

## Feature: Citizen Architect Dawn Zuber, AIA

*This is the second in our series of articles on Citizen Architects in Michigan. Because the profession of architecture donates time and expertise in public service roles, our communities benefit from the impact of this expertise in their government and development. Please submit suggestions for other Citizen Architects to [info@michiganarchitecturalfoundation.org](mailto:info@michiganarchitecturalfoundation.org).*



Dawn Zuber, of [Studio Z Architecture](#), has been working in architects' offices since 1986, and started Studio Z almost 15 years ago. While her experience includes residential, commercial, health care, entertainment, and retail architecture, she currently is focusing primarily on residential projects. Her remodeling projects and additions create a home that fits who her clients are. She accomplishes this through improving the use of the home, with minimal intervention, and maximizing sustainability through materials selection, insulation, and windows.

Dawn has served on the Canton Township Board of Appeals for five years. This board is responsible for resolving situations where property owners are planning a project that does not meet the zoning ordinances of the township. The board seeks compromises to make sure the zoning ordinances are upheld, and to promote aesthetics and safety in the community.

Dawn's experience as an architect has given her the ability to quickly understand issues brought to the board, and to help solve problems. She is part of a very knowledgeable group of individuals, many of whom also have experience in construction. "I've learned a lot by being on this board, and I have been able to help solve problems too – it's what I do for my clients!"

Serving in public leadership positions with this depth of understanding of the built environment demonstrates how architects can have a great impact on our communities as they continue to grow and evolve.