

Mani Ardalan Farhadi

Associate AIA | LEED AP

Overcoming with Integrity



“Although we often look for external leadership or mentorship, you also have to be your own driver in your heart and with your authenticity.”

DESCRIBE YOUR PATH TO LEADERSHIP IN ONE WORD OR PHRASE.

“Overcoming with Integrity” I’ve overcome a lot and you have to have your own internal compass to guide you. Although we often look for external leadership or mentorship, you also have to be your own driver in your heart and with your authenticity.

WHAT LED YOU TO THIS FIELD?

I was first introduced to architecture because of my father, Nader Ardalan. He is an architect, and I was born in San Francisco at the time he was working at SOM: Skidmore, Owings and Merrill. Our family is of Iranian American heritage. Both my parents had grown up in America without knowing much about their roots.

When I was two years old, they decided to reverse migrate, and we went back to Iran to discover their identity and culture. And so, while they were learning about the culture, it’s “everything seemed fascinating”. We learned as kids through their eyes. I’m the oldest.

First, we lived in Masjed Solayman. Our father designed housing for the families who worked in the oil industry. He also helped document findings in archaeological digs, to which he would take us as kids. That’s a very early introduction.

Then we moved to Tehran, the capital city of Iran, and he eventually opened his own firm called Mandala Collaborative. He was designing stadiums, museums, new towns, universities, large scale, big urban planning projects. Since I was the eldest, I often accompanied him to groundbreaking and grand openings. He was becoming quite well known in the country and he was traveling the world, attending conferences, taking photographs. Dad always worked late nights.

My parents were researching a book about Iranian architecture, so we journeyed all across the country to historic sites and beautiful, iconic buildings. Imagine as a child, traveling all through America with your parents, looking at buildings. That’s was us traveling all through Iran learning about buildings.

“THESE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN WERE SO INTERESTED TO TALK TO EACH OTHER, SITTING ON THE FLOOR. THEY WERE DISCUSSING HOW ARCHITECTURE WAS GOING TO CHANGE THE WORLD.”

My late mother, Laleh Bakhtiar, did a lot of the research and writing. She was taking courses in spirituality at Tehran University. Through their eyes we learned a lot and I absorbed some of that curiosity and I also enjoyed, of course, drawing as a kid.

They co-wrote a book, *The Sense of Unity: The Sufi Tradition in Persian Architecture*. That was in 1973. It's still taught in architectural schools in Iran. They explained the meaning behind the geometry, the symbolism of the architectural design and all the tile work, calligraphy, how the buildings were laid out - all of it had symbolic meaning. It was groundbreaking work. I didn't, however, still see myself as an architect because I only saw my dad as a male in that role, and he was rarely home. It was interesting and intriguing, but I wasn't sure that that I could do it then.

In 1976, there was an International Congress of Women Architects that was held in Iran. The former Queen of Iran, Farah Pahlavi, had studied architecture in Paris before marrying the former king Mohammad Reza Pahlavi. She was the patron of Culture, Arts and Architecture, so she sponsored this idea, and speakers from 23 countries came to Iran, both famous ones and also rising stars from Iran. Some of the renowned architects that attended were Denise Scott Brown, Anne Tyng, who worked with Louis Kahn, Alison Smithson, Jane Drew, and GaeAulenti from Italy. The foreign women came together with the architects from Iran.

My mother was invited to speak about spirituality and architecture, even though she wasn't an architect, since she was a scholar and a writer. My parents had recently gotten divorced and I think Mom decided to take my sister and I with her to the conference so she wouldn't be alone.

I was 14, so the atmosphere of that conference really was electric. These international women were so interested to talk to each other, sitting on the floor. They were discussing how architecture was going to change the world. They talked about ecological adaptation and why does everything have to be international style when we're in Japan or India or Mexico? Why can't the architecture reflect the culture and ecology of the people? It was incredible.

They wrote a resolution at the end of the congress about awareness and the responsibilities that each one was going to take away back to their country. There was no ego, no narcissism, no fame getting in the way of their camaraderie and their dialogue. And they were so nice to me, this little teen tag-along, and to my mom, who's not an architect. I was mesmerized. I was hooked, and I wanted to be part of this world now that I'd seen these amazing women as architects. That's the long story of how I wanted to become an architect.

HOW DID THAT TRANSLATE INTO YOUR CAREER PATH?

