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Wordley Martin: design for the equestrian community

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The surface a horse trains and competes on is integral to its success.
Photo by Design Ivy Media

Wordley Martin delivers on design for the equestrian community

BY ALICE COLLINS

Taking an empty plot of land and creating a beautiful equestrian facility from scratch is an incredibly exciting prospect but also one that can be daunting, and it can be hard to know where to start. This has been the question facing many members of the equestrian community currently flocking to Ocala to put down permanent roots in Central Florida.

The experienced duo of Sharn Wordley and Craig Martin have the solution. They are the brains behind the specialist footing and arena construction company Wordley Martin, which has helped with many bespoke world-class riding arena builds and renova-

tions in the area. Together, they have stepped up to fill the void and help horse folk take their dream farm from concept all the way to completion.

Already armed with the expertise and contacts thanks to Wordley Martin, the pair are now spearheading a new equestrian design collective offering a turnkey solution through trusted service providers. As a result, they provide one-stop shopping for planning and building for both home and stable. The innovative Equine Design & Development Collective (EDDC) is a group of trusted local advisors, designers, architects and builders brought together to help seamlessly guide every step of the process, from concept and planning, through design, permits, construction, and finish.

"We saw that there was a real need for

the Equine Design & Development Collective, where we could build on the experiences we've had and the relationships we've built with others in the same market to provide a trustworthy source for everything one would need," explained Wordley. "So often, we speak to clients who say the riding arena we've built is great, but they ask if we know anyone who designs barns or houses. Or do we know of a good landscaping architect who specializes in equine facilities? We wanted to provide an all-encompassing experience for those building a new facility."

Both Wordley, an Ocala local, and Martin have competed at the top level of equestrian sport themselves, with Wordley representing New Zealand at the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games and Martin long-listed for the 2004 Athens Olympics.



A showcase of Wordley Martin equestrian property design in Ocala, Florida.
Photo Courtesy of Wordley Martin

Wordley has competed in more than 20 countries at some of the world's most prestigious show jumping events. As well as helming Wordley Martin, he continues his active international competition career with a string of talented jumping horses and can often be found competing at HITS Ocala and World Equestrian Center - Ocala, sometimes on the same day!

Martin, meanwhile, is one of a select number of professionals worldwide to hold the title of Fédération Équestre Internationale (FEI — horse sport's world governing body) approved footing specialist, as well as being a licensed realtor.

Through Wordley Martin, the pair have leveraged their extensive equestrian experience and knowledge to provide brand new rings and major upgrades to high profile venues such as the HITS showgrounds in both Ocala, Florida, and Saugerties, New York. Competitors and competition managers alike understand that the better an environment a horse can be given, including the surface it is jumping and training on, the greater its chances of success.

A custom riding arena designed and built by Wordley Martin for an owner relocating to Ocala, Florida.
Photo by Andrew Ryback Photography



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Wordley Martin led a six-acre renovation project at HITS Post Time Farm in Ocala, Florida.
Photo by Design Ivy Media



A recent project by the Equine Design and Development Collective in Ocala, Florida.
Photo Courtesy of Wordley Martin

Services offered by Equine Design & Development Collective include:

- Architectural design
- Farm layout
- Permitting advice
- House construction
- Interior design
- Barn construction
- Riding arena construction
- Fencing
- Equine walkers, treadmills, and water treadmills
- Pools, cabanas, and pool houses
- Outdoor kitchens
- Well drilling
- Excavation, driveways, and roads
- Landscape design, implementation, and maintenance

ENTER THE EQUINE DESIGN & DEVELOPMENT COLLECTIVE

With the influx of professional equestrian riders, owners, and enthusiasts who continue to pour into the booming Ocala area, where available land is still relatively affordable, there is more now than ever before for Wordley Martin's, and now the Equine Design & Development Collective's, services.

Wordley's brainchild, the EDDC was formed to facilitate smooth sailing for a new property owner's vision, taking them all the way from land acquisition to build out. He has partnered with trusted service providers who know the Ocala area well to provide a full-service, bespoke offering. When designing and building an equestrian property, it's imperative that the team understands the unique needs of life with horses, and the key role that good design plays in everyday comfort. The EDDC can be trusted with both the macro, big-picture decisions, and the micro, right down to the interior design finishing touches and the artwork on the walls of the new home.



Craig Martin (left) and Sharn Wordley are the duo behind Wordley Martin, renowned riding arena specialists.
Photo Courtesy of Wordley Martin

It's a far cry from Wordley Martin's founding as simply a footing and arena company, but the duo saw an opening in the market and decided to bring together a team of specialists to offer a joined-up approach for equestrian enthusiasts. With so many

horse people choosing to relocate to Ocala and build from scratch, demand for an end-to-end service has been growing, bolstered by the expertise that these equine-specific companies bring to the table.

After all, for horse people to build their



A picturesque Wordley Martin riding arena incorporating Ocala's famed Oak trees.
Photo by Katherine Hay

dream equestrian property in idyllic Ocala, it makes sense to use collaborative contractors who specialize in the sector. In keeping with the fully bespoke ethos, EDDC is also happy to work with the owner's own teams on any aspect of the property design and development phase, seamlessly integrating them into their processes.

The unique collective brings together experienced companies including Southern Heritage Developers, specialists in equine

property development known for building many stunning properties in Ocala; interior designer Shawn Kronen of Kronen Design; JDS Drafting & Design; and more. The goal of each company within EDDC is to find what works best for each client's budget and to ensure that they — and their horses — enjoy their homes for years to come.

"From the minute a client purchases land through to the moment the final touches are put on, they can keep everything in-

house with EDDC," said Wordley. "All of our partners in the Collective can provide inspiration for what's possible and deliver on the property owner's goals thanks to their proven expertise."

Are you contemplating building the horse facility of your dreams? The EDDC provides endless possibilities for equestrians who want to build their dream house or farm while keeping the horse at the forefront of the decision-making process. From the welcoming entrance landscaping to stalls in your barn, the EDDC can guide property owners every step of the way, with stunning results.

To learn more about the Equine Design & Development Collective, visit www.equineddc.com.

For more information on creating the ideal horse training arena, visit www.wordleymartin.com. 091