

To succeed in any project management role requires a combination of time management, budgeting, stakeholder

project delivered."

The development of formal education and structured career paths is increasingly helping people wishing to build such skills.

Entry-level courses are being offered through

something from initiation of an idea through to completion," he says.

"My ambition is to be a project manager for a large design engineering project within the defence area but obviously it's a long ladder to climb."

about 10 per cent of executives were women. Now it is 8.3 per cent," she said. "Women in the workforce need to take personal

hours and 16 per cent by five hours or less.

clong@access.fairfax.com.au

IN THE NEWS



CAROLINE PIDCOCK ARCHITECT

Research just released shows 1 per cent of female registered architects are directors of firms and one in four are knocking back promotions. Caroline Pidcock is keen to challenge working practices within the industry. She is the director of Caroline Pidcock Architects and the president of the NSW chapter of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects.

How long in the job?

I started my practice in 1992 but [initially] I taught for about five years at the University of Newcastle and ran the practice as well.

How did you get started?

During my school years, I thought of many different careers. I was strong at maths and science and I had always been quite strong at art. Also, I was intensely interested in how people thought. It was only in my final year of school when I

suddenly thought I could combine all those interests into architecture. Amazingly and incredibly luckily, it was the right decision.

Appeal of the job?

While it has all the practicalities associated with any sort of business, imbedded very deeply in it is that you are creatively applying your mind to come up with interesting solutions to interesting problems.

Downside?

It never gets out of your head.

Challenging moments?

Delivering creative solutions that align somehow with clients' budgets. Dealing with council and other requirements. The planning system in NSW at the moment is probably at its most congested, I think, because the general populace is so litigious and demanding of having a say in everything.

Career highlight?

From a professional point of view, being elected by my peers to be the second only female president of the [Royal Australian] Institute of Architects in NSW.

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Next step?

Being a sole director is not something I want to do forever. I like the idea of having a more multidisciplinary practice. **If not architecture, what would you do?** On some of my more manically busy days, I think it would be lovely to be an artist painting in the hills of Byron Bay.

What could encourage more women to remain in the profession?

I think it's about understanding that different work practices and different ways of achieving things have equal validity and need to be recognised, rewarded and promoted. Even the other day someone said to me: "You can't work part-time and be a successful architect." I find that questionable. It is tied into this building industry mentality that you've got to be able to ask questions and have them answered every minute of the day, but there are many industries that have equal demands that have come to more creative ways of dealing with people.

Christine Long