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By: [Valerie Huntley, Market Research/Reporter](#) February 27, 2017 [Q](#)

Names: Ryan Noland, Tom Fahl and Nauman Thomas



Thomas, Fahl and Noland
Courtesy NFT Group

Titles: Principles of NFT Group LLC

Years in the industry: 25+

Company specialties: Commercial construction and historic preservation renovations

Notable projects: Campeche Bed and Breakfast, Frey Smoked Meats Co. Restaurant, Laughing Lotus-Church of Yoga, The Daily Beet

Recent project that your company has completed? Laughing Lotus-Church of Yoga

How long did it take to complete? Six months

What were some of the challenges faced with this particular project?

This project was delivered in a design-build method. As the general contractor, NFT faced several challenges structurally to tear the structure down, from inside leaving the 100-year-old brick shell and

rebuilding it from the inside out while maintaining the historic integrity of the 100-year-old 7th Ward church.

How did you get involved in the industry?

After working for larger general contractors in the city, we decided it was time to do things on our own, pushing our quality-driven methods of project delivery forward.

What challenges have you faced in the industry personally and as a company?

We have faced the challenges of starting out as a small company trying to prove itself in an industry and region built on several decades long relationships. We're finally starting to reap the dividends of laying the groundwork for building those relationships ourselves through quality construction, responsiveness and doing what we said we will do.

What is some advice that you would give to aspiring contractors?

As a general contractor, we are always facing new challenges and learning new ways to tackle problems. We'd advise them to remember that you don't know it all, and to continue learning.

What was your favorite project that you worked on and why?

"Campeche Bed and Breakfast, because of the architectural complexities we faced from a construction standpoint and were able to overcome and complete the job on time and within budget."

-Ryan Noland

"Laughing Lotus Church of Yoga, because of the complexities that go with renovating a 100-year-old building along with the unique design choices made by both the owner, Dana Trixie Flynn and Concordia Architects."

-Nauman Thomas

What was your most challenging project and how did you overcome the issues you faced?

"To date, while not an NFT project, the most challenging job of my career has been the fourth phase of the National World War II Museum, which encompassed the 4D theater, the Stage Door Canteen, the American Sector Restaurant and central plant that runs all that you see today. The job broke boundaries with the various aspects of building a pre-cast concrete façade at severe angles, a 4D theater and several other material choices purposed in ways not typical of the means they were designed to be used. The building is one-of-a-kind and something for the city to be proud to have."

-Ryan Noland