COLLEGE

I came to the US in 1980 for college because my parents had both been educated in the US. My mom went to Chatham College in Pennsylvania. My father went to Carnegie Mellon and then Harvard Graduate School of Design. From an early age, even though we were growing up in Iran, it was clear that we would be going to college in America. We fled Iran after the Revolution and I came to Boston. I went to Wellesley College and graduated in 1984 with a BA in Architecture. In History of Boston course, we could choose to write about an event, a leader, or a building - I wrote about a building. I took Art History and we could write about a sculptor, a painter, an architect, or a building - I gravitated again towards a building. The signs were there!

Architecture was considered an independent study at Wellesley because it's not an accredited school of architecture. We had studio courses at MIT. Wellesley and MIT have an exchange program together, so I was able to take 3 Design Studio courses at MIT. When I graduated, my portfolio had studio work, plus artwork in charcoal, pastels, and watercolor, showing that I could draw by hand.

SASAKI

Upon graduation, I was fortunate to land my first professional job. It was at Sasaki Associates. They're headquartered in the Boston area and I was an intern architect - the youngest person at the time that they had hired, at 21. They saw my potential, even without a B. Arch. I had a BA in Architecture.

Sasaki was a multidisciplinary firm. They had architecture, urban design, planning, landscape, civil, interior design, graphic design - I received such a wide range of exposure to projects. They were primarily focused on campus planning and educational architecture.

At the time they were starting CAD, yet they printed out massively large drawings which took up the entire conference room and there wasn't enough room on the table. We'd be coloring with pencils, and because I was younger, they would say "You've got to stipple your grass better." They were into collaboration, sharing ideas and talking about the campus experience. The fact that we were looking at such grand a scale like in a helicopter looking down was really inspiring.

While at Sasaki, I spent six years doing a concurrent program. I worked during the day and in the evenings, I got my Bachelor of Architecture at Boston Architectural Center. It's now called Boston Architectural College.

It's designed for students to work in an architect's office in the daytime and to attend school in the evenings. I rose up the ranks from that young intern architect, then Assistant Project Manager and gradually becoming a Project Manager. I was named an Associate of the firm.

In college, we chose writing about an event, a leader, or a building - I wrote about a building.

Because the projects were so large, some of them needed more organizational skills. I had a liberal arts background as well, writing a lot of reports and feasibility studies. They saw that as a strength in addition to my architectural skills, which is why I moved into more management roles.

In my personal life, I became engaged during that time and I married Shervin Farhadi. We are still married 37 years later! I had our first child, Rodd, while I was at Sasaki. I ended up working there 14 years until 1998. We moved away due to my husband's new job with IBM in North Carolina.

My favorite aspect at Sasaki was seeing those projects that involved different disciplines. I didn't mind that the process was very long. In fact, I worked on one project for eight years, after which we were just getting to Schematic Design when I left. We stayed in North Carolina about a year and a half.

My second child was born, Ryon. During that time, I didn't work because we were getting the family situated. From there, my husband got relocated to Northern California to work for Cisco. We moved in 2000. Again, I was home at first, getting us situated. We survived Y2K! I had to find schools, daycare, a new job, a home, etcetera.

STEINBERG HART

I got my second professional job as a Project Manager at Steinberg Group in San Jose in 2001. They're now called Steinberg Hart. They also focused on educational projects, though K12 and Community College, with some university work. I experienced a full range: pre-design, programming, schematic design, construction administration, close out, and even post occupancy. I worked there for 16 years until 2017.

Starting out as a Project Manager, I became a Senior Planner, Senior Programmer and from Associate I became Senior Associate of the firm. A lot of the projects again being large - I focused on the early part of it, the planning / programming side, based on my earlier experience at Sasaki and my experience in education and collaborating with the clients to build consensus. Eventually I ended up having many repeat clients with districts whom I worked with for 10 years, guiding them all the way from the master plan to implementation of the vision.

TAYLOR DESIGN

Then I went to my third professional position, which was at Taylor Design in San Francisco. I was hired as a Project Director and a Senior Education Planner. They were known for healthcare design. They hired me to lead a new practice area for them, building up an educational studio. I was given one year to bring in institutional clients and create this small practice area.

Despite all my efforts, I didn't meet my business development quota, though I opened many doors for them and established several relationships for them. I worked there 2017 to 2018. They had an amazing process improvement activity that we would do all the time, and they built all their projects around storytelling.

