

CONSTRUCTION BUSINESS OWNER

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SPECIAL SECTION

OUTSTANDING WOMEN IN CONSTRUCTION

THIS INDUSTRY IS CHANGING.

For some, that truth is hard to stomach. But others are leaning in, no holds barred. The construction leaders of tomorrow are welcoming tech adoption, alternative methods for project delivery, and other changes with open arms. They're also looking to a labor force that has historically been underrepresented as a way to alleviate the ongoing skills shortage.

Currently, women represent only 9% of the construction workforce. In the field, that statistic has an even starker contrast: For every 100 men on the jobsite, there is only one woman. However, many of the women who go to work in construction every day do so with the drive and a vision for a more diverse and more inclusive workforce.

In the following pages, we've highlighted 20 of those women. CBO's Outstanding Women in Construction drew nearly 200 nominations from industry leaders for women working in the office, in the field and everywhere in between, all over the United States and in myriad sectors of the industry.

Finalists were chosen based on their skills, leadership and management techniques, as well as their exceptional contributions to their companies, industry and communities. The women in this section represent some of the very best in the industry—each and every one is working to build a better environment for all who work in construction, regardless of gender, race or background.



Peggy Hogan Marker

President

Marker Construction Group

Job Must-Have: "Purell and a sweater because I'm a germophobe and jobsites are always cold. Of course, this is in addition to a hard hat and work boots."

To women considering careers in construction, "I say definitely go into the industry. There is a lot of opportunity here for women," Peggy Hogan Marker said. "Make the effort and learn as much as you can to be that much more successful. Be prepared—it's male-dominated. There's going to be rough language, and you will frequently be the only woman in the room. So, get comfortable with that and be assertive."

Marker grew up in her family's construction company and later married a contractor. The couple then started their own firm. "I've been blessed to have rarely run into someone who gave me a hard time by being disrespectful and dismissive because I'm a woman," she said. "I'm aware that my position makes me unique, as I'm not necessarily in the trenches. Coming from a position of power, I'm given a bit of a waiver, if you will. And I know that. There are people out there holding onto the belief that women aren't suited for the industry."

But Marker doesn't agree. "I think women are great multitaskers and highly organized—more so than their male counterparts—particularly in management positions. And when things get heated on a jobsite, women are able to take the testosterone down a notch and resolve the issue."

But she thinks men are no less uniquely suited, and it's the job of both parties to foster inclusion and diversity. "It has to be a focus of every company. There can be zero tolerance for sexist behavior. Team members who aren't as progressive as they should be need to be educated and held to a higher standard," she said. And she's proud to work at a company that does just that. "Our company is 40% women, all of whom are smart and successful and respected."

Of being honored in CBO, Marker said, "The awards I've won are amazing and incredibly flattering. It's nice to be recognized, especially as a woman in industry. I think my daughter and her friends seeing women being recognized is powerful." But what is Marker most proud of? "My greatest achievement is not an award, but the satisfaction of seeing our company be successful and our team members thriving and excited to be here."