

We support ambitious women in erga to go further than where they are now, shining in what they do ...

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NEWS

SPECIAL WOMEN'S ISSUE - # 08



Randa Gebrayel - Vice Chairman



Saifi Village - Randa Gebrayel



St. Jude Children's Hospital - Randa Gebrayel

WOMEN WHO BUILD

Women in contemporary architecture have shown a huge progress over the decades. They have been and are more often involved in many ways. We have designers, planners, administrators and educators. Some run practices of their own while others do it with their architect husbands like me. My husband and I established Erga Group Architects and Consulting Engineers year 1980.

Speaking of women architects, many questions arise: Is architecture purely a man's profession? Does gender play a role in our profession? What are the advantages, the challenges and the expectations of women architects? Statistics show that women architects and engineers are few in general. In the USA they represent only 20% of the licensed architects, in the UK 19% and in Lebanon 18%. Furthermore, the hard work of a team of architects, designers and engineers is always behind the success of a project. Therefore no master project managed by either a man or a woman is done individually. Forming a team should be based on equal opportunity criteria's between men and women, focusing on the skills, talents and abilities. These low statistics reflect the problem women face in the professional world. This especially appears in the high profile positions where women are rarely present. If we take for example the Lebanese order of engineers, there is only one woman in the board of directors.

When I first started my career, women in the architecture field faced the difficulty of being accepted on sites and in contact with contractors and subcontractors. But one cannot deny that their sensitivity, intuition, team spirit and communication

skills that allows them to be catalysts within their teams and with the clients.

Today with a globalization invading the world, the physical, social and cultural boundaries and discriminations have been dissolved. Women in our Middle East region deserve the chance to be part of programs transforming and improving the society. The efforts of women has led to emphasizing the balance between the interior and the exterior of the structures they create, while giving a more human and artistic input to architecture. They deserve to be appreciated for their work regardless of their gender. From my own personal perspective and experience and as a women architect, I had the chance to be within erga group during my entire career. I never felt discrimination during my studies or after. Erga group is a big team of women and men architects, designers and engineers. Women in Erga constitute 37% of the total number of staff members and have always been very effective and active, juniors and seniors. They feel the respect and appreciation by their male colleagues.

I'll end my article with a quote by Frank Lloyd Wright:

"The mother art is architecture, without an architecture of our own we have no soul of our own civilization."

Randa Gebrayel, Lebanese Architect.



ERGA'S WOMEN BUILD AROUND THE WORLD

Sama Beirut is located in proximity to the Beirut Central District, on a piece of land at an altitude of 74m, stretching at a grand height of 186m, the total altitude amounts to 260m, which is at the same level as Fanar for example, but in the heart of Beirut. The fundamental design begins with four sheets, each folded over, enveloping and rising above the one before it, giving the illusion of stepping up towards the heavens.



OFFICE LOCATION Head Office, Lebanon



Rania Asmar, Elissa Zeidane, Rita Khater, Gisele Kaddoum, Sarah-Rita Kattan, Loulou El Azar, Elise Halabi



OFFICE LOCATION Head Office, Lebanon



Rita Najm, Rima Haji-Obeid

Manazel compound is a residential development that promotes generous open green spaces within an urban environment. It consists of six clusters of buildings nestled around semi-private open spaces that communicate with a central common green park.

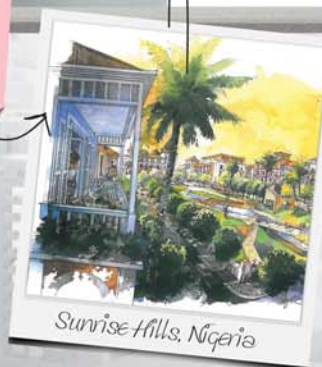


OFFICE LOCATION Head Office, Lebanon



Nathalie Nouaimeh

Sunrise Hills is a 5.7M sqm real estate project that forms the Eastern outskirts of the Nigerian capital Abuja. The first area to be developed is Asokoro Gardens which consists of a hill overlooking the city and is home to 29 deluxe and large deluxe villas, in addition to 15 stand-alone houses and two compounds: The Greens and Olu Edidi



Sunrise Hills, Nigeria

ERGA'S OFFICES WORLDWIDE



ERGA'S WOMEN , QATAR BRANCH



ERGA'S WOMEN , DUBAI BRANCH

OFFICE LOCATION
 Head Office, Lebanon

 Carole Sfeir, Fida Tabbah
 Nicole Zoghbi, Christine Moujahed

Mzaar Development

Located on the prominent mountains of Mzaar-Kfardebian **Mzaar Development** benefits from its adjacency to the skiing slopes and high-end resorts along with an astounding view of the scenic area. The duality of the vibrant green during summer and the bright white layers of snow during winter is an asset for the project; creating a holiday retreat on warm days besides the pool area, and an ideal location to take advantage of the skiing season.