STANFORD

Then comes my 4th and current professional position. Even though my career spans 37 years, it's only been at four places. My current position at Stanford University School of Medicine is a Senior Facilities Planner. I started in 2018, and I passed the six-year mark. I'm responsible for space planning of our research labs. I work with department chairs, finance officers, and primary investigators. It's interesting after decades of being on the other side of the table - now I'm on the owner side. I see firsthand the decision making of the universities. We help to plan innovative and world class facilities. We look at both short term and long-term solutions and set some policies for the future.

DO YOU THINK STAYING IN ONE PLACE FOR A LONG TIME HELPED YOU TO GROW AND LEARN?

It was not a plan from the beginning, but I am a loyal person and I don't take risks. I do enjoy building relationships and once you have repeat clients you want to see everything through because you were there from the germination of an idea to then see how it was implemented. I enjoyed it.

I also wanted the stability of it because in the meantime you're raising children and they know who you are - if you're late one day, if your kid is sick one day, it's okay because you're trusted and not at a new job trying to prove yourself. For me it worked out, although in hindsight I may have had a higher salary if I had moved because when you move firms you get a little bit more. The firms where I worked a really long time had such a breadth of projects that I didn't feel I was doing door details for 30 years.

DO YOU ENJOY BEING ON THE OWNER SIDE?

I work on all the feasibility studies, so there's still involvement. I have to go see the site, talk to the PI, do the programming - what do you want in your space? I have both small and large scale. The small scale could be a special microscope that they've purchased and we need to darken the room. I need to go and see it. I prepare test fits in AutoCAD. For each project I do the layouts, and once it's green-lighted, meaning it works, it gets handed off to a project management team in in our facilities group.

The group I'm in is OFPM: Office of Facilities, Planning and Management. I'm the P on the Planning side and we hand it over to the M, which is the Management group. They work with an architect to get the permit. I'm doing about 30 to 50 projects a year - the smaller feasibility studies, yet I'm also on the owner side for the really large projects. It could be an entire new building - 200,000 square feet. We're working with an architect, and someone has to be the client representative to ask, "What does Neurobiology need, what does Structural Biology need and what about M&I? That is Microbiology & Immunology. What do they need in this space? How do they do their research?" Each group is different in terms of how they do their research and I know that from having seen their spaces and talking to them.

I'm very much involved in the process, and now I know why things take so long and why decisions get changed. I understand why we're rethinking the design of a building. We do give architects the run-around, unfortunately. It's been an eye opening experience to be on the other side. It's not a matter of liking one better. It's about having a fuller perspective.

I encourage all of you not to let your health be sacrificed by your work, which we often do in this industry. It starts in college and you think that's just the way it has to be. It does not.

HAVE YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO BE A LEADER?

I think I probably had some kind of zeal and propensity towards it. I was the eldest child. That might have something to do with it. I do enjoy improving or having that challenge of seeking ways to evolve. When I was a Girl Scout in Iran, we were US Girl Scouts - same uniform, same handbook, Pledge of Allegiance, literally following the United States, even though we're in Iran. I had the most badges! I had badges, all I could get, all the way up one side and all the way on the back side. I was on TV for having the most badges in high school. Plus I was Senior Class President and Valedictorian.

At work, I think I did seek promotions even though they didn't always offer it or say it to me - I was proactive about it. Outside of work, I was Chair of our local Bond Oversight Committee, for which I won "Citizen Architect." I was appointed a School Board of Trustee. I had various roles in Women In Architecture Silicon Valley.

The crowning moment was serving on the Women's Leadership Summit Steering Committee in 2022, which was held in San Jose. That particular one brought me back full circle to when I had attended the International Congress of Women Architects as a teenager. Now I was on the organizing side of such a conference. The San Jose one had 750 women attending - at the time it broke the record!

I've co-founded a group called BIBI, which is Banous In the Building Industry. "Banou" is a Persian word for woman. The group is all Iranian-American professional women.

We have about 200 in our group right now all across North America. We organize monthly Zoom meetings. I mentor them as they seek job opportunities.

It's not only at work, it's also outside of work. I feel that even though I had some difficulties in upbringing or moving from another country to America and starting over, I had some privileges for my education and language skills. I'm grateful for my blessings.

I wanted to give back to the community, whether it's my Iranian American community or women's groups, it definitely feels like the right thing to do. I would encourage others to do the same - to give back to the community.

I came 44 years ago, very different from those coming now, but certainly with what's happening in Iran with the Women, Life, Freedom movement and the women-led rebellion, it's very important to encourage our Iranian sisters to feel confident and to have a support network.

