



Women of Influence 25th Anniversary Special

Real Estate Forum Presents

THE WOMEN OF INFLUENCE

HALL OF FAME

On the following pages you will read the stories of 23 amazing women – REAL ESTATE FORUM'S 2018 inductees into the Women of Influence Hall of Fame. They are principals and directors and CEOs of commercial real estate companies. Some made the decision to found their own firms. They have closed on billions of dollars of transactions that range across all CRE asset classes.

Their stories are as varied as their backgrounds, but they have one very important factor in common: they are in the minority in the CRE industry, which is very much dominated by men. They have had to prove themselves, usually more so than their male counterparts have had to, to get just a foothold in the industry and then again as they climbed up the ladder and earned more responsibilities.

And now here they are: accomplished, respected and at the top of their game. They have also risen to the upper echelon of the field and today serve as the paragons to which young women in the field aspire to.

Perhaps the most important of all they are determined to advocate for the next generation of women coming up behind them. This new cohort will likely find themselves still fighting the good fight against subconscious bias but it won't be as difficult as it was for this first generation of pioneers.

This year's new entrants into the WoI Hall of Fame nearly double the size of our roster, which until now counted 25 of the most well-known professionals in the business. If those numbers are of any indication, CRE is indeed coming a long way. — **Erika Morphy**

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KENNE SHEPHERD

Kenne Shepherd, a registered architect, LEED-accredited professional and one of the leading designers of high-end retail and residential environments, established her full-service company, Kenne Shepherd Interior Design Architecture PLLC, in 1993 in New York City. Over the years she has built a

reputation for creating compelling spaces notable for their clear organization and planning, refined detailing, rich materials and innovative use of technology and lighting, while adhering to the budget and schedule set by such clients as Calvin Klein, Salvatore Ferragamo and Wolford, among others.

"My continuing exploration of the relationship between human activity and the built environment, design trends and sustainability have only deepened my commitment to creating environments that enhance the way we live, work and play," She says.

Besides her architecture and interior design bona fides, Shepherd also has a background in construction, real estate and city planning. As such she has been active in CREW, among other organizations, and in 2017 she received CREW New York's Impact Award for Career Advancement for Women. In addition Shepherd established CREW Connections, a monthly program of networking coffees, cocktails and dinners, and is the co-chair of CREW New York's 40th Anniversary Gala Committee, to be held in October.