



2022 Industry Leaders: Ajay Waghmare, Montroy DeMarco Architecture

September 27, 2022 - Spotlights



Nominee's Name & Job Title: Ajay Waghmare, Project Manager

Nominee's Company/Affiliation: Montroy DeMarco Architecture

Nominee's City & State of Employment: New York, NY

Describe what you would consider to be ONE of your top career highlights:

I am currently working on Tishman Speyer's Morgan North redevelopment project that spans over 630,000 s/f of commercial office space in an occupied, historic USPS building in Manhattan. This prominent project includes new building cores, an overbuild, and a 2.5-acre intensive green roof, the largest in NYC. Other career highlights include the TSX Broadway, The Rainbow Room, and One World Observatory.

What award were you most proud to receive?

I was very proud when my team received ENR New York magazine's "Best Sports/Entertainment Project" award for the One World Observatory, the observation deck at One World Trade Center in Lower Manhattan. Montroy DeMarco Architecture served as architect for this space, which became one of the main tourist attractions in New York City immediately after opening.

What was the most difficult experience you have encountered as a leader?

The COVID lockdown happened in the middle of the design development phase of the 630,000 s/f Morgan North project in Manhattan. The design team had to switch to a full remote mode. During this time, we had to maintain the schedule/budget, switch systems, coordinate with numerous consultants virtually in different times zones, and still deliver a high-quality design, while maintaining positive team morale.

What aspect of your position do you find most challenging?

At any given time, I am managing several projects, which are at different stages of design and construction. Both small details and big picture items require equal attention, which can sometimes be overwhelming. Over time, I have learned to delegate well, while allowing team members autonomy.

What advice would you give the next generation of leaders in your industry?

There is not shortcut to success. You must work hard and be willing to learn and grow. Keep an open mind and be receptive to new ideas. Share your knowledge and be a good mentor when you can, so the next generation is better than ours.