



Celebrating 50 years of NU Trailblazers!

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Designing and Building: NU Women in Architecture

As an extension of Captain Alden Partridge's practical education plan, Norwich University first offered architectural studies in the 1880s. The program dissolved the following decade but was resurrected a hundred years later by a new generation of faculty and students.

President Russell W. Todd announced that Norwich would offer a five-year Bachelor of Architecture degree beginning in the Fall of 1990. The new program was housed in Vermont College's College Hall, which underwent a \$1.7 million renovation to bring the project to fruition. At the time, it was the only accredited Architecture program in Northern New England.

In 1993, the program moved to Chaplin Hall on the Northfield campus and became the School of Architecture + Art (A+A). It grew to its current structure in 1999: a five-year master's degree with the first four leading to a bachelor's in architectural studies.

Robert E. Schmidt, former Department Chairman and Project Director, stressed the program's holistic approach, saying, "Architects today are tasked with shaping not just buildings, but entire landscapes and communities."

Since 1999, female graduates of Norwich's A+A program have excelled in the field of architecture, embodying the university's ethos of leadership and distinction. Here are a few of our notable alumnae:



Jessica Randolph '99, M'00, MBA'03

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As Director of Project Management at SGA in Boston, Jessica's leadership is evident in her ability to oversee complex design and construction projects. She ensures that each project is buildable and that the design integrity remains intact throughout construction. Her ability to cultivate stakeholder relationships and guide projects to successful completion highlights her professionalism and dedication to excellence.



Sarah Holton '99 & M'02

Sarah Holton '99 & M'02

Sarah's role as Director of Campus Planning at Brandeis University showcases her expertise in creating functional and innovative spaces within educational environments. Prior to joining Brandeis, Sarah was the Manager of Planning at Boston's Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center.



Lauren Claxton Brown '02

She is skilled in advocating for the user while also working to achieve leadership's goals. Through an iterative and consensus-building planning process, Sarah demonstrates her leadership and impact in the architecture field.

Lauren Claxton Brown '02

A Principal at VLK Architects in Dallas-Fort Worth, TX, Lauren leads the design and delivery of diverse architectural projects across various sectors, including education, healthcare, and commercial. Her commitment to innovation and accessibility in design underscores her dedication to advancing architectural standards and practices.



Kimberly Tuttle '05 & M'06

Kimberly Tuttle '05 & M'06

Kim's focus on nonprofit associations illustrates her commitment to nurturing emerging talent and advancing the field. In addition to her role as program manager for the Design Strategist Development program at Gensler, she teaches first-year design studios at the University of the District of Columbia. Kim is a recipient of the 2023 Young Architects Award for her impact as a mentor and advocate for the next generation of design leaders.



Katherine Beal '06 & M'09

Katherine Beal '06 & M'09

Kate's dedication as a Workplace Consultant for Red Thread emphasizes her innovative approach to commercial furniture design and workplace optimization. Her contributions continue to shape the future of workplace design by creating inspiring spaces that support culture, brand, and employee engagement.

Norwich's A+A program promotes the notion of the "citizen-architect" in the spirit of Alden Partridge's ideal of the "citizen soldier." These alumnae exemplify the tradition of producing innovative, forward-thinking, and socially responsible leaders.

CORRECTION:

Last week's Women Kicking Glass post was mistakenly titled "Women in Special Forces." Alison Lanz and Rebekah Bernheim served in Special Operations units, not in Special Forces, a designation reserved for the U.S. Army Green Berets.

Records documenting women's history and experience at Norwich are available through the University Archives. <https://archives.norwich.edu/>



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