

EXECUTIVE WOMEN



Olga Muñoz is building a solid legacy

BY CB STAFF

As a little girl, Olga Muñoz had a fascination with out-of-the-ordinary buildings. She remembers being amazed at how they were erected and how they could remain for centuries as witnesses to history.

"I always had this innate sensibility and a degree of understanding of what made a space, a house, or a building interesting and what made it beautiful," recalls Muñoz, who today is one of the island's leading architects and managing partner of Soltero, Muñoz & Associates, ranked by



CARIBBEAN BUSINESS as the 14th largest locally owned architectural & engineering firm.

Muñoz earned a bachelor's degree in architecture from Louisiana University. She spent the first three years of her professional career at two different major architectural & engineering firms before joining RSB, a firm established by her husband, architect Ramon Soltero. A few years later it was renamed Soltero, Muñoz & Associates and not long after, she became its managing partner.

Achieving parallel success in her three roles of architect, businesswoman, and mother has been and still is Muñoz's greatest challenge. "Every day requires a fine-tuning of my priorities to meet the needs of my clients, my employees, my children, and my husband, as well as my own expectations," says the only woman partner among the major locally owned architectural & engineering firms.

Some of Soltero, Muñoz & Associates' past and present clients include Costco, Home Depot, Banco Popular de Puerto Rico, Belz Enterprises, Pep Boys, Walgreen's, and many local developers and owners. Projects include

Belz Factory Outlet Mall, Plaza del Norte, Palma Real, Hill Top Mansions, and Marlin Tower.

Proving her worth in the male-dominated design & construction industry was an early challenge which she has overcome. "During the early years of my practice, the first reaction I would sense from clients and peers was skepticism. Nowadays I sense respect," she says.

Muñoz was recently recognized by Casa Protegida Julia de Burgos as one of the Mujeres Solidarias con la Mujer (women in solidarity with women), alongside a number of prominent local businesswomen. She is also an active member of the Puerto Rico College of Architects & Landscape Architects, the American Institute of Architects, the International Council of Shopping Centers, and the Puerto Rico Manufacturers Association.

Muñoz says she is inspired by her family and motivated by the thought of achieving the next goal. Her ultimate professional ambition is to have the satisfaction of looking back at her firm's history and seeing that they've built not only significant projects but also a solid

"Every day requires a fine-tuning of my priorities to meet the needs of my clients, my employees, my children, and my husband, as well as my own expectations."

—Olga Muñoz, Soltero, Muñoz & Associates

reputation as one of the best architectural & engineering firms in Puerto Rico.

The mother of three says her most relaxing time is spent with her children Victoria Alejandra,

Francisco Ramon, and Maria Fernanda. When she really wants to escape reality she travels abroad.

"If I am in Puerto Rico or in the States, I wind up working on some level." ■



Architecture
Engineering
Land Planning
Project Management
Interior Design

SM&A's team acknowledges and salutes our Managing Partner Olga J. Muñoz, AIA during the celebration of the Executive Women's Week.

Soltero, Muñoz & Associates
Torre BBVA 254 Muñoz Rivera Ave. 10th Floor Suite 1002 Hato Rey, PR 00918
Tel. 787-765-4455 Fax. 787-765-5980 E-mail. sma@smarchitects.com

