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ENR Texas & Louisiana: Top 20 Under 40

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By Louise Poirier

Anderson says his career has been incredibly reactive, as New Orleans rebounds from events that include Hurricane Katrina and the BP oil spill. Disasters like these that impacted the local economy "forced us to go out, see what other type of work was out there, and maybe step out of our comfort zone," he says. "That's kind of how we ended up expanding the company."

Serving as lead architect, Anderson oversees all architectural and interior design projects, about \$10 million in construction annually. He also directly manages all phases of project development.

"I think the reason I've enjoyed being an architect so much is that you do get to shape people's lives with your work," he says.

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Aaron Bidne

Exec has developed 2 million sq ft, but relishes the pro bono projects

38, Development Manager

Granite Properties

Plano, Texas

Aaron Bidne started on the industry fast track at Texas A&M University, where he completed a dual degree in construction and environmental design.

He remains on the fast track in his role as development manager at Granite Properties, where he manages development projects from site acquisition and shell construction to construction of tenant upgrades and capital improvements. Since joining Granite in 2007, he has overseen some 2 million sq ft of office and industrial development projects.

Bidne was a pivotal team member on Granite's Park Seventeen commercial project, which was named the 2011 Best Development Deal of the Year by the Dallas Business Journal. Other awards mark his career as well.

"Although I have been involved with some very impressive development projects in my career, some of the most personally fulfilling ventures have been charity and pro bono projects that I have had the opportunity to lead," he says.

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Scott Cannon

Walking through "open doors" into top contractors' executive ranks

39, SVP of Operations, Account Manager

Skanska

San Antonio, Texas

Georgia native Scott Cannon has spent his entire career at Skanska, starting as an intern at Beers Construction (now a Skanska unit) and joining the firm full time after graduating as a civil engineer from the Georgia Institute of Technology.

Cannon became one of Skanska's youngest vice presidents and now is a senior vice president overseeing its central and south Texas offices, where business is steady and healthy. The company has several flagship projects under way.

Cannon credits his success to always stepping through doors that were opened for him. "It's like I tell my employees—the relationship between an employee and a company is a two-way street, meaning it's my job ... for me to open doors for [the folks] and get them opportunities, but it's also their job to walk through the door," he says. "If you're in a position to take responsibility, take the chance."

Beyond his work life, Cannon is also actively involved in ACE Mentoring, the American Council for Construction Education and Special Olympics, among other charities.

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Aaron Duncan

Architect works around the world but shares his expertise at home

33, Senior Associate

MESA

Dallas, Texas

An avid golfer from age 6, Aaron Duncan was first inspired to explore golf course architecture. That passion led him to earn a degree in landscape architecture from Kansas State University and to join MESA, which specializes in community development and land planning services.



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