



2017 Women in Building Services: Michele Boddewyn, Boddewyn Gaynor Architects, d.p.c.

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Name: Michele Boddewyn

Title: President

Company Name: Boddewyn Gaynor Architects, d.p.c.

Years in real estate: 38

What real estate associations or organizations are you a member of? CREW NY

How have you navigated obstacles to achieve success in your career?

Obstacles always present themselves throughout a career. Early on in my career, one of the challenges I faced as a new entrant into the field of architecture was working with consultants and contractors that had 30 or 40 years of experience. I learned that the key to my success was vested in demonstrating my knowledge of the project and my skills in preparing a well-coordinated set of drawings. This enabled me to earn their respect. I have carried this valuable lesson with me throughout my career. There is no substitute for precision in the work that BGA's creates for its clients.

How do you play your strengths to your advantage in your career?

Irrespective of one's profession, ultimately we are called upon to provide solutions to the challenges presented. Throughout my years of experience, I have found that the ability to develop a practical solution is most beneficial to the client. This approach demands expert knowledge, an investment in time and energy and a keen ability to evaluate the best solution(s). A collaborative approach where team members are encouraged to participate is essential. In the architectural field, the ability to understand the project needs and utilization is key to creating the best design. This requires clear communication and an ongoing dialogue through to project completion.

What trends are you seeing so far this year?

Tenants' wish to minimize their real estate costs has resulted in a trend of "Open" floor plans and "Desking" furniture systems. According to the "Law of Unintended Consequences," acoustical issues

and the spread of contaminants among workers reveal hidden costs, in terms of distracting working conditions and increased absenteeism. Going forward, the design for these types of spaces must consider these issues and develop appropriate solutions.

What do you do for fun?

The lines between my personal and professional lives blend. As a result, I often find that I am drawn toward touring newly completed building projects, be they near my home, my business, or in my travels. My strong interest in the field of architecture and the diversity of creative solutions continues to expand with each journey.

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