



Debra Aitken



Anne Benge



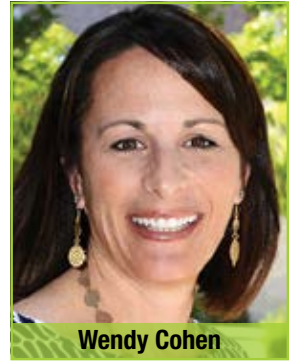
Mathilda Bialk



Stacy Cannon



Kimberlee Centera



Wendy Cohen



Nancy Constandse



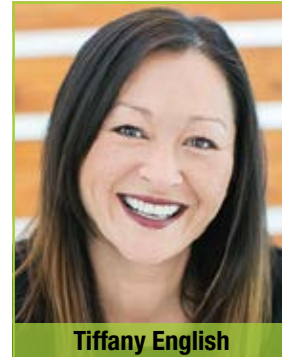
Dominica Correia



Lisa D'Ambrosia



Debbe Damron



Tiffany English



Jennifer Farnham



Gina Grahovac Franklin

OUTSTANDING WOMEN IN & CONSTRUCTION & DESIGN



Elizabeth Hawkins



Lisa Hitt



Catharine Hughes



Naomi Lohnes



Katerina Milovanoska



Kelly Moden



Amy Morway



Alexis Noriega



Khyati Patel



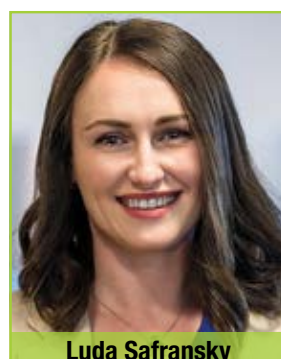
Kristin Phillis



Michelle Reiner



Kelley Ross



Luda Safransky



Maxine Ward



Katie Yee

Welcome to our new annual supplement honoring San Diego's most influential women in construction and design. Labor statistics show only 9 percent of construction industry jobs are occupied by women. While female construction employment slowly picked up to around 970,000 in 2017 after the Great Recession, it is still below the pre-recession level of 1.1 million in 2007, according to data analyzed by the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB).

The San Diego Business Journal is honored to be recognizing 28 talented and dynamic women executing on their companies' goals and pushing their businesses forward. You will find these outstanding San Diegans listed alphabetically on the following pages.

WOMEN IN CONSTRUCTION & DESIGN



AITKEN

Debra Aitken is director of project strategy for **Wright Management**. She is project lead on large commercial design and construction projects and advises clients on workplace strategies. She manages millions of

dollars' worth of development and construction projects and has given generously of her time to others in commercial real estate and the wider community.

When **Tim Wright** struck out on his own and started expanding Wright Management, he reached out to Aitken early in the process, and in 2017, she became his first senior-level recruit. Together they have built the now-four-person company to currently manage more than \$30 million in project value.

Aitken has been active in Commercial Real Estate Women (CREW) since 1999, and has been president of its San Diego chapter twice. CREW is a worldwide organization that supports women in the male-dominated commercial real estate industry.

A cancer survivor, Aitken started PALS (Patients, Assistance, Liaison and Support) for San Diego Pacific Oncology & Hematology. The in-house support program for cancer patients and their families was later absorbed by another cancer center. Through her work, Debra has sat with countless individuals while they undergo treatments or needed to talk.



BENGÉ

Anne is an incredible executive," wrote one of her peers. "She understands our industry and community extremely well. She purchased her company and has made it much better."

Bengé is CEO of **Cultura**, a Haworth dealer partner. The business offers furniture solutions — including architectural walls, work stations, casegoods, benching, tables, storage, interactive technologies and ergonomic solutions — tailored to client needs. For other products it sources from more than 250 manufacturers. The dealership, formerly known as Unisource Solutions San Diego, became Cultura at the start of 2017 "to support a progressive style of service our staff and clients helped to envision," according to the company website.

Bengé received her degree from the University of Michigan, where she studied economics and cultural anthropology. She is a participant in Vistage and a past president of CREW (Commercial Real Estate Women) San Diego.



BIALK

Mathilda Bialk is a principal and partner in one of San Diego's leading design firms and she has led the firm's efforts with several University of California campuses from UC Davis to UCLA. These projects

have been recognized with national, regional and local design awards and have been extensively published. She is currently working on two desert research facilities for UC Riverside and several mixed-use housing projects in San Diego.

Her leadership skills have extended beyond the office. Mathilda has renewed and reinvigorated the American Institute of Architects San Diego Chapter's Women in Architecture committee. Her role as chair of the committee has resulted in a completely new and expansive program and a swelling of committee membership to architects and many related professionals in the design and building industries. The committee is quickly becoming the go-to resource for those interested in the full participation of women in these industries.

Bialk is a dedicated wife and mother to a 3-year-old son. Her peers say she has successfully balanced her demanding role as an architectural practitioner and industry leader with her responsibility to support her family and raise a young child without compromise. She is a model of work/life balance.



CANNON

Stacy Cannon graduated from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo with both a bachelor's degree in architecture and an MBA, completing the programs concurrently. Today she is a licensed architect, studio director

and senior project manager in **Gensler's** San Diego office, co-leading a work studio of approximately 65 professionals. She focuses primarily on workplace and corporate projects in the San Diego market. They range from small interior work to large, build-to-suit ground-up headquarter buildings.

Cannon's idea of a successful project blends form and function to create a space that makes the end user work better. She has an exceptional attention to detail and enjoys the challenge of balancing budget and schedule needs with the overall design.

She is involved in several industry associations, including NAIOP (formerly National Association of Industrial and Office Parks), Commercial Real Estate Women (she had been active on the programs committee), International Facility Management Association and Downtown San Diego Partnership.

In addition, she is involved with the South County Economic Development Corporation and Border View YMCA, which serves one of the region's needier socioeconomic sectors.

In addition to her professional and community accomplishments, she is the mother to two young children.



EMPOWERING WOMEN IN CONSTRUCTION

Congratulations to our Director of Special Projects Elizabeth Hawkins for being selected as one of the Most Outstanding Women in Construction!

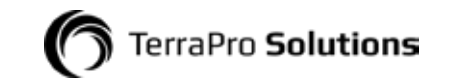
We also congratulate all of the 2019 honorees for their leadership in the construction industry.



SWINERTON

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WOMEN IN CONSTRUCTION & DESIGN



CENTERA

Kimberlee Centera, founder and CEO of TerraPro Solutions, is a trailblazer in a male-dominated industry. She began her career in renewables more than 25 years ago at SeaWest Wind Power. As a risk

management expert for the development and financing of large-scale generator energy projects for public utilities and community development, she possesses the expertise to identify, manage and mitigate risk. Centera works on complex high-value projects, such as a wind farm development that powers a J.P. Morgan Chase property. In addition to consulting, TerraPro Solutions offers real-world training and coaching.

Since her business' inception in 2013, Centera has grown it from a single-person operation to a company with many employees and experts throughout the United States. TerraPro has worked with many of the leading renewable energy development organizations in the world. Clients include SunEdison, Panasonic Eco Solutions U.S., AES Energy Storage, Ecoplexus, Infinity Wind, Tradewind and Silver Ridge Power.

Centera was recently invited to deliver a presentation at the 2019 Electric Power Conference in Las Vegas, one of the leading conferences in the energy sector; her topic will be California's initiative to achieve 100 percent of its energy from renewables by 2045.



COHEN

Wendy Cohen is a rock star in the construction management field.

That's how one co-worker describes the Southern California regional V.P. of Kitchell.

Project owners hire construction and program management companies to steer the process of entitlements, design, building, engineering and procurement. Cohen and her team are experts in this area for K-14 education, health care and municipal clients.

Her reputation as a strong mentor stems from her passion for creating high-performing teams within projects.

Her accomplishments over the past year included opening a Los Angeles office for Kitchell and securing a five-year contract with Los Angeles County's Department of Public Works. In addition, she facilitated several high-performing teams for work at UC San Diego, notably the largest project in the campus' history: the North Torrey Pines Living and Learning Neighborhood.

Prior to Kitchell, Cohen led the \$1 billion Palomar Health program. It was a pivotal time in her career and established a foundation for the way she manages and directs people and projects.

Cohen's infectious passion extends to her volunteer work and her outdoor pursuits. She has trekked rim-to-rim in the Grand Canyon with cancer survivors, and has climbed Mount Kilimanjaro.



CONSTANDSE

Nancie Constandse graduated from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo in 1998 with a bachelor of architecture and a minor in dance. In 2017, her career brought her to HKS in San Diego, where

she is associate architect. HKS is an international firm with more than 1,400 employees in 23 offices.

Constandse is currently working on several projects including an FDA Laboratory in Lenexa, Kansas, a laboratory and office renovation on the Pfizer campus in La Jolla, and upgrades to the Naval Medical Center in San Diego.

Previously she was at Jeff Katz Architecture, where her projects included the Net Zero Imperial Beach Library.

She has developed a sustainability improvement plan for the San Diego office of HKS, incorporating small steps and implementing changes that will start the team members on a path of improving habits in the office and at home. From eliminating single use plastics and bringing fabric bags for lunch time shopping to sharing inspirational articles and helpful tips with the team, she is making strides to help educate her colleagues, improve behaviors, and positively contribute to reversing climate change.



CORREIA

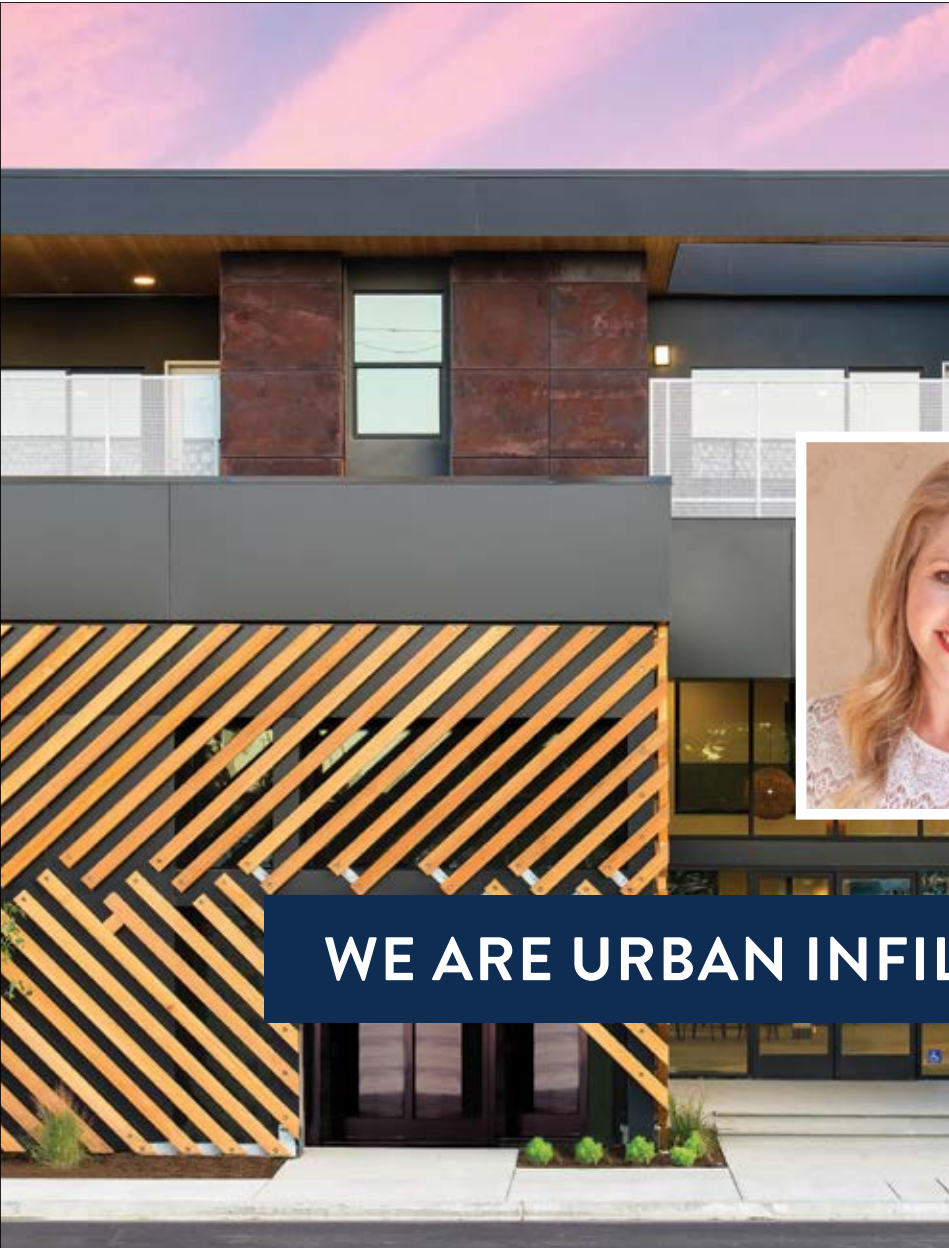
Dominica Correia is vice president and San Diego market lead for JLL's Project and Development Services team, bringing more than 15 years of experience to her job. Peers say that her diverse experience in project

management has allowed her to become an expert in developing and executing successful business development strategies and complex projects.

Accredited in LEED (which stands for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design), Correia implements sustainable practices in all that she does. Furthermore, she is committed to communicating those trends and initiatives to her clients and team.

In addition to her commitment to providing value on the project and client side, Correia is a committed leader and is spearheading initiatives towards growing, mentoring and developing her team.

JLL, a leading professional services firm that specializes in real estate and investment management, is a Fortune 500 company.



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The Murfey Company congratulates
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WOMEN IN CONSTRUCTION & DESIGN





D'AMBROSIA

Lisa D'Ambrosia has specialized in educational projects for much of her architectural career and has spent the last 10 years working on San Diego Unified School District projects, leading the architectural team at **domusstudio architecture**. She is currently administering the construction contract at Balboa Elementary School, for a \$14 million upgrade, which encompasses a whole site modernization, including a new two story classroom and administration building — presenting a new face of the campus to the community. In addition, she is directly involved in the studio team for the Civita Elementary school, a \$40 million new elementary school presented as the flagship for the district's next generation/sustainable school design. Most recently, with the passage of Measure YY, a \$3.5 billion bond measure, D'Ambrosia's current project at La Jolla Elementary School has expanded scope to include new administration and classroom buildings, STEAM lab/maker space, flexible collaboration areas and indoor/outdoor learning quads.

A career mom, D'Ambrosia understands the importance of education and how a facility can help shape a child's learning experience and the teacher's effectiveness. She brings a passion to the design process, envisioning a new building type to meet today's changing pedagogy and program needs.





DAMRON

Debbie Damron dominates in an industry mostly dominated by men. Over the last 20 years at Carlsbad-based **White Construction Inc.**, Damron has completed more than 1,000 projects, ranging from high density office spaces, creative office, retail and medical/dental. During the last year, Damron completed jobs for High Moon Studios, Plant Devas, SDRC, HHSA and Real Capital Markets, among others.

Damron has been involved with several non-profits over her 20-plus year career, helping them value-engineer their projects and guiding them through the construction process. She has worked closely with North County Health Services, Vista Community Clinic, San Diego Regional Center and most recently Freedom Dogs. Damron has also cultivated and maintained relationships with other high-profile companies working in the North County area, notably High Moon, Dr. Bronner's, and Nixon. She's had a particular focus on the medical, dental and veterinary spectrum for 15 years; most of these projects were strictly from referrals of past clients.

WARE MALCOMB



ENGLISH

Tiffany English is responsible for the growth and overall management of two **Ware Malcomb** San Diego offices. She has principal oversight of the interiors practices in the firm's Phoenix and Latin American offices. Involved in the industry since 1996, she has experience in interior architecture, planning, design and management. She has been tremendously successful in winning larger, higher-end corporate design projects and corporate accounts.

Joining Ware Malcomb in 2001, English has overseen, designed and managed more than 3 million square feet of projects for commercial real estate and Fortune 500 clients, ranging from small tenant improvements to large, full-service interior design projects, as well as national account management. Project experience includes corporate, office, health care, science and technology, R&D, retail, financial and automotive. She serves on the Ware Malcomb Interior Advisory Group, where she provides strategic insight for companywide initiatives focused on evolving and growing the firm's interior design practice.

For the second year in a row, English is serving on Commercial Real Estate Women's (CREW) Network global board of directors and furthering the organization's mission in advancing women in commercial real estate globally.

Her charitable work embraces United Way, Ronald McDonald House and the Magdalena Ecke YMCA.





FARNHAM

As area manager for **PCL Construction**, **Jennifer Farnham** has been the driving force behind noteworthy projects such as the completion of the Federal Inspection Station facility at the San Diego International Airport, Legoland Castle Hotel, San Diego State University Tula Conference Center and Tenochca Entry Buildings.

Recently named one of the San Diego Business Journal's 2018 Business Women of the Year, Farnham has been recognized for her extraordinary work in building PCL's presence within the San Diego community and for her commitment to growing a diverse workforce in the industry.

What makes Jennifer Farnham unique is that she hosts periodic staff meetings called "Java with Jennifer," where she takes employees out for coffee and allows them to talk about anything. She constantly encourages her staff to participate in community activities such as beach clean-up day, ACE mentorship, and United Way campaign efforts. In 2018, PCL's San Diego office quadrupled in size under her leadership. The office is expected to grow even bigger this year.

Currently, Farnham serves on the board for the Downtown San Diego Partnership. She has been involved with local organizations such as the Design-Build Institute of America San Diego Chapter, Associated General Contractors of San Diego and Sharp Healthcare Foundation.



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CONGRATULATES ALEXIS NORIEGA



Alexis Noriega
Vice President,
Construction

2019 OUTSTANDING WOMEN IN CONSTRUCTION & DESIGN NOMINEE

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WOMEN IN CONSTRUCTION & DESIGN



GRAHOVAC
FRANKLIN

At age 20, Gina Grahovac co-founded Franklin co-founded Grahovac Construction Co. Inc. with her father. Soon after the 1985 founding, she began directly communicating with personnel and subcontractors in the field. Bidding, contract negotiations and project scheduling followed. In 1995, she became a general contractor and in 1996, became president, responsible managing officer and majority stockholder.

As a certified woman owned, diversified, LEED capable and operated enterprise during this time, it was competitive and a struggle in a man's industry.

Grahovac was a trendsetter, demonstrating and proving the company's reputation with her strong industry knowledge, honesty and integrity. She is known for her experience, leadership, fairness, accountability and innovations in the commercial construction industry. She is continuously working to improve construction techniques to reduce cost, time and disruptions to operations. She does not believe in a one-time project. Grahovac prides herself with developing and maintaining long-term positive and strong trusting relationships with clients and subs. She has maintained contracts with the same large companies of loyalty for more than 30 years.

In the last 18 months, she has continued to sign reputable companies to five-year contracts, keeping the company growing stronger than ever.



HAWKINS

The first person in her family to earn a bachelor's degree, Elizabeth (Liz) Hawkins graduated with honors from San Diego State University.

Now a project executive, Hawkins leads the Swinerton San Diego Special Projects Group which focuses on small to midsize projects, interior renovations, tenant improvements and a multitude of other unique and specialized project types. Hawkins is responsible for procuring new work and overseeing the operations as well as the profit/loss of the group as a whole.

She began her career in the construction industry 15 years ago and has since served clients such as Amazon, Qualcomm, General Atomics, Bank of America, Union Bank, UC San Diego, SDSU, SDG&E and Kaiser Permanente. One notable project was a complicated 18-month, seven-phase remodel on the surgery floor at Sharp Mary Birch Hospital for Women and Newborns.

Hawkins is highly regarded by peers, coworkers, subcontractors and owners. She brings charisma and energy to the project team. While her innate aptitude, overall knowledge and ability to learn things quickly are invaluable components of her success, she also brings a welcome and refreshing levity.

Hawkins stays connected through several industry organizations. Outside of work, she enjoys half marathons and golf.



HITT

Lisa Hitt, the chief financial officer of Pacific Building Group for the past seven years, got her start in the construction industry while still a teenager, working alongside her father on weekends for their family-owned construction firm. Her college years saw her work full-time in the same field.

In the 1990s, she purchased a nationwide construction software development company and founded a Rent a Controller consulting firm that assisted the industry in the recession of the early '90s. Many well-known CFOs and controllers worked for Hitt during this time as consultants.

Today, Hitt contributes greatly to her company's growth and ongoing success. She recently instituted a cloud-based credit card and expense solution. Separately, a year's worth of work gained the company significant federal tax credits.

As the only female corporate officer at PBG, Hitt holds the unique role of facilitating candid discussions that improve both the operations and the culture of the company. One of her peers noted that she leads honest, heartfelt discussions, speaks up to address issues and is a problem solver. Her approach to open communication and follow-through has been a major influence in building a cohesive team, that person said.



HUGHES

Catharine Hughes is director of interior architecture and design in Ware Malcomb's downtown San Diego office. She joined the firm seven years ago as studio manager for interior architecture and design, and was promoted in 2017. With more than 30 years of experience in the San Diego market, Hughes has been instrumental in helping Ware Malcomb gain new market share, diversify its areas of expertise, and secure several new high-profile client accounts.

Her wealth of knowledge and great client service have led to Ware Malcomb's consistent growth in San Diego. Hughes helped launch Ware Malcomb's downtown office in 2016, and much of her efforts are dedicated to expanding relationships with high-rise building landlords as well as connecting with corporate tenants opening or renovating offices downtown. She is an important player in designing and cultivating a vibrant San Diego downtown office landscape.

Hughes received her bachelor of fine arts degree in interior design from California State University Long Beach. She is a past president of the San Diego chapter of Commercial Real Estate Women, and is active in the National Association of Industrial and Office Properties (NAIOP) and the Building Owners and Managers Association (BOMA).

Bingham Construction congratulates

KRISTIN PHILLIS

for being a 2019 Outstanding Woman in Construction & Design.

We are very grateful for all of your hard work and dedication in making Bingham Construction and our clients successful.



BINGHAM
—CONSTRUCTION—



WOMEN IN CONSTRUCTION & DESIGN



LOHNES

To say that an all-female ownership team in the construction industry is unusual is an understatement. Women make up only 9.1 percent of the industry’s workforce nationwide. The percentage of

women owners is far lower.

Naomi Lohnes has worked for general contractor Johnson & Jennings for more than 32 years, starting out as its part-time bookkeeper and eventually taking over operations with Donna Vargo in 2004.

The duo went on to purchase the firm in 2013.

Since then, Johnson & Jennings’ revenue has increased 50 percent and the company has grown from one San Diego office to three along the West Coast with a staff of 50 people — 17 of whom were hired in the past 18 months. New offices are in Orange County and Seattle.

Under Lohnes’ co-leadership, Johnson & Jennings maintains ongoing relationships with many major organizations, including Raytheon, Hazard Center, Cortica, Banner Bank, Union Bank and premier companies in entertainment, retail, restaurant and office. Johnson & Jennings has experienced very low turnover (less than 10 percent) during Lohnes and Vargo’s leadership.

One colleague sums up Lohnes this way: In everything she does, she works to support others and pay her success forward.



MILOVANOSKA

Katerina Milovanoska is a senior VDC and BIM manager at **Rudolph and Sletten Construction Inc.** She uses Building Information Modeling (BIM) and Virtual Design and Construction (VDC) technologies to create innovative project management methods, including model data extraction for quantity takeoffs and estimating purposes, constructability reviews, design coordination using automated clash detection methods, and construction sequencing animations for preconstruction planning. She also performs quality control using the latest virtual reality and augmented reality technologies.

Milovanoska holds a master’s degree in art and architecture from the University of Architecture, Civil Engineering and Geodesy in Sofia, Bulgaria.

She has excellent skills in the areas of research, planning and development, in conjunction with a strong knowledge of architecture and urban planning. Her passion, however, is finding the most efficient ways of building and advancing technology within the company.

She is equally passionate about women’s equality in the fields of architecture and construction, volunteering time to mentor to young underprivileged women in the greater San Diego area.



MODEN

Kelly Moden is an accomplished development professional who has transacted over \$65 million worth of deal volume, underwritten more than \$300 million of acquisition and redevelopment deals and negotiated leases for retail, industrial, commercial and ground leases, amounting to annual lease revenue of over \$2 million. She has managed construction projects in excess of \$150 million and managed complex land entitlements including tentative maps, changes in use, letters of map revision (LOMR), coastal development permits and master plan amendments. In addition to acquisitions and development, she is heavily involved in trade organizations and legislative efforts on the local, state and national levels, volunteering significant time.

She has accomplished this through her current firm, **Murphy Co.**, as well as while she was director of development and construction for the Jacobs Center for Neighborhood Innovation and while she served as asset manager for the Port of San Diego.

Moden has shown remarkable perseverance in her career and has two other standout traits: her enthusiasm for promoting more diversity in commercial real estate development, and her intelligence. She is a Mensa member who brings a level of skill and mastery to her craft that gets noticed and, metaphorically speaking, moves mountains.



MORWAY

Amy deserves to be celebrated because of her relentless drive to improve the lives of everyone she comes in contact with.”

So says the person who nominated **Amy Morway**, adding that she approaches her day with style, grace, excellence and team spirit.

In 2005, Morway teamed up with Deborah Elliott to start **ID Studios**, a commercial interior design firm. Although the future partners didn’t know each other at the time, they started out at rival colleges — Morway at the University of Arizona and Elliott at Arizona State. Both moved to San Diego to start their careers. They met when they started working together at a local, medium-sized architecture firm and decided to branch out on their own.

Today ID Studios serves businesses in diverse vertical markets, including hospitality and health. Although the firm has purposely been kept to fewer than 20 employees, ID Studios has garnered big clients. In 2017 it completed the headquarters for WD-40 Co. and in 2018 it completed the headquarters for Mission Federal Credit Union. The firm has also done the interiors for student unions at San Diego State University, Cal State San Marcos and Mesa College.



Congratulations Jennifer Farnham!

We proudly celebrate Jennifer Farnham for being named an “Outstanding Woman in Construction & Design.”

Jennifer is paving the way for women seeking careers in construction and setting new standards of excellence.

Thank you for your inspired leadership and paving the way for others to grow.



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WOMEN IN CONSTRUCTION & DESIGN






NORIEGA


As the vice president of construction for **Emmes Realty Services of California LLC**, **Alexis Noriega** leads her department in managing construction efforts for the company's 20 properties and 3.4 million

square feet of office, retail, multifamily and industrial real estate.

With over 20 years of experience in the industry, Noriega began her career on the architect's side, working for San Diego design firms for seven years. She then spent two years on the general contractor side before transitioning to the owner side of project management for tenant and capital improvement. Noriega takes pride in being in the construction industry and has a passion for growing and mentoring women in construction. She leads an all-woman construction team of four at Emmes.

In the past 18 months, significant projects include multimillion dollar lobby renovations at 701 B St. in San Diego and 1920 and 2010 Main St. in Irvine. Noriega managed and continues to manage several large tenant improvement projects in San Diego including Thomas Jefferson School of Law, Higgs Fletcher & Mack and Calpine.





PATEL

Born and raised in Mumbai, India, **Khyati Patel** came to the United States for advanced studies in construction management. Since graduating from Texas A&M University in 2008, Patel has flourished through several

key operational roles at **Hensel Phelps** in the Southern California District and San Diego area. In her current position as a design manager, she concentrates on well-executed preconstruction efforts.

Patel specializes in complex and multifaceted projects that include forward-thinking design and innovative solutions. The person who nominated her said her collaborative spirit, attention to design and construction coordination helped Hensel Phelps deliver the cutting-edge Kaiser San Diego Central Medical Center project in Kearny Mesa. She has been instrumental in the success of several other health care and educational projects with over \$1.5 billion in construction put in place during her career with Hensel Phelps.

Patel is accredited in LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design), an associate in the Design-Build Institute of America and a mentor for high school students. She volunteers with an Indian community organization in San Diego. She enjoys training and mentoring people and leads the Hensel Phelps Women in Construction (WIC) group for the greater San Diego region.





PHILLIS

Kristin Phillis has been with **Bingham Construction** for more than 10 years. Previously she was a chemist for a utility company working at a power plant in southeastern Ohio.

With little or no commercial construction experience, Phillis happily filled a number of roles in the company including project coordinator, accountant, superintendent, project engineer, project manager, facilities division manager and vice president for preconstruction services.

Over the last 18 months, Phillis has been instrumental in building relationships with new and existing clients, helping Bingham Construction grow revenue by more than 25 percent from the previous year.

Her dedication to the company has led her to spend many nights and weekends away from her family while supervising projects throughout Southern California. At times she has driven to project sites in the middle of the night to resolve problems needing immediate attention. Her service, dedication and loyalty are unparalleled in today's commercial real estate industry, wrote the person who nominated Phillis for this honor.





REINER

Client advocate, community supporter, committed mother and someone who inspires others to be their best selves. That is **Michelle Reiner**, in the words of one of her peers. "Her grit, fortitude, passion

and desire to strive for excellence is an attitude that has led to the growth of her professional career" and the careers of women she has mentored, the colleague said.

Reiner is one of two female project executives for **Balfour Beatty's** California Division. In more than 15 years with the company, she has been a receptionist, marketing assistant, estimating assistant, project engineer and project manager. Her accomplishments include the successful delivery of more than 50 construction projects totaling over \$500 million. Clients include the Chula Vista Elementary School District.

As a project executive, Reiner helps clients meet their project goals and expectations while ensuring a successful preconstruction and construction experience. She also helps facilitate the highest level of team performance, focusing on an environment of collaboration, communication and transparency throughout the construction process.

In addition to her work with in-house organizations, Reiner supports local schools and charities. She serves on the board of the South Bay YMCA. And she is a foster parent to a 4-year-old.





Mathilda Bialk, AIA
Principal



Maxine Ward, AIA, LEED AP
Principal



MAKING PLACES THAT MATTER

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Congratulations to **Maxine Ward** and **Mathilda Bialk** on being named two of San Diego Business Journal's Outstanding Women in Construction and Design! We at **Studio E Architects** celebrate their leadership in our office and in the design community. These women are making places that matter as professionals and as civic leaders. The **San Diego Architectural Foundation** and AIA San Diego's **Women in Architecture** join us in appreciation for their engaged leadership.

WOMEN IN CONSTRUCTION & DESIGN



ROSS

Kelley Ross, an associate with The Miller Hull Partnership, has over 13 years of experience in the architectural profession, working at varying scales of projects. Ross is a graduate of Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo and

has worked for firms such as HMC and SGPA. After joining Miller Hull in 2013, Ross was promoted to associate after two years due to her enthusiastic engagement with the firm's leadership group. Her thoughtful insights and critical input add great value to Miller Hull's discourse and the leadership's decision-making process. Firmwide, Ross is part of the team that establishes fee proposal guidelines and calculation methods for multiple market sectors and project sizes.

Ross' commitment and leadership to the collaborative and focused design processes results in a coordinated, informed team and a linear, enjoyable process for all involved. Her notable projects include the Student Success District at the University of Arizona, Mesa Commons at the San Diego Community College District and the Africa Rocks! exhibit at the San Diego Zoo. Externally, Ross serves on the Steering Committee for the DBIA San Diego Chapter and is an active member and speaker for the Community College Facilities Coalition.



