



2023 Women in Construction: Mary Mahany, Shawmut Design and Construction

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Mary Mahany
Project Executive

What was a pivotal point in your career? A pivotal moment in my career was when I got married and had my son, as it made me realize the importance of boundaries. I've found that in order to bring your best self to work every day, it is essential to have healthy work-life integration. By supporting my whole self and not just my career, it's made me more fulfilled and a better overall person. It's something that I wish I recognized sooner in my career, so now I make sure to be a model for other women—emphasizing that everyone (not just parents) have priorities outside of work.

How can AEC companies recruit more women? In order to inspire the next generation to join the AEC industry, we need to reach girls starting in elementary school and through high school. Waiting until college is too late to get them into studies for careers in architect and engineering. Companies need to look for opportunities, such as through parent career days, to reach, educate, and mentor young girls. For construction, where technical degrees aren't always required, don't place a premium on experience. Some of the best people I've worked with came from non-traditional backgrounds. Construction work can be taught, so value those who have the right skills.

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