

RALPH THARP, AICP
EXECUTIVE
PLANNING, DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT



*Master Planning, Urban Design
Community and International Development*

With a broad spectrum of project types and magnitudes in International Master Planning Mr. Ralph Tharp, AICP, is presently the Principal Master Planner for **CH2M Hill Baghdad** with reach-back support from their Atlanta office. Among his many accomplishments is his authorship of the “*Baghdad International Zone Consolidation and Redevelopment Master Plan*”, for which he received acclaim for it being awarded the “*Most Outstanding Federal Plan*” for 2008 by the American Planning Association. He was recently the Principal leading the new Master Plan for the development of the Baghdad International Airport and Airport-Route Irish Corridor he has designated “*Global Port Baghdad*”.

Senior Principal Planner for **MACTEC Engineering and Consulting**, Mr. Tharp led a team of professionals in authoring the “*Afghan National Security Forces Comprehensive Plan for Facilities Development*”. He was also the In-Country Program Manager working on the Iraq Reconstruction for **ECC International**, a construction management and environmental engineering firm in Baghdad, Iraq and San Francisco, California. As a result of his experience, creativity and technical expertise, in 2003-04 Mr. Tharp was invited to assist Ambassador Paul Bremer and Admiral David Nash as the Senior Master Planner for the **Coalition Provisional Authority, Iraq Infrastructure Reconstruction Office** in Baghdad, Iraq.

Prior to his Middle East appointment he was Vice President/Regional Manager and Principal for **EN Engineering, Inc** in Las Vegas, Nevada and Irvine, California, leading teams of professional planners, civil engineers, development specialists and land surveyors. Tharp founded the **Land Strategies Corporation** of St Louis, Missouri in 1991, a company offering expertise in urban planning, environmental planning, commercial development planning, recreation and hospitality planning, growing client demand required that he expand the firm to Columbia, Illinois in 1993; **Bucher, Willis and Ratliff Corporation** of Kansas City acquired the firm from Mr. Tharp in 1997. After serving as a managing partner with Bucher, Willis and Ratliff, Tharp joined **Allen L. Kracower & Associates** in Chicago as Executive Vice-President in 1999. At Kracower & Associates, Tharp was responsible for a variety of highly successful initiatives involving urban planning; commercial development programming and land acquisition; park and forest preserve planning; and land use, condemnation and zoning litigation.

As a widely recognized design expert and development planner, Tharp has led countless public design initiatives and town planning charrettes, while also pioneering model-funding mechanisms for urban renewal projects and regional planning efforts. Tharp is authoring a book entitled Confidence to Invest, which discusses various aspects of the urban and development planning process, centering on building confidence from the economic, environmental and investment value of urban planning and design.

“The function of master planning is to instill the confidence to invest”

Ralph Earl Tharp, AICP, Principal Master Planner

Mr. Tharp earned a B.S. in Urban Geography and Planning from Southern Illinois University, a M.S. in Urban Geography and Environmental Planning from Southern Illinois University, and is an M.B.A. candidate in Marketing Management at Webster University in St. Louis, Missouri. He has also studied at the Graduate School of Design at Harvard University in Site Development Planning; Environmental Planning at the Shoals Marine Laboratory of Cornell University; and Organizational Management at Duke University.

His transportation planning experience includes expert witness testimony on the major light rail system in Missouri and Illinois and the planning for their corridors and subsequent TOD projects, and several EIS studies for major interstate highway systems. Mr. Tharp was the lead planner for a feasibility and design study for a high-speed rail project linking Los Angeles and Las Vegas, Nevada. He completed master planning for the new *Las Vegas Monorail System* and its TOD along the Las Vegas Strip. He has completed brown-field redevelopment projects throughout the Midwest, specifically in Chicago and the largest wetlands mitigation projects in North Carolina and Illinois.

Throughout his extensive career Mr. Tharp has engineered many innovative and proven urban and development planning tools. Of those used specifically for commercial development planning purposes has been the development of *“commercial planning districts”* and *“development platforms”* for use in planning programs for development firms and within large communities or counties. An additional process has been the development of a very popular public participation tool in planning, that of the *“Town Planning Charrettes TM”* which was presented at the first *National Mayors Conference on Urban Design* almost fifteen years ago. Ralph has planned, designed and developed the master plan and zoning documents for two of the largest commercial development projects in the State of Illinois at the 1,000 plus acre Collinsville Eastport Development Park and at the 2,000 plus acre Columbia Southport Development Park. He has also worked on surveying projects with NASA on satellite imagery applications in land planning and design.

Ralph was project principal for the largest planning and development project in the history of the State of Missouri, that of the revitalized *Missouri State Fairgrounds* in Sedalia, Missouri, which was completed with input from all counties (102) in the State of Missouri. He has completed the

first regional open space and development plan for the States of North Carolina and South Carolina, performed as President of a development planning initiative of the **Foundation of the Carolinas** in Charlotte, N.C. He was invited as a professional urban planner to observe and comment on the *World Trade Center Site Redevelopment* in July 2002 in New York City. In 1997 he presented at the 5th World Symposium on International Urban Planning and the Environment at Oxford University in England; worked closely with the Chief Planner for the City of London; presented at the Royal Town Planning Institute in Birmingham, England; and at the *World Heritage Sites Symposium* in Telford, England.



Contact Information:

Ralph Tharp, AICP
516 Iron Lantern Drive
Ballwin, Missouri 63011
ralphtharp@yahoo.com
Ph. 636-575-6520