OFFICE LOCATION
 Head Office, Lebanon

 - Nathalie Nouaimieh
 - Georgette Mikhael
 - Layla Hayeck

Forum El Djazair

Located 15 km from the heart of Algiers, a city of rich history and civilizations, and a short distance away from the tourist Sidi Frefj area, namely, at Moretti, the pearl of the west coast of Algiers. A beautiful oasis, **Forum El Djazair**, is the favorite destination for those seeking a luxurious hotel stay, residence, work, shopping or relaxation.

OFFICE LOCATION
 Star Office, Doha


Nathalie Shaffu


Fox Hills 10 Lots, Qatar

Fox Hills district, located at the northern of Lusail, is one of the most attractive and inspirational areas to live in. The main concept of G1-G10 is to unify the plots into 4 sectors, and to use the central common area as a landscape scheme to become part of the whole project, which will give an added value to it. It consists of a mixture between luxurious apartments and commercial space with high quality finishes within a plot that has an approximate area of 45,000 sqm.

WOMEN ARCHITECTS IN SAUDI ARABIA: A MAJOR CHALLENGE

CHEERS TO A NEW YEAR AND A CHANCE FOR OUR SUCCESS!


 Name
Sema Refae
 Location
Erga Jeddah
 Title
Architect - Development


1. Al Houara Resort, 2. Ajayd Berr Balala, 3. Al Madina Hotel

"One of the difficulties that I face as female architect, is transportation which sometimes affects my work. Also the society does not really accept women in this field.

However, now I have a job title that exists at the "Ministry of Labor", and I am a member at the "Saudi Council of Engineers" where I have the opportunity to give my voice and nominate myself and can simply have a license to open my own architectural office, all these simple rights that I did not have before.

Changes are finally taking place. As a matter of fact, if we have a chance we will succeed, so do not undermine us Saudi women, just give us a chance."

CHALLENGING LIFESTYLE, RICH EXPERIENCE


 Name
Martine El Nar Toueir
 Location
Erga Riyadh
 Title
Architect - Development


1. Al Fardan Tower, 2. Al Rajhi Tower, 3. Matar Villa

"I joined Erga Beirut in 2007 as an architect; getting married in 2008 to a Lebanese architect who lives and works in Saudi Arabia, I moved to Erga Riyadh quickly.

During this time, I have worked on several projects including Al Fardan Tower, Matar Villa, Al Muttahed Hotel, Al Rajhi Tower and many others.

Throughout my work at Erga Riyadh, I faced a number of challenges due to the long living traditions and norms that restrict women in Saudi Arabia. However, in spite of that and with the support provided by Erga, I have found ways of asserting my rights and challenging my status quo. I was confident of my determination, and most importantly, of my commitment to establish a family while pursuing my career. But all of that wouldn't have been possible if Erga did not open the door for me!"



ERGA'S WOMEN, STUDIO BRANCH

ERGA'S SHINING WOMEN



Name: Arlette El Houkayem
Title: Project Architect, Development
Additional Certificate: LEED



Name: Nadine Dergham
Title: Interior Designer
Additional Certificate: MA Landscaping



Name: Dalal Kassab
Title: Project Architect, Development
Additional Certificate: Higher Studies in Management, & MBA



Name: Nicole Akiki
Title: Senior Architect, Development
Additional Certificate: Lebanese Revit Professional



Name: Fida Tabbah
Title: Senior Architect, Concept
Additional Certificate: Restoration



Name: Ramona Said
Title: Senior Architect, Development
Additional Certificate: Urban Design & Planning



Name: Jeanine Tannous
Title: Project Design Director
Additional Certificate: LEED



