



Ones to Watch Fall 2022: Vitrag Shah, McAlpine Contracting

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Vitrag Shah
Project Manager

What recent project, transaction or accomplishment are you most proud of? As a young professional, I am very proud of being entrusted with the prime project management responsibility for the \$36 million Braemar luxury assisted living ground-up development in Montebello, NY. This 133,675 s/f project by Filben Group just broke ground.

What 3 skills do you consider the most important to be successful in your industry? Given the dynamic nature of the construction industry, the following skills are of utmost importance for a successful project manager: knowledge of procedures and methods, efficiency in new technological tools such as BIM, and strong organizational and people management skills. The ability to communicate clearly and maintain a positive team spirit is critical as well.

What is one lesson that you had to learn the hard way? "Pause when you need to, but not for too long." I never realized the power of pause until I went through several difficult situations in my professional and personal life. By pausing and reviewing the situation calmly you can unleash the unknown potential within yourself, gain a new perspective, and discover better solutions to challenges.

Tell us about a mentor or role model that has influenced your career choices? I am influenced by my mentor and manager, McAlpine Contracting's EVP John Nolan, an example of a strong work ethic and continuous drive to learn. He has taught me how to assess a project's success, gather the team's feedback, and apply necessary changes. I model my professional development methods around his recommendations to stay competent in the constantly evolving field of commercial construction.

What do you enjoy doing when you are not working?

Outside of work, I enjoy playing FIFA online, watching a good movie, and day trips to relish the beauty of nature.