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## Principals finish buyout of Copeland

Firm has moved to larger space, expanded design services over the last year

**By Kim Crompton**

Jeff Fountain says he and Bob Britton, both licensed architects, last week completed a three-year buyout of Copeland Architecture & Construction Inc., of Spokane, from founder Gerry Copeland.

The firm specializes in custom design-build residential projects and also provides commercial design services for office, retail, resort, and multifamily residential projects. One of its projects was the 26,000-square-foot Riverfront Office Building, located along the Spokane River east of downtown.

It employs 10 people and occupies an 1,800-square-foot space on the fifth floor of the Asuris-Schade Towers, located at 528 E. Spokane Falls Boulevard, just south of the Riverfront building.

It moved there last year from an 800-square-foot space in the Commission Building, at 216 W. Pacific, and in recent months has added an architect and an interior design coordinator as part of an ongoing effort to expand its services, Fountain says.

The new architect, Colin Anderson, formerly had been an intern with Copeland Architecture and received his master's degree in architecture from Washington State University in December, Fountain says. The interior design coordinator, Diana Nicoletti, holds a bachelor's degree in interior design from WSU and will enable the firm to put a greater focus on those services, he says.

Gerry Copeland continues to work at the firm on a part-time basis, and the firm has one other full-time architect, Austin Dickey, whom it hired about a year ago. Dickey had been at ALSC Architects PS here for eight years, where he was involved in commercial-design work, and now oversees Copeland Architecture's commercial-design services, Fountain says.

"We've done commercial architecture throughout the years, but primarily residential, and now we have a focus on commercial work as well. It's very much a part of our marketing," he says.

Britton is president of the firm and Fountain is vice president, but they're equal shareholders in the business. The firm formerly was named Copeland Design & Construction, but changed its name to Copeland Architecture & Construction three years ago when Britton and Fountain became partners.

"We're quite busy right now," Fountain says. "The market is not a great market in general, but we've continued to provide a niche. We have a big focus in sustainable design," which recently has become a strong growth area in the design and construction fields.

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