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## **2019 Women in Construction: Laura Whitcomb, Job Captain at Wessling Architects**

March 29, 2019 - Spotlights

How many years have you been in your current field? 5

Which project, deal or transaction was the “game changer” in the advancement of your career during the last 10 years? In 2015 I had the opportunity to design a new office building and warehouse for a nonprofit organization. I was involved with every aspect, from schematic design, to material selections, coordination with engineers, and construction site visits. This was only two years into my architectural career, and while I had the helpful supervision of skilled project managers, I was given the responsibility to complete the project, and it was an incredible learning opportunity. I felt like I was the only one who knew the whole project inside and out and that helped develop my confidence as a designer.

What was your first job and what did you learn from it? My first job was at a small pizza shop in my hometown. I remember being asked during an interview for an architectural intern position, why “Town Pizza” was on my resume, and while it’s no longer physically on there, I still stand by my response. I learned quickly that time management and organization of multiple tasks, pleasant customer service, and having a positive attitude makes all the difference. I also learned leadership skills and delegation of tasks – talents that have helped me throughout my architectural career and beyond.

What are you doing differently in 2019 that has had a positive impact on your career? Optimism and flexibility are essential in any career. I have always been thankful for the learning opportunities provided to me, however I often let the pressure of not knowing everything stress me out. This year, I am focusing on saying “I get to do this” in place of “I have to do this”, and so far it has helped turn everything into a positive experience versus something that needs to be completed solely for a deadline or ‘to get it off my desk.’ I look forward to implementing this throughout 2019.

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