

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

*Since 1955, Skender has been a family-owned business based in Illinois. Located in Chicago, Skender focuses on design, construction and manufacturing projects.*



“I was born and raised in Illinois,” says Mark Skender, Chief Executive Officer. “My father started the business in Chicago and it was just natural that as we expanded the business, Illinois would be our location. A lot of it is based on family history.”

Skender has broadened beyond its original construction groundwork to include start-to-finish projects in construction, design and building component manufacturing functions. This expansion includes a meaningful investment in a new, Chicago-based advanced manufacturing subsidiary as well as the acquisition of boutique design firm Ingenious Architecture.

The company designs and constructs commercial, healthcare and multifamily properties. Their Lean, integrated and tech-infused business model focuses on meeting their clients’ and project partners’ exact needs.

“Business is going great,” Skender says. “Construction in general has been going very well for the past eight years. The economy is strong.”

They are currently working with Chicago-based developer Sterling Bay and Hyatt Hotel Corporation to build a Hyatt House project. The 14-story Hyatt House will be the first hotel in the Fulton Market district to cater to extended-stay corporate travelers. It will feature upgraded common areas such as the bar and lounge with city views. Other amenities will range from an indoor pool to multiple green roof features. The hotel will offer a first-floor lobby and future retail space when it opens in summer 2019.

Skender recently completed the renovation of the historic Elgin Tower Building in downtown Elgin, Illinois. When a fire gutted the former bank-turned-office building in 2014, it was condemned. Skender’s team worked diligently to transform the building into 44 modern apartment units. The team worked side-by-side with the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency to protect and preserve historical elements of the site. They retained the original terrazzo in the corridors, refinished or recreated wooden landmark unit entries, and rebuilt the elevators to operate within the existing shafts. They also coordinated the exterior façade tuckpointing and stone replacement in portions of the project.

Skender prides itself on providing an excellent workplace and has been honored with “best place to work” awards 22 times over the past ten years. The company recently earned Number 6 honors on the *Crain’s Chicago Business* 2018 Best Places to work list. It also received the second place honor during the Best Places to Work in Illinois awards ceremony presented by *Daily Herald Business Ledger* in May.

“Our family business has been a beneficiary of many companies who have relocated to Illinois,” Skender says. “Some relocated from the suburbs and some from other states. Illinois is where the company has always been and will continue to be.”