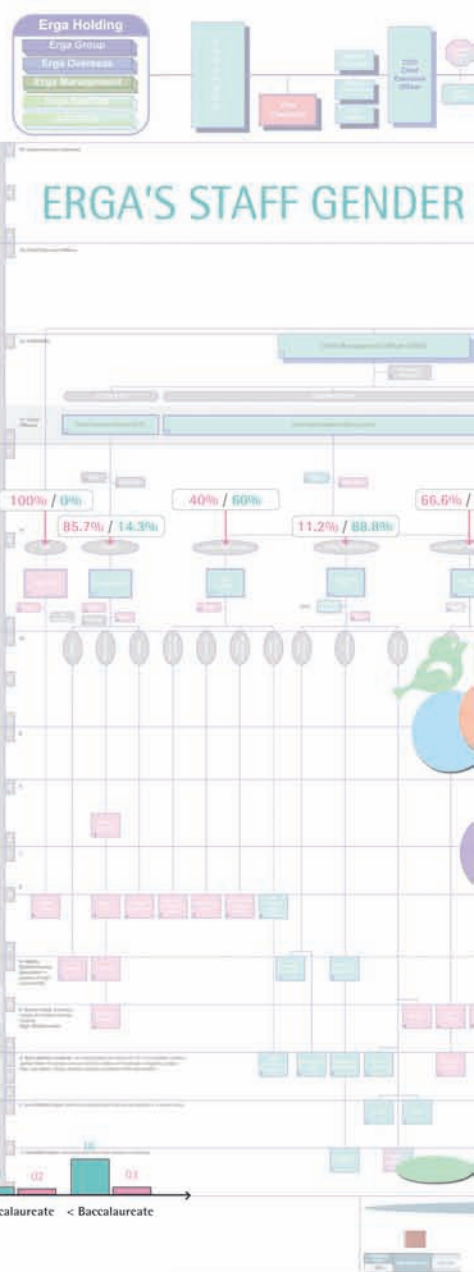
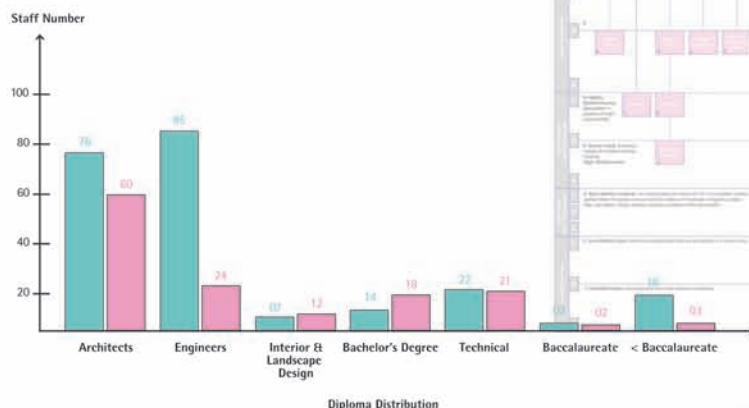
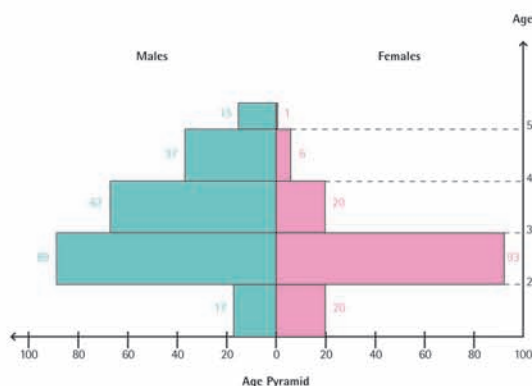
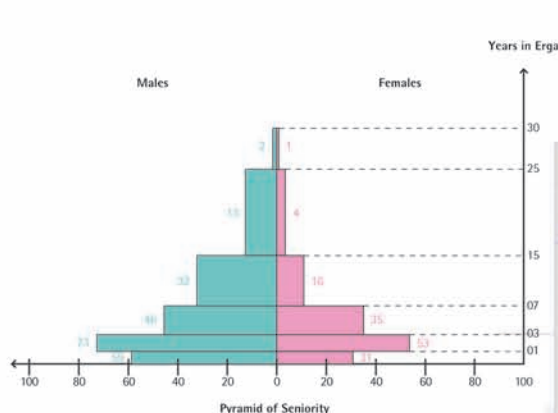
Name: Ramyla Brakhia
Title: Project Architect, Development
Additional Certificate: Urban Design & Planning



Name: Myriam El Helou
Title: Quality Officer
Additional Certificate: MA Industrial Technology, & MBA



Name: Perrine Posbic
Title: Quality Officer
Additional Certificate: MA Industrial Technology, & MBA



ONE OF OUR FEMALE CLIENTS



NAME
Mrs. Carole Chehwane
COMPANY NAME
Plus Holding
COMPANY TYPE
Real Estate & Development



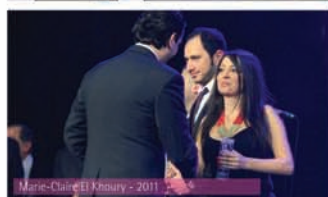
Not only is *Carole Chehwane* the chairman's wife, but she is also a very active and efficient board member with managerial involvement in all administrative issues in Plus Holding.

