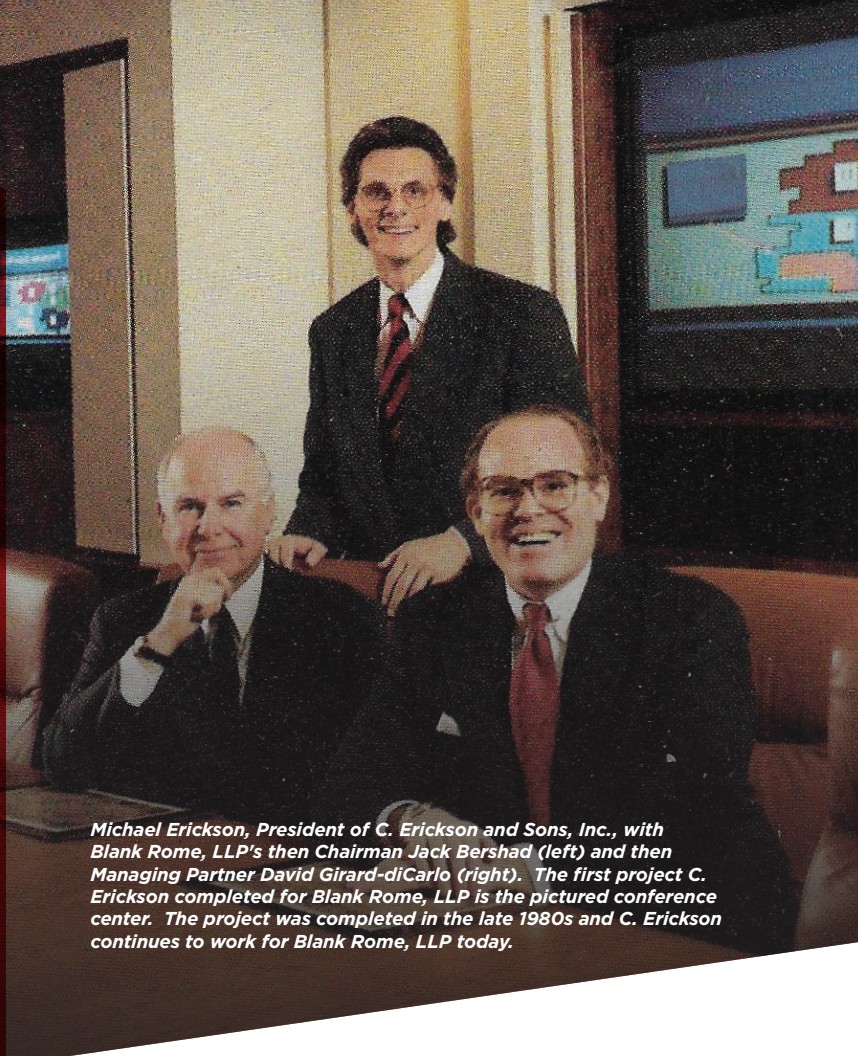


BUILDING A LEGACY, BUILDING THE SKYLINE:

Two GBCA Members Celebrate Major Milestone Anniversaries



Michael Erickson, President of C. Erickson and Sons, Inc., with Blank Rome, LLP's then Chairman Jack Bershaw (left) and then Managing Partner David Girard-diCarlo (right). The first project C. Erickson completed for Blank Rome, LLP is the pictured conference center. The project was completed in the late 1980s and C. Erickson continues to work for Blank Rome, LLP today.

While the roots of the construction industry in Philadelphia extend as far back as the colonial and revolutionary era, the early 20th century was a time of bustling construction activity in our region. 1918 was a year of particular significance, it is the year that James J. Clearkin, Inc., the family company of incoming GBCA Board Chairman, Joseph P. Clearkin, was established.

Another year of note was 1954, the year C. Erickson & Sons, Inc., was founded. GBCA Board Member, Michael G. Erickson is now the President of C. Erickson & Sons.

Over the past several decades, the construction industry has evolved at a rapid pace — in building innovation, techniques, and technology. Yet executives at both companies agree that a strong team and a commitment to their customers and the communities they serve continue to guide the company.

Read the two interviews below to learn a little more about each company

Is your company or an executive at your company celebrating a special milestone or anniversary?

We'd like to feature you in an upcoming edition of Construction Today! **Contact Lauren Hanan at lhanan@gbca.com.**



Michael G. Erickson
President
C. Erickson & Sons



“Being a builder gives you the unique ability to experience your accomplishments for decades. I can look at the skyline and know we contributed to the success of the city.”

- Michael G. Erickson

C. ERICKSON & SONS

WHEN WAS THE COMPANY FOUNDED AND BY WHOM?

Charles G. Erickson, Jr. in 1954

HOW DID THE COMPANY GET STARTED?

Charles was working for a construction company that went out of business. Because of the relationships he had formed, he was able to pick up old clients and build his reputation as a company owner. Fun Fact – Charles added “and Sons” while he was starting his family in anticipation of them joining the business. He thought it would give the appearance of longevity.

HOW HAS THE COMPANY GROWN OVER THE PAST 65 YEARS?

The company's roots are in interior renovations and we have continued with that as the core of our business. Our first real continuous work was with Reading Railroad Company and the second was Sun Oil. Over time, the company built a diversified portfolio. The largest job completed by the founders was a renovation of the Bellevue Stratford Hotel to the Fairmount Hotel in the late 70s.

I think the real reason we were able to grow is because my father was forced into the office due to injury. It required him to hire good people he could depend on and allowed him to grow relationships and chase new opportunities.

WHEN DID YOU GET INVOLVED WITH THE COMPANY? HOW DID YOUR DAD PREPARE YOU TO ONE DAY TAKE OVER?

I was surrounded by the business my entire life. I grew up sorting nails in barrels from middle school on. I helped over summers and holidays when I became old enough to work in the field. I learned the business from the ground up, performing every position in the field and in the office. I went to Spring Garden College for a degree in construction management and engineering and graduated in 1976. I entered the business full time immediately after graduation. My brother, Charlie, joined the business immediately after high school, eventually to lead us as President. Charlie recently retired and I have now assumed the role of President alongside long-term employees Michael Carullo and Dan McNichol who were elevated to Principals of the firm.

WHAT'S THE NUMBER ONE LESSON YOU'VE LEARNED FROM THE BUSINESS?

We've always practiced mature growth. We don't experiment – we've committed as we entered new sectors, growing from corporate interior renovation to healthcare renovation to new construction.

Safety comes first. We've also stayed true to our roots in carpentry and millwork. We are aggressive with implementing technology to stay current for both ourselves and our clients. We treat the business like an extended family, retaining employees with long-term tenure. Our success is a result of our people.

THOUGHTS ABOUT THIS INDUSTRY?

It's apparent that we have an aging community of skilled craftsman. We, as an industry, have to do a better job at attracting young people and mentoring them. I'm happy to say we, as a company, are evolving. We are growing our younger team members and transitioning them to leadership roles.

Philadelphia, in particular, is a city based on relationships, resulting in the tendency to renovate for the same people, whether through capital improvement programs for previous clients or clients bringing us back in when they move to new space. Being a builder gives you the unique ability to experience your accomplishments for decades. I can look at the skyline and know we contributed to the success of the city. For example, we've worked for the Franklin Institute for generations and seeing new generations enjoying and learning through iconic cultural institutions like this one is a constant reminder of the meaningful work we do.