



CELEBRATING
55 YEARS

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2024 Ones to Watch - Industry Leaders: Katharine O'Malley AIA, WELL AP, Elkus Manfredi Architects

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Katharine O'Malley AIA, WELL AP
Senior Associate

Three skills that you use every day in your position:

Drawing, writing, and listening

Best book, podcast, or app for aspiring leaders:

The Checklist Manifesto, a book by Atul Gawande, sounds like it would be very dry, but is a fascinating look at how checklists can distill what is important and prevent errors in several industries, including medicine, aviation, and construction.

Best advice for new leaders in 10 words or less:

Communicate concisely. Listen to diverse perspectives. Empower colleagues.

What recent project, transaction or accomplishment are you most proud of?

Since 2019 I have been working with JBG Smith on planning the National Landing district in Arlington, Virginia. Water Park is at the heart of the project and is a beautiful example of reinventing urban space by integrating architecture and landscape. We sculpted the topography, made it more pedestrian-friendly, planted new trees, carved a new restaurant into the existing water feature, and built 10 food kiosks, the majority of which are minority- and women-owned businesses.

What makes this nominee an Industry Leader?

“Katharine is a talented, thoughtful designer and manager, leading her teams with an inclusive, collaborative style combined with strong quality control skills. Her work with JBG Smith on National Landing is an example not only of her planning and design skills, but also her successful long-term relationships with her clients.” - David Manfredi FAIA, LEED AP, CEO & founding principal. Elkus Manfredi Architects