Having a bachelor's degree in the production field from Notre Dame University, Carole is overlooking all finishing aspects in *Plus Properties* projects today, coordinating the choice of material with Erga's staff, and interior design firms in Tilal Bhsarf and Plus Towers.

OUR FEMALE HEADS & TEAM DESIGN LEADERS

- 01 Randa Gebrayel**
Vice Chariman, TQM HOD
- 02 Sana El Khoury A.G**
Team Design Leader
- 03 Paulette Maghariki**
Branch Manager
- 04 Elissa Zeidane**
Team Design Leader
- 05 Maguy Anis**
Team Design Leader
- 06 Jeanine Tannous**
Project Design Director
- 07 Nadine Jamouss**
Interior Design HOD

SOME OF OUR FEMALE "ANNUAL AWARD" WINNERS



BEIT MISK & OUR TEAM OF WOMEN WORKING ON IT



LOCATION
Aatchaneh, Lebanon

TYPE
Residential

BUILT-UP AREA
536,549 sqm

PROJECT DESIGN MANAGER



Jeanine Tannous



Conceptual
Section

KLINK RESIDENTIAL COMPLEX



LOCATION
Qornet Chewan, Lebanon

TYPE
Residential

LAND AREA
15,751 sqm

DESIGNED BY



CONCEPT ARCHITECT
Fida Tabbah

Located on a very steep slope in Qornet Chewan, **Klink Residential Complex** consists of several apartment blocs, carefully designed in a terraced massing resulting in a well integrated project, in harmony with the site topography and the environment. The design approach was to create distinctive buildings in a contemporary architectural style, while using high quality materials like natural stone, wood and red roof tiles. Moreover, the project's concept and the buildings' setting-out ensured open views for almost every unit in "Klink Residential Complex".





Media &
Graphic Design
Section

Landscape
Engineer
Section

- Business Development
- Civil Dep.
- Conceptual Dep.
- Development Dep. - erga head office
- Electrical Dep.
- EPOS Dep.
- Mechanical Dep.
- Management
- Regulation & Permit Dep.
- Structural Dep.
- Branch Secretary
- erga overseas
- Interior Design Dep. - erga studio

OUR FEMALE SUBCONSULTANT



NAME
Zeina Majdalani Khabbaz

COMPANY NAME
ZMK Landscape Architects



TITLE
Founder & CEO



Palace Residence - Duhai Qatar



Beach Resort - Jiyeh Lebanon



Dubai Recycling Park - Dubai U.A.E



Roof Garden - Rabieh Lebanon



ABC Olaveth - Beirut Lebanon

ZMK Landscape Architects is an internationally renowned landscape architecture firm that specializes in integrating the disciplines of art, architecture and landscape to extend conventional notions of landscape architecture and provide meaning to the environment.

ZMK was Established in 1989, initially in London.UK, and then moved on to base its headquarters in Beirut, Lebanon. The Corporation offers comprehensive landscape, urban design and master planning to civic, institutional, commercial, touristic and residential clients.

Zeina graduated from Cornell University, New York in 1986, in Landscape Architecture. When she felt confident enough to start her own practice, she went on to open her own little office in London contracting mostly residential projects and sub consulting larger projects for well-known landscape architectural firms.

Zeina is currently heading a team of landscape architects, architects, urban planners and engineers at ZMK Landscape Architects, Beirut offices. She indulges in all sorts of activities within her practice, however, she concentrates mainly on creating the concept to any design given and supervises the scope of work from then on, up to the delivery to the client.

MOTHER AT WORK, ARCHITECT AT HOME...



LOCATION
Beirut Head Office



NAME
Elissa Zeidane Cortas

TITLE
*Team Design Leader,
Full-Time Mother*



Les Bois de Bikfaya - Beirut Lebanon



Elie Kassir Chalet - Kfarddebian Lebanon



Nadim Klink Building - Achrafieh Lebanon

"Picture this: a mother manager sitting in a meeting arguing about crucial decisions for the project...**her needy child calls...**

Picture also: mommy surrounded by her children, playing, feeding, cooking... **she receives a crucial query from her boss...**

Can you perceive the bounce of emotions? Fathers could put aside all the rest when at work, vice versa when sitting with the family; Can mothers do the same? On 19th of March 2001, His feast day, St Joseph, patron of workers and families led me to Erga Group. Few are the companies that comprehend "motherhood at work" as Erga does, giving us both the opportunity and the flexibility. As days passed by, my work grew and so did my family.

