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ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN

Alamodome architect looking to expand sports reach

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San Antonio-based Marmon Mok Architects, which was involved in the initial design of the 65,000-seat Alamodome and teamed with Populous on its recent \$60 million makeover before the 2018 NCAA men's Final Four, is looking to parlay that work into an expanded sports practice.

Principle Greg Houston, who heads the firm's sports practice, said the company is involved in multiple projects, including a roughly \$15 million transformation of the Northeast Independent School District's aging Walker Natatorium. That project led to a similar opportunity with the Southwest Independent School District, which has tapped the firm to design its new aquatics complex.

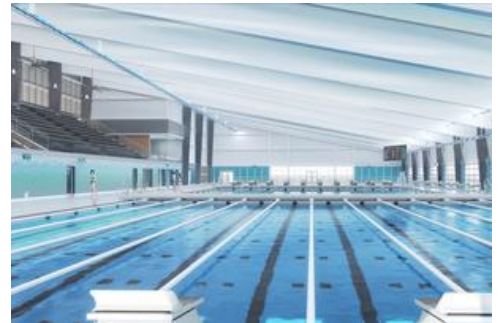
"We continue to see aquatics grow as its own vein," Houston said.

Meanwhile, Marmon Mok is working on a conceptual study for a baseball and softball training facility in Austin for the Major League Baseball-sponsored Reviving Baseball in Inner Cities program.

"Our sports practice has a lot more depth now by virtue of the diversity of these projects," Houston said.

But it's the firm's extended relationship with the Alamodome that has set the stage for more sports-related design work.

"It's put us squarely in the mainstream market for sports," Houston said. "It's an iconic building — not just in San Antonio, but nationally."



MAMRON MOK

A rendering shows Marmon Mok's redesign of the Northeast Independent School District's Walker Natatorium.

Now, Marmon Mok is looking to leverage its work with the Alamodome and these other projects into more business across the state and beyond.

“We are strongly looking outside of Texas,” Houston said. “We are starting to talk to the strategic partners about the timing of projects, funding of projects and what it would take to be in the mix.”

The 65-plus-year-old firm is also in preliminary discussions with the city of San Antonio about further work on the Alamodome that may be needed for the building to accommodate the 2025 Final Four.

“We know there are going to be requirements from the NCAA to do some things,” said Angel Garcia, an associate partner with Marmon Mok.

What changes or enhancements may be required by the NCAA for the 2025 event have not been determined.

“We are working with the city on what that scope could be,” Garcia said.

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