"I encourage all of you not to let your health be sacrificed by your work, which we often do in this industry. It starts in college and you think that's just the way it has to be. It does not."

THROUGHOUT YOUR CAREER, HOW HAVE YOU WEATHERED THE ECONOMIC CYCLES OF THE INDUSTRY?

As I mentioned, I have worked 37 years, but I was not immune to layoffs, to shifts in jobs. I fared better than others.

Sasaki went through some downturns and I weathered the storms there. At one point, every week we'd lay people off. At the time, I was really good in AutoCAD, and I also had project management skills. Plus, I had really good organizational skills so I could help in various different areas - Being versatile helped me.

We were working on a project in Japan, when the client in Japan faxed us one day "We're going to cancel the project!" We had a team in Japan and a team in Boston and I was the Assistant Manager. Since I could also work on AutoCAD, they were only going to keep a very small team together and they kept me.

When I was at Steinberg Hart, there was a downturn in the economy and they said, "We really value you. Instead of 40 hours we can only pay you 20 hours a week."

That was an option and an alternative where I could accept that because my husband is not an architect and he made more money than me, so we could do it with me at 20 hours a week and him working full time. Things like that have happened temporarily, but I have been impacted by layoffs.

I don't have an architect's license - I'm an Associate Member of the AIA. I'm probably the oldest emerging professional that existed - I've been emerging since 1984! I have reached the ceiling at architecture firms where the last two firms I worked at said, "We really can't promote you further because you don't have a license."

Another thing in hindsight, I probably should have tried to pursue the license. It was complicated because as soon as I obtained the B. Arch., I gave birth to my first child. It then became difficult to manage the work, the child and studying for the ARE.

Among new architects, "racial and ethnic diversity continued to increase in early career stages... However, diversity slowed at the point of exam completion: 36% of candidates completing the exam identified as a person of color, and 44% identified as female.

Still, new architects were more diverse than ever in 2022: one out of every three new architects was a person of color, and two out of every five were women." (NBTN, 2023)

<https://www.ncarb.org/nbtn2023/demographics>

I would say that having various skills helped, such as feasibility reports, which needed someone with strong writing skills. They had 100 projects that needed to be closed out. We have a phase with our Division of State Architect, which is our close out phase for public school projects, and I had the expertise. Having the understanding of programming, or being able to help with marketing proposals, or having a really good rapport with our clients all contributed to my longevity and adaptability.

Some of those things were what kept me off the first list, but maybe further down on the list. Those are things that I think about over time, but we're not immune.

DO YOU THINK THAT IF YOU COULD DO IT AGAIN, WOULD YOU HAVE TRIED TO DO THE LICENSING THING BACK THEN?

I did push myself and I did take some portions of the ARE. I passed one, but we moved away. We were in Boston when I received my B. Arch in 1995, but I also had my first son in 1995. With the Wellesley degree, I wouldn't have been eligible to take the exams, so I needed the second degree that I got in the evenings. For six years, I worked architect hours and went to architecture school, doing architecture school hours at the same time. Right after that I had my baby - it really would have been impossible. Then we moved to North Carolina and I had our second child. I was managing two children, and then we moved to California. By the time we moved to California, I had a five-year old and a one-year old and I was looking for work, so I really don't know if it would have been possible any other way.

I'm not sure when it would have fit in, but in the end, my specialty is planning, programming, pre-design services, master planning and feasibility studies, which don't necessarily need an architect's license. I became a different persona. My projects became different such that it wasn't necessary. But I do encourage everyone else to take the ARE!

IS THERE ANYTHING YOU WOULD HAVE DONE DIFFERENTLY?

I've definitely enjoyed my work, and I'm not sure I would have done anything differently. In the early years of architecture, you get exposure to different building typologies. For example, I did minimal commercial projects or multifamily - I didn't work much on residential. There are certain categories that I never delved into, but I absolutely loved school as a kid.

In a way, I'm still in school! I really have loved being in the educational realm because you're always learning whether it's from your clients or from the universities. When my kids were in public school, I realized I hadn't gone to school in America. I went to school in Iran. I thought, "How am I designing schools and working on programming for schools if I've never been in a (US) school?" So, I volunteered. On Fridays I would help in class, read books in the library, volunteer for grading or field trips, in order to feel the environment. I was wearing a parent hat, but I was also wearing my architect hat. Serving on the Bond Oversight Committee was useful since as a firm, we presented to committees such as school boards. There I was appointed as a Trustee on the School Board or being on the Bond Oversight Committee. It gave me a massive perspective.