Managing time is a continuous effort to give more here and there, often getting the feeling you never give enough...True, yet the picture of a woman emerges, carrying the loving devotion filled in her family into her work, and vice versa, the enriching experience and achievements acquired at work into her family!!!

Mother at work, architect at home. This enriching exchange compensates the 24h changing roles and fills you back with energy to start your first day in the morning as an architect, your second day in the afternoon as a mother and your third day after the children sleep as the house manager and a wife!!

The Secret of Creation: God beholds it... may we always be invited to be part of it having the gift of creativity in raising our children, and investing in our career... my wish to all women is to be fulfilled and to proudly fulfill all they are called to with a bunch of smiley patience, loads of courage and tons of Love!!"

THROUGH THE EYES OF AN ORPHAN ...



BENEFITS OF A WORKING WOMAN AT ERGA ...



Women at erga benefit from several things inside and outside the company just by belonging to erga's family. Ensuring her health is our priority as well as providing her with *financial and social benefits*. A privilege card is offered to every woman who joins the company allowing her and her loved ones to benefit from more than 80 offers ranging from restaurants, and fashion boutiques, to hairdressers, and beauty parlors. In addition to these an insurance card is offered to the employees allowing women to benefit from "in" and "out" insurance for them and their family. Fun education; and entertaining activities are also organized for her and her family like a reforestation project, marathon, visits to orphanages and other associations.

LET'S TALK ERGO...AT ERGA

Office Ergonomics For Women: It's Tough Being a Woman!

We all know that correct office ergonomics are important in preventing neck, back and upper limbs pains. However, some of these points outlined below don't always get as much of a mention!

Long Nails: Having long nails forces you to type using the pads of your fingers, putting more strain on your wrists. Try to keep them to a short, sensible length.

High Heels: Wearing high heels when sitting at your desk can affect your posture, leading to your knees resting in an elevated position, altering the natural curve of your spine. You may need to alter your seat height, and/or foot rest to accommodate. Also, when walking in heels, your centre of gravity is altered, bringing your body weight forwards. This leads to an increased curve in your lower back which can cause back pain. If you need to walk any distance during the day, consider bringing some flat shoes or sneakers with you.



Handbags: Carrying a heavy handbag can cause all sorts of problems, ranging from tight neck and shoulder muscles to pressure over the nerves, even putting your whole spinal posture out of alignment. Laptops are a particular problem, as they are heavy, and awkward to carry. Try to reduce the weight of your handbag, to the bare essentials. If you have to carry a laptop, use a backpack, rather than a shoulder bag.

Source: <http://www.ergonomics-ohs.com.au/articles/office-ergonomics-for-women.html>

ARCHITECT OF THE SEASON



Name
Eileen Gray
Date of Birth
1878 - 1976
Nationality
Irish

Eileen was an architect, designer and lacquer artist who pioneered modern design in the early 20th century. Though she was relatively unknown during her career, Gray's work is comparable to other modern design greats Le Corbusier and Mies van der Rohe. She grew up in London and studied painting at the Slade School of Art in 1898. She transferred to the Ecole Colarossi and the Académie Julian in Paris in 1902 but went back to London in 1905 to learn the art of lacquer work. In 1917 she redecorated an apartment in Rue de Lota in Paris where critics called Gray's designs "a triumph of modern living". Gray had many architectural projects the most famous being her vacation residence E.1027. Gray was denied the support enjoyed by her male counterparts because of her gender. However, in the late 1960's her career pushed back into the limelight when her designs were featured prominently in several places followed by a highly successful auction of her work in 1972.



NEWLY-ENGAGED & NEWLY-WEDS



Charbel Abi Khalil
Et Christelle Hani
May 05, 2012



Georges Bechaalany
Et Nana El Abyad
May 13, 2012



Imad Mattar
Et Elisa Khoury
Beaini
June 30, 2012



Dany Gebrayel
Et Lara Roukoz
July 07, 2012

NEWBORN BABIES



Giovanni
Noel Mansour
September 28, 2011



Christy
Abdallah Kalakes
November 03, 2011



Hachem
Hassan Nassar
November 23, 2011



Julia
Elio Gebrayel
December 17, 2011



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