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15 Women Making Their Mark in Hospitality

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According to a recent survey from the Castell Project in partnership with Georgia State University, 53 percent of women either agreed or strongly agreed that having had a mentor or advocate during their career was a positive influence on their career progress. The women featured in [LODGING's September 2017 issue](#), while from vastly different areas of the hospitality industry, were all quick to mention mentors as an integral part of their career trajectories, as well as tout the importance of acting as an advocate for other women in the industry. Today, women in hospitality are making opportunities for the female workforce and taking steps to become the next generation of mentors. Below are 15 women who are making their mark in hospitality.



Alexandra Jaritz

Global Head, Tru by Hilton

"Launching Tru by Hilton on a very aggressive timeline was the biggest challenge of my career. The Tru brand concept was introduced at ALIS in January 2016, and we celebrated our first grand opening in Oklahoma City just 16 months later. We pulled the right team together, and it was an incredibly collaborative process—it had to be, to ensure all pistons were firing at the same time. The sense of urgency inspired us and kept us questioning and challenging throughout the process, ultimately leading to a brand that upends the status quo. We all grew immensely from that experience."

Fast Facts

Education: Bachelor of Science in Hotel Administration from Cornell University; Master of Business Administration from Duke's Fuqua School of Business; Certification from University of Virginia Darden School's Executive Education Course in Leadership; Certification from Harvard Business School's Executive Education Course in Strategic Marketing Management

First Hospitality Industry Job: Summer internship at the Four Seasons Hotel in Washington, D.C., through the Cornell hotel administration program

What she never leaves the house without: Her favorite photo of her husband and daughter

Favorite place traveled to: Thailand. "I grew up there between the ages of 9 and 18. My dad was a hotelier, which gave my family the opportunity to live in and get to know many different parts of the world."