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John Mahler / Photo by Judy Walker

Executive Profile: John Mahler

By: LIBN Staff, Suzanne Mobyed © November 25, 2019

For over 30 years, John Mahler, president of JM2 Architecture, has been designing new buildings throughout the tri-state area. Mahler's extensive experience includes renovating existing buildings, flood mitigation to fire damage repairs. His range of projects encompasses most building types including, commercial, educational, industrial, institutional and residential buildings. Mahler and the JM2 Architecture team have notably completed commercial projects including, Amneal Pharmaceuticals, Perfume Center of America, and Unique Fitness as well as residential projects for The Patel Family (owner of Amneal Pharmaceuticals) and a residence for Bo Dietl. He has served as a consultant and expert witness at arbitration, mediation, and trial on several projects.

What are your accomplishments and achievements?

Graduating college with a bachelor of architecture and licensure as an architect in New York has certainly been the obvious useful accomplishment. When I dig deeper, I must say helping others and giving back to the community is an even more important achievement, not only professionally but also in my personal life.

How did you get started in your career?

I've always enjoyed designing and constructing with my hands. My 3rd-grade art teacher saw my artistic skill and engineering thought process that I put into a drawing of a dock and suggested I become an architect. When I was in high school and it came time to decide on a career, I chose architecture. I have never wavered about a different career and remain passionate about the profession since deciding I wanted to become an architect.

What is your secret to success?

Realizing this is a service business and never taking clients and the work they bring us for granted. Delivering quality work in a timely manner at a fair price is the key to the success of not only an architectural practice but any service business looking to succeed. We don't take our clients for granted. The longer they stay with us the harder we work to make sure they are more than satisfied with our performance.

What motivates and inspires you to help those in need in the community?

Helping others pays in dividends beyond the rewards I could have ever imagined when entering this field over 30 years ago. I became extremely inspired and motivated in helping others after Superstorm Sandy. I had helped a

disabled civil servant homeowner get back into her flood-damaged home and realized the importance of what we do goes way beyond aesthetics.

Since you became president of JM2 Architecture, how have you taken the company to the next level[↑] of success?

Taking inventory of what has worked well for us and shedding what doesn't is essential. Staying focused on achieving the goals we have set; never forgetting or becoming complacent, and above all persistence and perseverance. Giving up on something worthwhile is not a viable option for us. Rather, hanging in there and rising to the challenges has been imperative to our success.

What or who has been most influential in advancing your career?

Our families, friends, colleagues and loyal clients all who have had faith in us have helped JM2 Architecture not only persevere but also grow. Courage to take on new challenges and continually remaining teachable and eager to learn has been instrumental in advancing professionally.

What advice do you have for those aspiring for leadership roles?

I have found that shepherding and empowering our employees is the recipe for leading the firm. We not only allow but encourage our staff to take on as much responsibility as the individual employee can handle. This approach coupled with decisiveness and quality control review has enabled me to effectively lead. Assembling a group with a team attitude is essential to the success of every project. Adopting an attitude of humility rather than arrogance makes for a great leader.

What are some key challenges of your career and how have you overcome them?

Stopping our clients from making decisions we perceive as mistakes has often been a challenge. Sometimes a client has a preconceived notion about what they believe is a good decision regarding their project. When we tap our experiences and see problems with a client's decision, it's sometimes difficult to get the client to see it differently than what they have already come to believe is the best solution. We have overcome this by taking the time to sit with our clients and gently explain the pros and cons of each solution to any given problem and engage them in a logical thought process to reach an informed decision.

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