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2022 Women in Construction: Krista Manna, Owner of KR Architecture & Interiors

March 25, 2022 - Spotlights



Krista Manna

What was your greatest professional achievement or most notable project in the last 12 months? I have had the chance to provide design services for a cannabis retail project in a South Shore community, which has received approval from the town's planning board. I am looking forward to seeing it become reality.

When you're not busy, what is your go to book or podcast to help you unwind? I listen to the podcast, Flip Houses Like a Girl. Since part of my business is buying, renovating and re-selling properties, I enjoy the broadcast by Debbie DeBerry, who interviews women in the house-flipping industry. Much of the industry is male-dominated, so I enjoy her perspective on the industry and find her advice helpful in my business.

Starting out in the construction business, who or what empowered you? My mother and father, Laura and Patrick Wilkie, both were very supportive of me, urging me to keep learning and helping with initial funding. My grandfather, Bill Zautner, gave me the opportunity to gain some hands-on experience in the construction industry. He was a builder in New York State, and I learned a lot from the ground level up. Without realizing it at the time, that experience would lead me to a career in architecture.

What tips or advice would you offer to other women who are considering entering the construction industry? Be flexible – but don't be afraid to stand your ground when you need to. Some of the people you come in contact with may try to step all over you, but stand firm when you feel it is the right thing to do.

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