



CRAIN'S NOTABLE WOMEN IN CONSTRUCTION AND DESIGN

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WOMEN IN CONSTRUCTION AND DESIGN

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Rada Doytcheva*Principal and head of design, Rada Architects*

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Rada Doytcheva is founding principal of the architecture firm that focuses on city schools, colleges, health care, commercial and workplace design. With \$3 million in annual revenue, the firm employs a staff of 16. Projects in higher education include the University of Chicago Language Center and the UIC College of Urban Planning & Public Affairs advanced learning lab. In health care, the firm revitalized public spaces at University of Illinois Hospital. And it has handled multiple projects for Chicago Public Schools. Before founding the firm in 1994, Doytcheva was associate principal at Loeb Schlossman & Hackl, initially leading health care and science building projects, and later was involved in work in China, Vietnam and South Korea. She has sought to mentor and empower female architects in the traditionally male field.

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NEW!

These 49 women are notable for their career achievements in traditionally male-dominated sectors. A number have made inroads in the gritty undertakings of excavation, road and bridge building, and commercial construction. Subcontractor specialties such as electrical, mechanical and glass also are in the mix.

Some are on the cutting edge of green design, winning Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design, or LEED, certifications for sustainable buildings in their use of energy, water and materials.

Others are involved in projects with a social bent such as affordable housing, health and community centers, and historic preservation. Many participate in programs—either through their companies or by volunteer efforts—that provide training and opportunities to the unemployed or underemployed. And almost all in some way strive to mentor and bring along younger women, so that the term "male-dominated field" someday becomes an anachronism.

METHODOLOGY: The honorees did not pay to be included. Their profiles were drawn from the nomination materials submitted. This list is not comprehensive. It includes only individuals for whom nominations were submitted and accepted after a review by editors. To qualify for the list, an honoree must be employed in a construction, architecture, engineering or commercial design firm, have worked on significant projects during the past 18 months and strived to advance women in the field.

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2020