



**2021 Year in Review: Richard DeMarco, AIA, Montroy
DeMarco Architecture**

December 28, 2021 - Spotlights



Name: Richard DeMarco, AIA

Job Title: Principal

Company Name: Montroy DeMarco Architecture

What was your greatest professional accomplishment or most notable project, deal, or transaction in 2021?

Our firm has successfully withstood the pandemic-related economic downturn and has won several very significant commissions, including the 630,000 s/f Morgan North redevelopment and the complete redesign and expansion of the Top of the Rock observation deck at Rockefeller Center, both in Manhattan. Morgan North, a redevelopment of a section of a USPS sorting facility into commercial offices will feature the largest green roof in New York City. The new Top of the Rock will be completely redesigned, with new visitor attractions and unobstructed 360° views. MDA serves as executive architect for both projects owned by Tishman Speyer.

What was the biggest lesson you learned while working during the pandemic?

It is possible to successfully maintain operations and productivity of a design firm while working remotely. MDA invested into cloud-based design and collaborations software systems early on and continued its work without interruptions. We have also learned that maintaining the team spirit and camaraderie is critical. Setting time aside for employee recreational activities, organizing hybrid in-person/on-line gatherings at the office and restaurants, and other non work-related team-building events help firms in maintaining a collaborative spirit.

What are your predictions for your industry in 2022?

Several real estate sectors will withstand the pandemic-related difficulties and thrive in the years to come. These include healthcare and life science research and laboratory properties. In addition, all commercial and institutional real estate across the U.S. will be undergoing energy efficiency upgrades that will encompass building envelopes, MEP systems, lighting, and vertical transportation systems. AEC firms that work in these specialty sectors will benefit from growth opportunities and significant business increase. MDA's sister firm Montroy Andersen DeMarco specializes in design of life science and consumer goods laboratory and office facilities.

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