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55 YEARS

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2025 Women in Construction: Laila Souza, AMCON

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Laila Souza
Assistant Project Manager

What is one project or achievement in your career that you are most proud of, and how did it impact your organization or community? My proudest achievement so far is immigrating to the US by myself, learning the language, and obtaining a second formal education. This journey has equipped me with valuable experiences, enabling me to contribute meaningfully to my workplace and community through cultural competence and the myriad benefits that diversity fosters. As an immigrant woman, I also feel privileged to occasionally inspire individuals of similar background, demonstrating that we can indeed pursue and achieve our dreams.

What trends or innovations do you believe will shape the future of your field, and how are you positioning yourself (or your firm) to be at the forefront? I believe, or at least I hope, that sustainability will shape the future of construction. By prioritizing sustainable materials and energy-efficient designs, we can reduce our carbon footprint and create healthier living spaces for future generations. I am fortunate enough to be currently working on a LEED project and plan to obtain my LEED certification soon, enabling me to contribute even more to this important cause.

Who or what has inspired you most in your career, and what advice would you share with the next generation of women entering the A/E/C industry? What inspires me the most is the collective of women around the world achieving their dreams against all odds. There is something particularly remarkable about women excelling in male-dominated industries, breaking barriers, and paving the way for future generations. Our resilience and determination serve as a powerful reminder that with perseverance, anything is possible!

What's your favorite way to recharge or get inspired outside of work? My favorite hobby is traveling to explore new cultures, broaden my perspective, & embrace diversity.