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2025 Women in Construction: Elen Zurabyan, Northstar Project & Real Estate Services

February 28, 2025 - Spotlights



Elen Zurabyan
Senior 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? Throughout my career, I have had the great privilege of working on outstanding projects with incredible people. I am particularly excited and proud to be working with a confidential pharmaceutical company on their new headquarters in Kendall Square, Cambridge. This project will not only have a significant impact on the urban public space but also define the organization's identity and make a meaningful impact on the communities and individuals it touches.

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 we are seeing a significant trend towards automation wherever possible that is also countered with a heightened desire to make the environments intended for human collaboration much more responsive to our sense of well-being. As owner's project managers, it is essential for us to understand our clients' needs and leverage the tools available from our industry partners to meet those needs effectively. I also believe there will always be a demand for individuals who are driven, focused, and adaptable, and keeping an open mind towards change is crucial for success.

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? My biggest inspiration comes from seeing both individual and organizational resiliency and adaptability despite inevitable challenges across various scales. Coming from an architectural background, I have made a few shifts in my career, and the most valuable perspective I've gained has been allowing myself to see work as an exploration of my curiosity, rather than just a linear path. Approaching problem-solving with an open mind is a skillset that can be applied to not only everyday tasks but also and to larger vision-setting.

What's your favorite way to recharge or get inspired outside of work? Connecting with nature brings balance and inspires my contributions to the built environment.