker). That summer he was exposed to the field and was pushed to learn more. While in high school, he placed in various architectural competitions, including the Newhouse Architecture Competition, where he landed an internship with VOA Architects (now Stantec). While at VOA, L. David learned architecture on a larger scale through working on projects like Northwestern Memorial Hospital.

After enrolling at the University of Illinois-Chicago (UIC), he was introduced to The National Organization of Minority Architects (N.O.M.A.). As a UIC student, he began to learn about business and the activist side of architecture. He became President, as well as, National Student Representative of the UIC NOMAS chapter, where he restructured the organization and expanded the number of chapters of NOMAS from 8 to 25. He also acquired sponsorships with Revit and Disney Imagineering.

His senior thesis project involved a cultural museum design that covered the history of African Americans in the United States. It was presented at Prairie State College and seen by the designer who would eventually design the National Museum of African American History and Culture, in Washington D.C.

After a brief stint of architectural graduate school at the University of Toronto, he returned and worked for the Chicago Architecture Foundation. His first architectural project was at Onyx Architectural Services. While at Onyx, he expanded his knowledge in architecture working on various residential, commercial and industrial projects, and he acquired experience as an assistant project manager.

He worked on high-end residential projects at Marvin Hermann Architects and then further expanded his management and architectural ability at Chicago Design + Construction. These were firms where L. David strengthened his knowledge of design, as well as gained experience doing other key functions, such as Building and Zoning Code Analysis on a renowned restaurant in downtown Chicago.



L. David's design inspirations range from Walter Gropius and Steven Holl, to Melvin Mitchell and Jack Travis. A fan of modernism, as well as process, these elements and much more have informed his design acumen.

### *The Artist*

Being raised in a house of diverse musical tastes planted the seeds for L. David to become an artist across multiple disciplines, including music. It was this love of music that opened the door into a world of art and artistic expression, where through Hip Hop, he became not only a man imparting great words, but where his knowledge and message have provided insight and transformation. Having released 9 albums (5 EPs, and 4 LPs), L. David known in the music world as NIZM has evolved as an artist over the years, sharing his experiences, while also depicting issues, life, and various aspects thereof that are often left unspoken or unaddressed. His musical repertoire has afforded him the opportunity to have worked with various producers, other artists and industry professionals. He has been endorsed by well-known brands like Adonis Skates, McDonalds and Dickies, as well as received recognition and award nominations throughout the span of his 20-year career. His collection of work is a testament to the resolve of an individual who has chosen a unique path not typically travelled, as this is something he would later embrace in his academic and entrepreneurial journey.

### *The Photographer*

L. David Stewart, ASMP, PPA is a fine art photographer and photo documentarian. L. David began his photography career as a student at the Marwen Foundation in 1998. From then on, his inquisitive relationship with cameras blossomed. Following a distinguished career in architecture, David honed on photography. In 2002, he took a photography class at the University of Illinois - Chicago (UIC) under the tutelage of Doug Larsen, where he learned the basics of developing and was trained on 35mm photography. From there he has evolved into the photographer that he is today. His focus, through his Pentax DSLR K-1, is to capture the subtle parts of everyday life, landscapes, and events that occur in and reveal the art that we overlook daily. L. David's work has been exhibited at Harrington College of Design and at UIC. He was a Finalist in the International House of Photography Competition. L. David's exhibited work include "Here We Are" (2015) a multi-media exhibition on Black male educators, "Connect the Dots" (2015) and "The Art of Blackness".

L. David is stylistically a cross between Bauhaus & New Objectivism intermingled with industrialism, candid portraits and social realism. His photographic influences include: Gordon Parks, Pete Souza, Peter Lik, DJ D-Nice, Guru, and Ansel Adams. Due to his digital background, he is also a very creative digital editor of photos and leverages his architecture background and design experience, which play a huge part in his approach to his work. One will find the influence of architecture in his composition and usage of color, as well as his attention to details and space with people and objects.

### *The Entrepreneur*

After acquiring his B.A. in Architectural Studies from The University of Illinois-Chicago and subsequently a M.S. in Real Estate from Roosevelt University, L. David launched Design AnalySynth, a boutique design firm that focused on architectural, graphic and strategic design. His work included collaborating with organizations to mitigate foreclosures, creating and proposing architectural design concepts for developments from Chicago to Haiti and beyond, as well as designing and consulting work to optimize companies, agencies, and various entities.

Always evolving, in 2015, L. David Stewart created YEAR 60, which is the business entity for his photographic and fine art endeavors but created separately from his former design practice.

In 2016, L. David established his presence in the Miami startup entrepreneurial scene by capturing the growing business culture of South Florida. L. David has become renowned for his usage of color and composition and his work has included internationally renowned models, start-up businesses, advertising for brands and fine art ventures. His client list in Miami includes, Venture Café, Guitars Over Guns, Miami Foundation, Bayside Marketplace, MUCE (My Urban

Contemporary Experience), Betsy Hotel, and Dade Heritage Trust 2018. He has been Director of Photography and now Associate Producer for the renown podcast “Tech Beats and Bytes”, and consultant on the HBO Documentary “United Skates” (2019).

In 2018, L. David launched Ghostwolfe Holdings, a successful creative consultancy, where he is the Chief Strategist and lead consultant. The firm allows him to provide his expertise in digital marketing, change management, organizational development and project management. His experience of over 20 years in design, 10 years in marketing, and 18 years in consulting has given him the opportunity to work with SME (small and medium-sized enterprises) in Illinois, Florida, Canada, the United Kingdom and beyond.

### The Academic

L. David’s diverse educational background, which includes his B.A. in Architectural Studies from The University of Illinois-Chicago, an M.S. in Real Estate from Roosevelt University, and an M.B.A. with a focus in marketing from American Intercontinental University, have led to a variety of opportunities for him to bestow his knowledge within the world of academia. His travels also led him to study at the Freie Universtat in Berlin and the University of Toronto in Canada.

Designing curriculum and teaching courses on entrepreneurship, marketing, media, and professional business practices at Harrington School of Design, led him to other opportunities to teach courses on social media marketing, blueprint reading for future construction, introduction to computers and public relations at various institutions, including Tribeca Flashpoint College, Everest College and Opportunity Advancement Innovation (OAI) Chicago.

From administering curriculum in global finance, project management, marketing, and business to Italian and Russian exchange students at Marconi International University, to teaching business writing and digital marketing at Miami Dade College, to instructing on public speaking at Florida Memorial University, L. David has brought a range of his knowledge and talents into the coursework he teaches.

Currently working on his dissertation, *“How Can Design Thinking Assist Black Architects in Creating and Sustaining Architectural Practices”* for his Doctorate in Business Administration, slated for 2020 completion, L. David has always looked to evolve. Ultimately, L. David desires to stimulate minds who have the same passion as him.

### A Look Ahead

L. David applies his knowledge and experience of architecture and design, consulting and management expertise, and business acumen even currently in his work for the Public Building Commission. In this work, he oversees construction projects, manages 8+ figure budgets and ensures successful project management and coordination with multiple agencies, including but not limited to Chicago Public Schools, Chicago Fire and Water Departments, Aldermanic offices and other organizations and entities. His work reflects not only his evolution but the ability to capture other's growth that ultimately enhances people, products, and experiences.

“Design thinking is a concept introduced to business to create better products, services, and experiences. My impetus is to continue the exploration of design thinking and find creative implementations in various situations. I aspire to use traditional business elements such as project management and marketing to not only optimize process and function, but to develop truly empathetic managers and creatives to improve society,” - L. David Stewart