



## **2022 Women in Construction: Amy Patel, FXCollaborative**

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Name: Amy Patel

Title: Principal

Company Name: FXCollaborative

What was your greatest professional achievement or most notable project in the last 12 months?

I've had the privilege of managing a lot of great projects and leading very talented teams in the last 12 months. Even throughout the challenges we've been facing, we've risen to the occasion and done some of our best work. As a principal, I've had the opportunity to help affect our office culture in a meaningful way. I've been able to have a lot more input in our firm and have taken on a greater role as mentor and have seen some of the women I mentor come into their own power. As co-chair of our internal mentorship group, seeing the younger generations gain confidence in their abilities and their contributions has given me a real sense of pride.

What advice would you offer to other women getting into the construction industry?

Don't be afraid to speak up. You know more than you think you know and have a lot to offer to the conversation. You may feel shy or doubt your abilities, but it's helpful to remember that most people in the room probably feel similarly. Using your voice often gives permission to other people, especially other women, to use theirs.

Why should women consider a career in construction?

There are so many avenues available in the design and construction industry and your career path can go in many different directions. Every day is an opportunity to learn something new. Although the perception is that this is a very male-dominated industry, there's an opportunity to help change that perception and transform the culture. There are already so many amazing, smart, and talented women in this field that are open and willing to mentor, inspire, and advocate for other women.

Starting out in the construction business, who or what empowered you?

There are many people that I have worked with that set a great example for women in the construction industry. They have empowered me to be strong and fearless and push myself to achieve more. I've had mentors that I still turn to when I'm struggling or need advice. Feeling safe in their presence and knowing they have my back and support me has given me confidence to take chances and excel in my career. Additionally, there's trust that's been built over the years. I knew that they were advocating for me even when I wasn't in the room.

Who within your own firm has helped you succeed within the construction industry?

I've been fortunate to work with a lot of generous and talented people here at FXCollaborative. From early on, leadership has been open and receptive to my ideas and input. The pace on projects can be fast, but the people I've worked with have taken the time to teach and offer guidance. Their patience even when things are hectic was always welcome and kept the environment calm and conducive to growing and learning.