



2023 Women in Construction: Isil Akgul, Cooper Robertson

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Associate

How can AEC companies recruit more women? Companies need to be intentional and proactive in their efforts to recruit and retain women from diverse backgrounds. Recruitment is at the end of a pipeline that starts with high school education, mentorships, and internships. Companies should be present at career fairs and events in unusual schools with a more diverse student body, especially BIPOC women. Workplace culture also plays a significant role in the retention of women employees. Establishing mutual trust can allow for flexible hours, a better work-life balance, and more effective work. Highlighting individual strengths and giving women ownership of their projects will lead to more women in leadership roles.

What is your favorite building in New York? I'm originally from Istanbul, Turkiye. I came to New York for the first time in 2013 and did a tour of the High Line, starting from Hudson Yards and ending in the Meat Packing district. It was the first time I saw the Whitney Museum. I love contemporary art and the Whitney is a special place with its connectivity and relationship with the urban environment in an urban lot. Years later I came to New York to study and started working for the company that is part of the team that designed the Whitney. I still take friends and family who visit me on the same route to show them the High Line and the Whitney.

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