

*August 26, 2023*

Together, The RBA Group (rba.) and MEND Design Collaborative (MEND Design Collaborative) are pleased to announce the formation of a long-term strategic collaboration between the two firms. Based in Charlotte, North Carolina, this collaboration will allow both firms to better serve clients through expanded multi-disciplinary architecture and planning design services.

Christopher Byers, Founder and President of RBA, and Michael Dunning, Founding Principal of MEND, share common interests in serving clients through well-planned and sustainable design. Through this common interest, the firms made the decision to combine talents in order to expand their collective capacity and geographic reach - as well as diversify their capabilities and better serve clients through a full-service design approach. The venture will leverage the best of each firm's core expertise and position them to be more competitive with a "whole is greater than the sum of its parts" mindset.

For the time being, the companies intend to maintain their individual brands, apart from joint projects, but plan to eventually merge as one firm. Dunning will join RBA in a leadership role with both firms sharing in management for the collaboration. RBA and MEND will co-locate at RBA's current office in the heart of South End as both practices enjoy a long tenure in the Charlotte market. RBA is in its twenty-fourth year and is well known for its architecture & interior design in numerous market segments, while MEND's portfolio will add a focus on building re-use, urban design, master planning, placemaking, brand strategy and caused-based design efforts. Together, Chris and Michael believe this joint venture will be a key driving force for the future - serving clients better and resulting in an even higher level of design acumen.

*Link to original press release:*

[https://www.linkedin.com/posts/the-rba-group-inc-architecture-%26-interiors\\_announcement-collaboration-design-activity-7100944936182718464-ogoK/?utm\\_source=share&utm\\_medium=member\\_desktop](https://www.linkedin.com/posts/the-rba-group-inc-architecture-%26-interiors_announcement-collaboration-design-activity-7100944936182718464-ogoK/?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop)