



2023 Women in Construction: Jane Marie DeSimone, H2M architects + engineers

March 28, 2023 - Spotlights (<https://nyrej.com/section/SP>)



Jane Marie DeSimone, RA., WELL AP
Senior Project Architect II
H2M architects + engineers

Which professional associations or organizations would you recommend to women who are starting out in the AEC industry? The industry has many valuable organizations. It is important to understand what you are looking to achieve by joining and finding the right fit. For me, I was looking for networking with other professional women. LIBI (Long Island Builders Institute) and CIBS (Commercial Industrial Brokers Society) have the right cultures. LIBI's diverse membership offers networking opportunities through their committees and women's group. CIBS' women's group's culture and events foster a community of business growth for professional women. I wish someone had told me earlier how beneficial joining these organizations would be to my career development.

What was a pivotal point in your career? As a sole proprietor for 10 years, I relied on myself for everything, from client contact to project completion. While overwhelming, it allowed me the flexibility to raise my family. Once my children grew up, I joined H2M to expand my career. It was an adjustment to lead, mentor, manage and delegate. H2M offers employees Learning and Development directly with the C-Suite. This investment gave me the confidence to advocate for good design and sustainability and earn my WELL AP. This pivotal experience allowed me to develop into the experienced architect I am today.



2023 Women in Construction: Jessica Alves, P.E., H2M architects + engineers

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Jessica Alves, P.E.

Senior Project Engineer

H2M architects + engineers

In the past year, what project or accomplishment are you most proud of? The project I am most proud of is the Liberty Utilities West Branch Acres Wellhead Treatment project. This project includes the installation of a granular activated carbon system for the removal of PFAS from the site's wells' raw water. This site serves a small community and is the sole source of water for the community. Determining sources of water for testing and phasing of construction was significant to keep the existing system operational. This project stands out because small system projects always present design/construction challenges that large systems projects typically do not. I met these challenges, achieving a successful outcome.

What was a pivotal point in your career? A pivotal moment in my career was my transfer to H2M's Westchester office from Melville. I was the first water resources engineer in this office. This gave me the opportunity to help grow the office and department. I became a manager of the Water Department in Westchester, which continues to develop. I have now become the vice chair of the Westchester Water Conference Association and a leader in the water industry in Westchester.