SAFRANSKY

With over 13 years in the industry, a B.S. in Business Administration, an MBA completion at the age of 24, and a registered LEED Green Associate, Luda Safransky is a pioneer in leveraging relationships,

information, and resources to drive value for her company, community, and the industry as a whole.

Today, working in Balfour Beatty's California Division she is the Business Development Manager and her insight has played an important role in the BD team's acquisition of over \$1 billion worth of work in the last 18 months.

Among her myriad achievements, last year Luda was a panelist among women leading business development initiatives during the Women's Construction Coalition WCC Leadership Series: Business Development. She spoke of the importance of maintaining a work-life balance and developing relationships, not because you feel you must, but because you are genuinely interested. This mentality has played a significant role in her ability to excel beyond expectations in and out of the office while juggling her responsibilities as a mother of two young boys. In her position with the Commercial Real Estate Women (CREW) association, she will work with the CREW Career Development Committee to educate and expose underprivileged youth in real estate market.



WARD

Maxine Ward is a principal and partner in one of San Diego's leading design firms and she has led the firm's efforts on several important charter school and affordable housing projects. These proj-

ects have been recognized with national, regional and local design awards and have been extensively published. She is currently working on a rebuild of Cardiff Elementary School and several mixed-use housing projects in San Diego. She is a talented architect and natural leader.

Besides her role in Studio E Architects, her leadership skills have extended beyond the office. Ward has been the president of the San Diego Architecture Foundation and currently chairs the Open House San Diego program for the foundation. She has also chaired the Orchids and Onions program and was awarded the Young Architect of the Year Award from the San Diego Chapter of the AIA.

Finally, Ward is a dedicated wife and mother to a 10-year-old son. She has successfully balanced her demanding role as a leading architectural practitioner and industry leader with her responsibility to support her family and raise a young child without compromise. She is a model of work/life balance and a powerful example.



YEE

Katie Yee is a principal and chief relationship officer at San Diego-based Latitude 33 Planning & Engineering. Her elevation to this role is an acknowledgement of the value she has brought the firm and an im-

portant precedent in an industry where principal titles are often held only by architects and engineers.

Yee started her career in business development at Fuscoe Engineering. As her career progressed, she wanted be more involved in the firm's operations to have a clearer understanding of how they serviced clients. With this understanding, Yee realized she could promote the firm more effectively. When she moved to Latitude 33, she was able to expand her role to become more involved in various areas of the company's operations and has since obtained partial ownership of the company.

Her advancement to a principal position reflects both her tenacious drive and ability to leverage her marketing, business development and relationship building skills. For Commercial Real Estate Women (CREW) San Diego, she assembled and moderated a panel about women in local politics. In addition to serving on the CREW San Diego board, Yee is active in multiple other real estate industry organizations, including the San Diego's Building Industry Association's (BIA) y|GEN mentorship program.



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Women in the Construction Industry: Room for Growth

According to labor force statistics from the Current Population Survey and analyzed by the **National Association of Home Builders (NAHB)**, the share of women in the construction industry is currently at nine percent, although women make up almost half — 47 percent — of the total working population. While female construction employment slowly picked up to around 970,000 in 2017 after the Great Recession, it is still below the pre-recession level of 1.1 million in 2007.

Dinelle, CAPS, CGP, chair of the **NAHB PWB Council** and building ambassador of 84 Lumber in Asheville, North Carolina, serving as the company’s liaison to home building associations. “We need to help the public, guidance counselors and parents understand that the industry provides a high income, significant work values, job security and a sense of accomplishment.”

One of the ways PWB members hope to accomplish introducing more females to the industry is to create more pre-ap-

‘Right now more than ever is the time for our industry to not only increase our recruitment efforts, but to also change the way we talk about careers in home building to show women this industry has so much to offer them.’

In September of last year, members of NAHB called for an increase in recruiting efforts to attract women to the home building industry. As the residential construction industry continues to grapple with a severe labor shortage, PWB members say bringing additional women into the construction labor force represents a potential opportunity for the future.

“Right now more than ever is the time for our industry to not only increase our recruitment efforts, but to also change the way we talk about careers in home building to show women this industry has so much to offer them,” said **Judy**

prenticeship programs throughout the country and develop leadership paths within their organizations.

“We’ve seen examples of pre-apprenticeship programs that are really quite successful, so we need to replicate those programs and implement them into more communities across the country,” said Dinelle. “We should all promote and offer to help the programs and organizations that provide training for women. It’s our responsibility to put our words into action.”

For more information on the NAHB PWB Council, visit: nahb.org.



At DPR, we celebrate women who build by sharing stories of empowered women. These female leaders are successfully executing complex, technical projects for some of the world’s most progressive and admired companies. The goal is simple:

Connect, inspire, develop and advance women.

