



## **2023 Women in Construction: Aimee Zielinski, Wendel Architecture and Engineering**

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What was a pivotal point in your career? Realizing that my career path is just that – mine. And although I can appreciate the course others have taken, this is my race to run. I began honestly analyzing and identifying my professional strengths and weaknesses and made moves to modify my career's strategic plan to align more closely with my strengths and skillset. I liken my career path to the game board for Chutes and Ladders. I have had my fair share of falls down chutes, but, in the end, the ladders have provided me the opportunity to do what I love.

Which professional associations or organizations would you recommend to women who are starting out in the AEC industry? I recommend contacting your local chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) and exploring ways to get involved. Licensure is not a requirement to volunteer for committee involvement and is a lower-level commitment than serving on the Board of Directors. Many cities/regions have architecture foundations that are often not-for-profit, and a fantastic way to donate your time and talents to your community. Involvement in these types of organizations also provides a valuable networking opportunity to meet others in the local AEC industry.

What is your favorite building in New York? I am Buffalo-born and raised and would be remiss if I did not take the opportunity to highlight one of our city's outstanding examples of architectural grandeur and beauty; The Guaranty Building, designed by Dankmar Adler and Louis Sullivan in the 1890s. The size, scale, and materiality of both the interior and exterior invoke an emotional response. Each time I visit, I notice a new color or detail I have never seen before. It is as if the building is revealing itself, a little at a time, so as not to intimidate or overwhelm.