



## **2025 Women in Construction: Melissa Hoereth, Assoc. AIA, H2M architects + engineers**

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Melissa Hoereth, Assoc. AIA  
Senior Designer  
H2M architects + engineers

What is one project or achievement in your career that you are most proud of, and how did it impact your organization or community?

I take great pride in my work on the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) Bay View Houses Boiler Plant. The original building was an eyesore to the community, so we designed a second-floor

addition to house the new boilers along with a building façade upgrade. The use of different materials and 3D elements allowed for a cohesive industrial design. We worked closely with NYCHA, the residents, and the community board in presenting the design. Two color schemes were presented in a public virtual session with real time voting inclusive of Bay View community residents.

Who or what has inspired you most in your career, and what advice would you share with the next generation of women entering the A/E/C industry?

My grandmother, who passed away in 2012, is my biggest inspiration. On top of owning her own business, she was an accomplished visual artist. As a kid, I would go to her office to “work” with her and was always fascinated by her ability to do it all: she could be engaged in two separate phone calls while writing notes and holding an in-person conversation. After work, she would go home, cook a big meal, and then sit down to work on her sculptures. Her advice to me: Do not let anyone tell you that you cannot accomplish something. You are in control of your path — no one else.

What trends or innovations do you believe will shape the future of your field, and how are you positioning yourself (or your firm) to be at the forefront?

Biophilic design in healthcare facilities is a major ongoing trend. With so many illnesses, the incorporation of nature into the design interior and/or exterior spaces can aid in recovery and promote the well-being of patients and their caregivers. Biophilic designs incorporate trees and other flora to engage the five senses and create a calm, healing environment for patients and hospital staff alike. Biophilic design also has applications beyond healthcare facilities—it can also be used in libraries, hotels, municipal buildings, and more to create a similar sense of peace for visitors.

What’s your favorite way to recharge or get inspired outside of work?

I love to garden and cook with what I grow, as well as read books and make ornaments.

Do you have a hidden talent or a surprising fact about yourself that most people wouldn’t know?

One of my most memorable jobs was as a beekeeper, where I would help safely collect the honey.

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