



PWC celebrates 33rd anniversary at Black Tie Holiday Dinner Dance - December 6th

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On Dec. 6th, Professional Women in Construction (PWC) celebrated its 33rd anniversary at its annual Black Tie Holiday Dinner Dance gala at The Yale Club Ballroom, 50 Vanderbilt Ave. The event honored Clarelle DeGraffe, Port Authority of N.Y. & N.J., program director, World Trade Center Construction (WTCC) site, and Jill Lerner, FAIA, principal at Kohn Pedersen Fox Associates (KPF) and president of the N.Y.C. chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIANY). It featured a fashion show of the "construction-inspired" luxury brand of Anthony Manfredonia, fashion engineer, former head designer for Isaac Mizrahi's Haute Couture collection and the crown prince of swing, Stan Rubin and his orchestra. PWC VP and Armand Construction CEO Barbara Armand presided over the event and delivered the opening remarks. Dorothy Wasiak, VP of PCGNY Corp. and PWC board member, chaired the gala.

Steven Plate, PANYNJ director of the WTCC, introduced Degraffe, a civil engineer and 24-year PANYNJ veteran. DeGraffe manages the design and construction and directs a team of project managers and professionals for the \$1.2 billion WTC Vehicle Security Center (VSC).

Fanny Gong, AIA, LEED AP, AVP, Design Management, Manhattanville Development, Columbia University, introduced Lerner as "a very accomplished architect who has designed and managed numerous projects globally." Gong was presented by PWC board member and AECOM education director Maria Wilpon, AIA Associate.

Lerner noted the "gigantic shift in the architectural profession" where women now comprise half of most architectural schools. She thanked her mentors at KPF and spoke of the honor of being president of the AIA's N.Y.C. chapter, the oldest and largest chapter of AIA National.

She has led the design of such award-winning academic, medical, and research projects for KPF as the University of Michigan's Ross School of Business, CUNY's Advanced Science Research Center, Peking University's School of Transnational Law in Shenzhen and NYU Shanghai.

Parsons School of Design graduate Anthony Manfredonia, raised in a construction environment and trained in general contracting, dubbed himself "fashion engineer" because "a true craftsman understands the art in construction ..for a building or a garment." He has worked on the Donna Karan Collection and for fashion designer Tracy Reese.

The committee members were: Nicole Hunter, senior cost engineer, Louis Berger Group; Kay Lee, general sales manager, SimplexGrinnell; William Fife, principal, The Fife Group.

For information on PWC call 212.486.7745, visit www.pwcusa.org/ny or email pwc@pwcusa.org. PWC is a nonprofit, 501(c)3 organization founded in 1980.