Having worked for decades on college projects, there came a time when my kids were getting ready to go to college. We would go on site visits - I wanted to tour every college they applied to! It was all research. After about 5 minutes, my sons would say, "I'm not applying here, so can we go?" and I would say, "Wait! I didn't see that building over there," or "I've got to check out the library." It became research for me.

Even all through their college experience, the fact that I had college projects that I worked on, brought an extra level of curiosity for me. Fortunately, my oldest applied to 23 colleges, and was accepted at 13 of them! We toured a lot of those. My younger one applied to 12 and was accepted at 8 of them, which we visited. That was their undergrad experience and then there was their Graduate School experience. I saw these places as an investor.

When my son played college volleyball, I would go to his games and look at the gymnasiums with a different eye. Plus, I saw all these college kids walking around, like Duke University and UConn and Michigan State. It's not just a name on a jersey for me. I was seeing them as campuses. It's a weird sensation. I've truly enjoyed the fact that I have worked on educational projects. And still do.

WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT QUALITIES FOR AN ARCHITECT TO HAVE?

I would say an architect should be curious, compassionate, and authentic. You have to listen carefully to your customers and you have to balance that out with obviously the project logistics. But you are the one that can help them see a vision that they might not have otherwise been able to conjure. And you can guide them in getting there. You have to set the ego aside. It's not about you, it's about your clients. And so to me it's more about building relationships than about building architecture.

WHO DO YOU LOOK UP TO AS A LEADER AND WHY?

Throughout my career I had one champion at each firm that I was at, and they helped me quite a bit with opportunities. Roy Viklund was my champion at Sasaki - he passed away. Ernie Yamani was my champion at Steinberg. Kevin Hinrichs was my champion at Taylor Design and Niraj Dangoria was my champion at Stanford. He's the one that recruited me.

Yet my mentors on the side were always women architects. In Boston, I looked up to Melissa Bennett. She was a little bit older than me. She taught me more about involvement in AIA. I owe all of my AIA volunteering to Melissa. At Steinberg, my mentor was Liz Gibbons. She was a little bit older, and she was a politician, serving on Planning Commission. She was Mayor of her town, so she also influenced me in that way because she combined architecture with community service.

I owe a huge debt of gratitude to Rosa Sheng. Rosa is co-founder of Equity by Design. She literally has turned architecture upside down and transformed it into being more open to women, all genders, LGBTQ+, and minority representation. She's a huge proponent of JEDI: Justice, Equity, Design, Inclusion.

She saw something in me and plucked me for one of her first symposia. I never thought as an Iranian-American Muslim architect that my voice mattered. I can't even call myself an architect in California because I'm not licensed! As she would say, "You have a voice, your opinion and your perspective matters." It does. "You know all this other stuff with your lived experience. Don't focus on what you don't have. Focus on what you do have. You have an amazing ability to tell a story and to tune into

compassion with people. You need to think about your strengths." Rosa has been an immense leader in the industry whom I look up to.

Most of all, I want to say the strongest woman I ever knew is my mother, Laleh Bakhtiar. She was always there for me. She had three children and eight grandchildren. She sadly passed away in 2020. I think of her every day. She followed her passion for writing and became a scholar in her late 50s. She's written over 100 books. She certainly set an example of living with integrity and honesty. If someone leaves behind a legacy of love and spirituality, that means they live forever. If anything, I would say that's really what a leader is about.

ARE THERE ANY RESOURCES YOU THINK PEOPLE SHOULD LOOK INTO IF THEY ARE INTERESTED IN BECOMING LEADERS? CONFERENCES, PODCASTS, EXPERIENCES?

I would say all of the above. Each gives you a different perspective. If you only do podcasts, you're going to miss out on books. If you only do books, you're going to miss out on conferences. I would say yes to all of those.

Look up Equity by Design. They have all kinds of information about salary surveys, work satisfaction, and how it's related to your gender or your ethnicity or your race. It's got beautifully illustrated graphs and a lot of facts. The podcast I'd recommend is Design Voice Podcast. They've interviewed ~100 fascinating women architects. There's Madame Architect - an online magazine, and they've spoken with 400 women in the past 10 years. Parlour is an Australian research-based advocacy organization dedicated to gender equity in architecture.

