With over 40 years spent as an architect designing buildings in Memphis, Louis Pounders has found another way to apply his professional design talent—in a book about architecture, for children. The book is titled Frank: An Architect’s Dog, and was illustrated with hand-drawn, watercolor images by retired Memphis architect Terry DeWitt.

Frank: An Architect’s Dog
by Louis R. Pounders
illustrated by Terry DeWitt

Where did you grow up?
I’m a native Memphian.

And where did you go to school?
Grahamwood Elementary, followed by White Station Middle and White Station High School (class of 1964). College consisted of a BA from Rhodes College (Class of 1968), then a Master of Architecture degree from the Harvard Graduate School of Design.

Tell us about your family.
My wife, Dorothy, and I have a son, Brad, who lives in Memphis, and a daughter, Elizabeth, who also lives here, but will soon move to Oxford, Mississippi.

Any favorite pastimes?
I enjoy traveling and, as a member of the national AIA Committee on Design, I have the opportunity to travel twice a year for conferences to some interesting places, both domestic and international.

Do you have a favorite travel destination?
Actually, I have two favorite places: New Orleans and Italy. I love the food, the ambience, the history, and the architecture of both places. I usually travel to New Orleans at least once a year. And I’m fascinated with Italy. I spent six weeks in Rome several years ago and that gave me a wonderful opportunity to get to know that city. My wife and I went back to Rome just last year.

What books have you read lately?
I prefer historical, non-fiction, and biographies. Recently I’ve read The Professor and the Madman, by Simon Schama; The Age of Innocence, by Edith Wharton; and The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks, by Rebecca Skloot.

What is your favorite quote?
“We shape our buildings and ever after they shape us.” —Winston Churchill.

Do you have a favorite color?
I love green, but I also love blue.

Where is your book available?
Locally, you can find it at Burke’s Book Store in Midtown, the Booksellers at Airways and the Booksellers at Midtown, and at our office, AIA, at 1200 Union Avenue. You can also purchase it at the local AIA bookstore and the National Building Museum in Washington, D.C.

What has been the most personal building you’ve designed?
I designed a house for my cousin James when he retired and wanted to build a house in Montegue, near Chattanooga. We did this house project together and designed it for entertaining. The project was great fun and it actually won an award.

Most memorable advice you’ve ever received?
“It takes two people to do a rendering — one to draw it and one to stand behind you and tell you when to stop.”

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