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2022 Women in Construction: Ashley McGrath, Senior Interior Designer, Margulies Perruzzi

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Ashley McGrath

When you're not busy, what is your go to book or podcast to help you unwind? The pandemic has definitely brought reading back into my life. I'm currently reading everything by the author Kristin Hannah. I finished up *The Nightingale*, a fictional story about two sisters in WWII France as well as *The Four Winds*, a story about the Great Depression in the Great Plains. I learn a lot from the podcast *Armchair Expert*. Hosted by Dax Shepard, they interview celebrities, journalists, and academics and it "celebrates the messiness of being human."

What tips or advice would you offer to other women who are considering entering the construction industry? Always be prepared, do your research, and have fun. When women know their worth and show confidence on a jobsite, nothing can stop them.

Starting out in the construction business, who or what empowered you? I am lucky that I attended a university, Colorado State University, that had Construction Management as a major. This allowed the Interior Design major to be integrated, so from the beginning we were taking construction classes in addition to interior design courses. The university always treated us the way interior designers should be treated, as intellectuals. Many times, in the field, we are looked down upon, as if we can only select finishes or fabrics. We are required to know so much more than that: building systems, codes, construction standards, contract administration, design application, professional practice, and project coordination.

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