Another one I like is Othering and Belonging Institute at UC Berkeley. They have a weekly mindfulness session that anyone can Zoom into. Look up your local Women in Architecture group. If there isn't one, start one! Look into NOMA: National Organization of Minority Architects, and attend Women's Leadership Summit. You need all these sources because something resonates differently for each person.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO FUTURE LEADERS IN THE INDUSTRY?

I would tell future leaders to be compassionate. We're all people with challenges of life and obstacles, some of which we have spoken about. Ask people how they're doing. Listen to them genuinely. Give opportunities. Lift somebody up so they can improve their lives and move up. Open up seats at your table to hear different perspectives, whether it's women, immigrants, people of color, LGBTQIA+, it doesn't matter. Be open-minded. Really get to know people. I would say lead with integrity.

WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE IS THE RECIPE FOR SUCCESS?

You can define success in so many ways. It isn't necessarily monetary to me. It's more about the quality of life. If you're so rich and you can't spend all the money before you pass away, who benefits? You can't take it with you when you're gone. Success is right here and now, helping those around you, who are less fortunate, giving back to your community, lifting up another hard-working person.

If you have children, listen to your children's needs. For so long we've thought that we are the parents and always have the answer, but we may not. If your child is asking for something or wanting to do something or uncomfortable with something, you need to be tuned in to them and listen to them very carefully. You also need to be cognizant of your partner's opinions. To be married 37 years you have to have communication and compromise! In your friendships too, there's a give and take in friendships. The biggest message I would give is to fill your heart with love.

DO YOU HAVE ANY CLOSING THOUGHTS?

I'm so honored that I made it to your list, and now other people will get to hear the stories. It will create a small awareness as part of my advocacy - I am wearing a pin that is the map of Iran. I wear it all the time. No one knows, right? Because it just looks like a pin - looks like a cat. That's the actual shape of Iran. I wear it every day and especially this past year. September 16 was the anniversary of Mahsa Jina Amini, the woman who was killed in Iran for the lack of appropriate head-covering. Her death led to protests and sparked the Women, Life, Freedom movement. It's been two years and most of the Western world doesn't know anything about it. Unless you know an Iranian person who will say something, you're not going to know what happened.



Prior to this regime that's been there for 44 years, there was a monarchy and there was a little bit more freedom. This was how I grew up. I didn't have to be covered up. We had rights. I'm not anti-religion because I'm a very spiritual person, but I'm anti-patriarchy and I'm anti-dictatorship, and that's what they've done to our country. Unfortunately, they've taken religion and made it law. They are imposing their views. The religion itself isn't bad. It's the patriarchy. I need to say this for those who hear things happening in the Middle East, that the religion of Islam is not bad. It's what the men have done in order to keep their power. I have to shout out to sisters and brothers in Iran who are fighting, getting imprisoned and giving up their life - they're fighting bravely. You don't hear about it in the news because Western journalists are not allowed. So how would you know? I do want to make sure that it's mentioned somewhere and that they're not forgotten - Afghan women and others as well. Even here in the US, our women's rights are eroding as well. The older I get and the more I rise up, the more I need to look back and raise someone with me.

TIMELINE

- 1976**
International Congress of Women Architects
Ramsar, Iran
- 1980**
Relocated from Tehran, Iran to Boston, MA
- 1984**
Bachelor of Arts in Architecture
Wellesley College
- 1984-1988**
From Intern to Associate at Sasaki Associates
Watertown, MA
- 1987**
Married Shervin Farhadi
- 1988**
Steering Committee; Centennial Celebration for Louise Bethune, FAIA with WIA, Boston
- 1995**
Son Rodd Cyrus Farhadi born, Boston, MA
- 1995**
Bachelor of Architecture, Boston Architectural College
- 1998**
Moved to Chapel Hill, NC
- 1999**
Son Ryon Malek Farhadi born, Durham, NC
- 2000**
Moved to Los Gatos, CA
- 2001-2017**
Project Manager at Steinberg Hart
San Jose, CA
- 2004-2014**
Los Gatos Bond Oversight Committee; AIA Citizen Architect Award
- 2014-2016**
Board of Trustee, Los Gatos Union School District
- 2015**
Joined WIA Silicon Valley at its inception
- 2016**
Co-founded BIBI (Banous in Building Industry) for Persian professional women, San Jose, CA
- 2017-2018**
Project Director at Taylor Design, San Francisco, CA
- 2018-Present**
Senior Facilities Planner at Stanford University, School of Medicine, Palo Alto, CA
- 2022**
Steering Committee; Women's Leadership Summit, San Jose, CA