Influential Women in the Housing Industry

Shirley Wiseman
First Female President of NAHB (1987-1991), and President and Owner of the McVay Group

Shirley Wiseman is best known for being the first female president of NAHB. Before becoming the president, she broke many other glass ceilings for women in the housing industry. Wiseman served as the first female vice president of NAHB, and was chairman of the membership committee, a member of the executive committee, and was designated a NAHB Life Director in 1979. Wiseman began her career as a home builder in Lexington, Ky. After volunteering at her local HBA, she worked her way up the ladder as a dedicated national volunteer.

Sandy Dunn
Past NAHB President (2008) and Owner of B.J. Builders, Inc.

From the beginning of Dunn’s career in housing, she stood out. In 1976, her local HBA recognized the owner of B.J. Builders, Inc. as the Builder of the Year. Since then, she climbed through the ranks, beginning as the president of her local HBA, then as President of the HBA of West Virginia, next becoming the NAHB Vice President and a BUILD-PAC trustee, as well as an NAHB Senior Life Director, and then culminating in her service as NAHB President.

Alicia Huey
President of AGH Homes, Inc. in Birmingham, Ala.

Alicia Huey has worked in the residential construction industry for over 30 years. Huey is a staunch supporter of the NAHB Federation and has served in a variety of leadership roles over the years, including the NAHB Membership Chair, NAHB Professional Women in Building Chair and NAHB BUILD-PAC Trustee. From 2012-2014, she served as the chair of the Habitat for Humanity of Greater Birmingham. She was the 2013 president of the Greater Birmingham Association of Homebuilders (GBAHB) where she continues to be an active member. She received the Al Awtrey Builder of the Year award in 2012 from the GBAHB. In 2008, she was named NAHB PWB Woman of the Year. She is currently an NAHB Director for the GBAHB and serves on various other local and state committees within the NAHB Federation.
Michelle Desiderio  
Vice President of Innovation Services, Home Innovation Research Labs

Since earning a master’s degree in Urban Planning and Environmental Planning, Michelle Desiderio has dedicated her life’s work to green technology. She began her career at the New York City Department of City Planning, then worked as a Senior Product Developer in energy efficiency for Fannie Mae, next as a planner for the National Capital Planning Commission, and as a founding Board Member of GreenSPACE. Desiderio has contributed to various publications about the benefits of green technology and how to implement it. She holds a patent in measurable residential emissions trading.

Carole Jones  
President of Robert R Jones Homes

Carole started Robert R Jones Homes, a luxury homebuilding company, 40 years ago with her husband, Bob. During the five years Bob was an NAHB Senior Officer, she traveled with him throughout the United States visiting numerous state and local home builders associations. This presented her with the tremendous opportunity to promote NAHB and recruit members. Through her local HBA PWB, she has been a member of NAHB PWB since 1988 and has recruited in excess of 600 NAHB PWB members to date. She has served in various roles within NAHB PWB, including 2015 Chair, Region C Trustee, Area 9 Trustee and Advisor. She is an NAHB Life Director, Michigan's NAHB State Representative and a member of the NAHB Budget & Finance Committee. She was the NAHB PWB 2007 Woman of the Year. In 2016, Carole was inducted into HBA of Southeastern Michigan's Hall of Fame.

Denise Davies  
Founder and CEO, D2 Interieurs

D2 Interieurs is a full-service interior design, remodeling and art consultation firm. Denise Davies studied business and later interior design. She prides herself for being able to incorporate different styles in one room, leaving the “space artfully unique.” Davies actively collaborates with a variety of artists and craftspeople in designing homes that integrate style and function in ways that truly reflect the families who live in them. D2 Interieurs projects have included lofts in both Soho and Tribeca, a pre-war apartment in New York’s Upper West Side, a country estate in the Hudson Valley, and various homes throughout Fairfield County.
Ronda Conger
Vice President of CBH Homes

Ronda Conger started her career in Las Vegas in 1993 with KB Homes, a top five national home builder. Today, she has staked her claim as the vice president of Idaho's largest home builder, CBH Homes, where she leads the CBH troops daily, overseeing all areas of the company for the past 12 years. She also owns a real estate company and a mining company, is a board member of the St. Luke's Children's Hospital and Zions Bank Women's Financial Group, and is a cabinet member for the Treasure Valley YMCA. She is the author of two books: Better Human and Better Thinking.

Adrienne Albert
Founder and CEO, The Marketing Directors, New York

Adrienne Albert is nationally recognized as one of the foremost marketing and sales experts in residential real estate. With her firm, The Marketing Directors, Inc., Albert has been personally responsible for the marketing and sales of more than $29 billion in residential sales. In 2009, Albert was inducted into the Hall of Fame of NAHB's National Sales and Marketing Council, and was named a Legend of Residential Marketing. She is the first woman ever to receive this accolade in the 18-year history of the award. Albert got her start in the home-building industry after receiving her master's in architecture from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Tracy Young
Founder and President, PlanGrid

PlanGrid is a construction productivity software company that delivers real-time project information to all who need it. Plan Grid created an intuitive, sheet-based mobile construction app that keeps everyone building from the current set. Today, PlanGrid is the world’s most downloaded construction app, with a five-star rating and more than 3,500 App Store reviews. Tracy has a degree in construction engineering management and helped build several hospitals prior to founding PlanGrid. She likes to joke that she went from working for one superintendent to hundreds of thousands through PlanGrid.