



2024 Women in CRE: Carolina Zapata, Shawmut Design and Construction

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Carolina Zapata
Senior Project Manager
Shawmut Design and Construction

Why should this nominee be recognized in our Women in Commercial Real Estate Spotlight?

“Carolina diligently pursues excellence in everything she undertakes. She is passionate about her work, and it shines through as she skillfully navigates challenges on complex renovations with creativity and precision. Carolina doesn’t take her past success for granted; instead, she has a relentless drive to consistently push herself and her teams to improve for ourselves, our clients, and our built community.” - Mary Mahany, Senior Project Executive at Shawmut Design and Construction.

What recent project, transaction, or accomplishment are you most proud of?

I’m most proud of the work my team and I did on the restoration and renovation of the Church of the Epiphany on the Upper East Side in Manhattan. This adaptive reuse effort included an extensive restoration to the church’s sanctuary, a complete interior overhaul to create school, gymnasium, and accessible roof deck spaces, and repairs to the landmarked exterior. I was honored to have the opportunity to revitalize the historic 180-year-old building — it has already impacted hundreds and will continue to do so for decades.

What are the most important factors young women should consider when choosing a firm to build their career with?

Consider which firm will provide you the opportunity to grow into a well-rounded and dynamic builder. It’s important to find a firm that focuses on and prioritizes teaching you technical skills. Especially at a young age, this is a key differentiator and isn’t prioritized enough.

Who inspires you most? What qualities do they possess that inspire you?

My mother inspires me the most. She is resilient, resourceful, and kind. She leads with her heart and her core values, and she taught my siblings and me to do the same.

Which professional organization(s) would you recommend to women just starting out in your industry: NYC Building Congress and NEW (Nontraditional Employment for Women).

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