



Spotlight on...
women in construction

**CONSIDERATE
CONSTRUCTORS
SCHEME**

Case Study: L & Q

Savannah Williams-Duberry - Architectural Assistant Apprentice

1. WHAT FIRST ATTRACTED YOU TO WORKING IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY? HOW DID YOU FIND OUT ABOUT THE JOB AND WHAT QUALIFICATIONS DID YOU REQUIRE?

Initially I had a keenness for interior design, and real estate but wanted comprehensive knowledge of buildings and properties overall. With an eye for design I gained interest in being an Architect, which drove me to research the wider spectrum of the construction industry. L&Q had the opportunity open to recruit architectural apprentices and being as this is an apprenticeship, I required basic GCSE's as well as the creativity and interest to excel in this industry.

2. TELL US ABOUT YOUR CURRENT ROLE. WHAT DOES A TYPICAL DAY LOOK LIKE? WHAT DO YOU LIKE AND DISLIKE ABOUT THE JOB?

My current role mimics the duties of an Assistant Design & Technical Coordinator, which means your action list is always full of various queries. A typical day can consist of reviewing several drawings, meetings with external Architects, Engineers, and M&E consultants, specifying products in reference to our framework and dealing with RFIs on site from subcontractors.

3. WHAT QUALITIES ARE REQUIRED TO DO YOUR JOB?

Communicating actions and dealing with queries efficiently and meeting deadlines is important within the role. Its to work effectively independently and in a team.



4. WHAT WAS THE BIGGEST SURPRISE YOU FOUND WHEN YOU STARTED WORKING IN CONSTRUCTION?

That the narrative everyone tries to push of it being a male dominated industry is false. So, you'll find multiple women, different backgrounds and of different ages when you start working in construction.

5. WHAT WERE/ARE YOUR FUTURE CAREER ASPIRATIONS?

Regardless of my goals into the architectural field, working in construction has become a major part of my career aspiration. I hope to grow within the design and technical team whilst obtaining a skilled and knowledgeable architectural background.

6. HAVE YOU ENCOUNTERED ANY OBSTACLES IN YOUR CAREER BECAUSE OF YOUR GENDER?

I wouldn't say I've encountered any obstacles in my career but there has been missed opportunities and overlooked cases because of my gender.

7. WHY DO YOU THINK WOMEN REMAIN UNDERREPRESENTED IN THE INDUSTRY?

I think it stems down to us not creating a network for ourselves so any issues we've had we sometimes have not felt supported. However now our network is growing from strength to strength and i feel so much more represented in the industry.

8. WOULD YOU RECOMMEND THAT YOUNG WOMEN SEEK OUT CAREERS IN CONSTRUCTION?

100%, it's not just bricklaying and cranes, there are so many career opportunities in construction.

9. WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO ANY WOMEN WISHING TO PURSUE A CAREER IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY?

Don't let the lack of diversity hinder you from pursuing a career in the construction industry, you must go for it so that you'll become part of the diversity and the evolution of construction.

10. HOW DO YOU THINK A DIVERSE WORKFORCE BENEFITS THE INDUSTRY AS A WHOLE?

The industry always changes overtime and requires diverse ideas and gateways therefore a diverse workforce encourages it to do so.

11. WHAT DO YOU THINK THE INDUSTRY AND WIDER SOCIETY SHOULD BE DOING TO ENCOURAGE MORE WOMEN TO WORK IN CONSTRUCTION?

More work experience opportunities and exposure in schools, colleges and universities to bring light to the variety of opportunity.

12. DO YOU THINK THE INDUSTRY CAN GET TO A POINT WHERE THERE IS A BETTER BALANCE OF GENDERS?

Yes, but it will take time, effort and support. The balance of genders today is better than it was five years ago and will be even better in the next five years.