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**How did you find your way into the industry?** I studied Architecture while at the University of Southern California and started working the Monday following graduation, so you could say I was eager to get my career started. During my 10 years in the Architecture industry I have been fortunate to work for three great firms in Orange County, each with strong leadership in place and an environment that allowed me to grow and learn.

**What advice would you give to an emerging young leader just starting their professional career?** The best advice I can give to any emerging young leader is to get involved as soon as you can, especially in organizations such as the ULI. My one regret is that I did not get engaged sooner with young professionals and mentors in other fields that are related to the building industry. That is why I helped create a mentoring program in my company to encourage recent graduates to participate in their local community and professional organizations.

**What traits do you think define a successful leader?** A successful leader has integrity and models hard work and dedication to their team. They are committed and passionate about the job they perform and for the people that work for them.

**What is your current job and what types of projects are you working on now?** I am an Architect and Project Manager at RRM Design Group in San Clemente, CA. Our Architecture team has a very diverse portfolio of work, with projects including affordable multi-family housing, urban in-fill development, commercial retail centers, public safety centers and tenant improvements. The great thing about my job is that each project presents a varied and unique challenge, which allows me to broaden my skills and abilities.

**What do you find most challenging about your profession on a day-to-day basis?** A former mentor of mine once said that each person in the Architecture industry is either a "designer" or a "definer". No matter how well rounded one may try to be they always have a natural inclination to either create the concept and vision for a project or be the person who analyzes how every nut and bolt goes together. I am naturally a "design" minded person and thus it can be challenging to focus on items that are outside of that realm.

**What are you looking for in terms of career development - OR In what areas would you like to professionally develop further?** My long term professional goal is to help RRM Design Group's Orange County office expand and grown within each of our in-house service sectors. Ideally this would include assuming a senior level position within our Architecture team and handling multiple facets of the business. On a personal level I would like create a pro-bono arm of our business that takes 1% of our anticipated revenue and puts it towards assisting organizations that cannot afford traditional design services. This mindset would allow us to grow professionally and personally and see our skills serve the greater community at large.

**Describe a situation that was a great learning experience.** I have been fortunate to succeed and fail within my career and each situation has afforded me a teaching situation that I can share with my colleagues. An instance in which success and failure both occurred was through a large safety training facility that I designed for the City of Carlsbad. I was able to work on the project from the initial kick-off meeting with City staff to the ribbon cutting ceremony at the Grand Opening. Being involved with a project from to design to production and then watching it come to life over a 20 month period has help me immeasurably on my current projects. You have to be able to see the result of the items you put on a sheet of paper and that project allowed me to do just that.

**How do you deal with stress at work?** In general I am a pretty calm and reserved person, but stress is inevitable, especially when deadlines loom. That is why communication and delegation is critical for me. Having solid communication between team members helps keep everyone moving forward and hopefully carrying an equal balance of the load.