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2022 Women in Construction: Joy Ortiz Colón, Architectural Designer/Project Designer at TSKP Studio

March 25, 2022 - Spotlights



Joy Ortiz Colón

What was your greatest professional achievement or most notable project in the last 12 months? Completing the requirements for licensure is something very important to me as a young professional. Over the pandemic, I have focused on taking my architectural registration exams (ARE's), and I was able to pass a majority of them. I think it's important to look back and recognize the progress made and have gratitude in achieving steps towards a long-term goal. I believe this gratitude makes finally completing the goal that much sweeter!

Starting out in the construction business, who or what empowered you? As a young professional Hispanic woman, it has been very rewarding when I have been invited to have a seat at the table. Having my leaders invite me to participate and giving me the responsibility to actively lead in important client and user group meetings has made me feel that I play an important role on projects and in my community. I have grown a lot through these experiences. It is very rewarding when you feel valued by your leaders, to feel seen, and to help your community feel seen as well. I feel as though I not only represent myself or my firm but also my Puerto Rican people. That is what helps me feel confident in what I do.

When you're not busy, what is your go to book or podcast to help you unwind? Since I have been studying for my licensing exams, I prefer to unwind by watching or listening to recordings of musicals. I am a fan of Lin-Manuel Miranda's "In the Heights" and "Hamilton" and his latest animated musical "Encanto." It's comforting to know that there are stories that relate to you and elevate your mood.

What tips or advice would you offer to other women who are considering entering the construction industry? Be resilient and adaptive to change. Be prepared or over prepared because a lot of unexpected things will happen along your journey.

New England Real Estate Journal - 17 Accord Park Drive #207, Norwell MA 02061 - (781) 878-4540