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2024 Ones to Watch - Rising Stars: Mollie McColgan, Shawmut Design and Construction

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Mollie McColgan
Superintendent
Shawmut Design and Construction

“Mollie has established herself as an exceptional builder, respected leader, and trusted teammate. She deeply understands her projects, methodically fills in necessary gaps, and keeps everyone focused – driving her projects toward success. From high-end retail fit-outs to ground-up projects,

Mollie's passion and knowledge of construction is robust." - Lauren Slaven, Senior Superintendent at Shawmut Design and Construction.

In the last 12 months what accomplishment are you most proud of? Last year, I started working on the Hardy Elementary School in Wellesley, Mass. – my first school, public, and out-of-ground project. Now that we are nearing completion, I can look back on how much this job forced me out of my comfort zone – providing invaluable experience and lessons. The best part has been the team onsite and the shared mentality of respect and teamwork.

How do you balance your rising career with your personal life? I've learned the importance of disconnecting from work at the end of the day. It's challenging, but I create lists and prioritize work throughout the day to help me leave at a reasonable time and not bring it home. Activities after work help burn energy and provide distraction, and taking time off is rejuvenating. It's hard not to feel guilty, but taking time for yourself is important, and having a supportive team helps.

Who are the key people in your life that have contributed to your success? My family molded me into who I am today, with unwavering support. My dad introduced me to construction through home projects, and my mom encouraged me to pursue the internship with Shawmut in college. My friends keep me grounded during tough times – and my co-workers and trade partners have taught, embraced, and challenged me throughout my career.

Outside of your career, where else do you seek continuous learning and personal growth? I love to travel and explore new places. It's exciting to meet people and experience different cultures. The history, architecture, and landscapes of Europe are some of my favorites. During my last trip to Northern Italy, I visited two hotels in a small mountainside town. One has a cantilevered semi-circle shaped pool on the top floor, and the other was constructed in just six months. Both were beautiful and fascinating to see.

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