



May 30, 2017

# Women in Architecture

## Promoting and Empowering Women

Our mission for AIA Dallas Women in Architecture is to bring women together for friendship, networking, and collaboration while empowering members to impact their practice, profession, and community.

On May 3<sup>rd</sup>, our WiA members took a break from the hustle and bustle of our work lives to join a fun and relaxing evening of sketching, painting, and a little bit of wine! A huge thank you to Vince Tam of HKS for championing the event! See the great artwork from that night pictured below - We have some talented ladies!

We hope you plan to attend our Speed Mentoring event in June where we will have incredible women from our field share their knowledge, experience, and advice on how to be successful. You'll also have the incredible opportunity to set up a mentorship with these inspiring women! Register for this event at [aiadallas.org](http://aiadallas.org)

We hope you enjoy our May WiA Profile on page 2 and we hope to see you at one of our events soon!

Sincerely,

Samantha Markham, AIA & Cindy Rosewell, RID

WiA 2017 Chair & Vice Chair

### Wednesday, June 28 – Speed Mentoring Mixer @ The Stone Collection

Join us as we help each other find support and guidance from experienced professionals in our community.

### Wednesday, July 26 – Lunch @ DCFA 12pm

Enjoy lunch, a guest speaker, and help plan upcoming events.

### Thursday, August 3 – Architecture on Tap TBD

Help us support another great network, the Young Professionals, and enjoy their AoT!

### Friday, September 29 – EMPOWERING

This is WiA's first half day conference focusing on women who leading the field, driving our own careers, and best practices to expand equity and diversity in architecture.

### Want to get involved?

We'd love to hear from you. Email us at [dallaswia@gmail.com](mailto:dallaswia@gmail.com)



WiA May Sketch Party

May 30, 2017



## May WiA Profile, Marcela Rhoads, FAIA



Marcela Abadi Rhoads, FAIA is the owner of Abadi Accessibility, an accessibility consulting firm that is dedicated to educating the building industry about the laws of accessibility. She received her Bachelor of Architecture from the University of Texas in Austin. She is a Registered architect and a Registered Accessibility Specialist and ADA Specialist. Marcela is sought after by owners and architects across the country who look to her for guidance to understand the accessibility standards throughout the design and construction process. She assists the building industry, in part, by performing plan reviews and inspection for TAS, producing a monthly newsletter to educate on the best way to apply the standards to their architectural projects, and wrote "The ADA Companion Guide" and "Applying the ADA" published John Wiley and Sons.

Major Awards or Accomplishments:

Young Architect of the Year 1999

Author of "The ADA Companion Guide" and "Applying the ADA"

Being elevated to Fellow 2017

### What inspires you as a designer?

I enjoy simple and elegant forms. I also get inspired by real materials and details that are carefully thought through.

### Who is your favorite architect and why?

I have many that I admire...One of my favorite is Louis Kahn. His architecture is so thoughtful and well executed. His philosophy about life was translated in his buildings and his designs. Being in his buildings inspires me to achieve greatness. They lift my spirit and make me happy.

### What do you like to do in your spare time?

What spare time...ha ha...but when I do, I like to help organize events, and spend time with my family. I love to volunteer and give back to my community.

### What are some of the obstacles you have faced in your career and how did you overcome them?

I believe my main obstacle was being taken seriously. I am young looking, short and I'm a woman, so immediately I would be dismissed as not knowing as much as my counterparts. I had to put my ego and pride aside and just do the work in front of me without internalizing the biases I encountered.

### What are some accomplishments that you are most proud of?

Building my accessibility consulting practice is what I am most proud of. There aren't that many of us that do this job and with persistence and hard work my business grew every year.

### What advice do you have for women as they go through their career?

Don't give up on your dreams. Don't let anyone tell you you can't do it. And above all, believe in yourself and do the next right action to achieve your goals.