



2022 Women in Construction: Dana Gearrity, H2M architects + engineers

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Name: Dana Gearrity

Title: Project Designer

Company Name: H2M architects + engineers

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

In the last 12 months, I was the project manager of two library annex projects for the Mastics, Moriches, Shirley Community Library. Each building is 7,000 s/f, were designed simultaneously, and are currently in construction. The Moriches Annex is a new building, and the Mastic Beach Annex is a renovation to an existing building with a 2,000 s/f addition. Each building is aspiring to LEED certification. As project manager, I'm able to watch each project grow from its inception on paper to now being in construction, through the finished product.

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

Do not hesitate, do not be afraid, to enter the world of construction. If you have the drive and determination to do this type of work, you will be respected for that alone. It truly doesn't matter who you are, the industry is vast and needs more individuals who are passionate about this work. I have never felt that I was being seen as a "woman" in the field; I have received nothing but respect from those I have encountered because they see me for what I am capable of. Determination and passion truly conquer all, so pursue your dream and don't let anyone stop you.

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

As I've pursued my career, my parents have been my biggest supporters and my father has been a huge inspiration. Growing up, he was always working on our house, and I got to help him as I got older. When I was ten, I remember assisting him with building a two-foot-high deck around our entire semi in-ground swimming pool. Six years later, I was the one who drew the construction plans for my family to apply for the building permit. I truly enjoy the construction part of my job and I volunteer yearly for Habitat for Humanity; one year, my mom even participated with me! Both my parents have been a significant influence and supporters who have watched me grow into the design professional I am today.

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

My supervisor has helped shape me, mentor, and guide me since I started at H2M. He was the first one to take me under his wings to show me all the ins and outs of the industry. I am grateful for the lessons he taught me and the lessons we've learned together. As I am working more independently as of recently, he is still there to guide me when needed. I am forever grateful for the opportunities he has provided me and for our friendship that has come with our teamwork.

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