



CELEBRATING
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2023 Women in Construction: Talia Cannistra, Port One Companies

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Talia Cannistra
Partner/Managing Dir. of Architecture

Port One Companies

What made you interested in seeking a career in the AEC industry? If given the choice growing up, I would always choose playing with blocks, doing arts and crafts, or exploring. As I got older, these preferences translated into favoring the arts/math/sciences in school and traveling as much as possible. I love the idea of building something out of nothing, in a beautiful way, and creating environments that people connect with, that they can then explore. To me, architecture felt like the career choice that would nurture both sides of my mind. It's the perfect fit where art and science come together to shape our everyday lives in a meaningful way.

What tips or advice would you offer to other women who are considering entering the construction industry? Two of the most important mental shifts I've made over the years have been to move through fear and to not take anything personally. There is a lot to absorb and experience, so ask questions and don't be afraid to tackle something that may be outside your comfort zone. Know and accept that mistakes will be made but that doesn't mean that you are less than, it means that you've learned something. The construction industry can be extremely overwhelming, especially for young women, but if you think clearly, cultivate trust, and work hard, there is nothing you can't do.

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